

**RYE TOWN CENTER COMMITTEE
MEETING**

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

5:30 p.m.

Rye Town Hall

Present: *Chair Karen Stewart, Victor Azzi, Kaitlyn Coffey, Lydia Tilsley, Funi Burdick, John Loftus and Selectmen's Rep Tom King*

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Stewart called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

II. Approval of Minutes

- **3/2/2022**

- Page 5, in the report from Jeff Ross, Library Trustee, about the Library Common project it was stated: *"The intent is to start construction some time in 2023 with everything done by 2024."* Member Azzi noted that nothing will be done in 2023. In physical terms, it will be done only after the 2023 calendar year is complete, which is the year of the celebration likely to involve activities at the Rye Town Museum and Rye Historical Society.

Motion by Tom King to accept the March 2, 2022 minutes as written. Seconded by John Loftus. All in favor.

- **5/4/2022**

Motion by Kaitlyn Coffey to approve the minutes of May 4, 2022 as written. Seconded by Lydia Tilsley. All in favor.

III. TAP Update (pending response from NHDOT)

No update at this time

IV. RTCC Reset

Chair Stewart announced that she will be stepping down from the Committee, as she does not have the bandwidth, at this time, to give the attention it deserves. She will continue to support the work of the Committee and will remain involved as a resident of the Town Center. She will still prepare the timeline of events, so there will be a public record of what the Committee has done over the past two years.

The committee members thanked Member Stewart for her work and dedication to the Committee, especially her work in leading the TAP Grant process.

The Committee discussed the possibility of having a reset meeting. The meeting would involve gathering together the members of the committee and the public to discuss their views of what they would like to see for the Town Center.

It was noted by Member Azzi that the Town Center Committee was created by the Select Board. He suggested they ask the Select Board if the Committee should continue to exist. If so, maybe the Committee should recall and try to do something that might be left from the original charge, or perhaps it should be revised.

It was pointed out by Chair Stewart that the original charge had to do with buildings and spaces. Every time a building came up for discussion, the Committee was taken out of the discussions, which has caused many frustrations for committee members.

It was agreed that part of the matter is to understand what the Select Board wants the Committee to do. Each member should assess if they have a role in that and whether they can really contribute.

Selectman King noted that he will bring this to the Select Board at the next meeting. It may be that a separate meeting for this discussion would be warranted.

The members agreed a separate meeting would be worthwhile, so all Selectmen can be brought up to date on what the Committee has done. The Select Board can then evaluate the purpose of the Committee going forward. It was also agreed that it might not be necessary to have monthly meetings, until the Select Board discusses the Committee and there is more information about the TAP Grant. Once there is a vision, they can then come together knowing which activities make sense for the Committee to work on. Selectmen King will bring up the concerns of the Committee to the Select Board before a formal meeting is scheduled.

Next Steps:

- Finish timeline and share with all members;
- Share the timeline with the Select Board; and
- Request a meeting with the Select Board to reflect on the charge and discuss next actions of the Committee.

V. Other Business

Member Tilsley reported that the sign committee are working on the narratives for the signs. The current timeline has them being installed by June 2023. Signs are proposed for the Town Center; Pulpit Rock Tower; Trefethen Corner; The Drake House; Rye Harbor and marsh; Brown Lane Farm; and Brackett Road.

Adjournment

Tom King made a motion to adjourn at 6:53pm. Seconded by John Loftus. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger