

Waterville Valley Planning Board
Summary of the Minutes for the
Board of Selectmen and Town Core Working Group
Workshop Meeting
Held on Tuesday, September 26, 2019, at 10:00 am
Downstairs Meeting Room- Town Hall
MINUTES

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Select board Chair Mike Aronson at 8:00 am

ROLL CALL

1. Attendance:

- a. **Selectmen:** Mike Aronson, Rich Rita
- b. **Town Core Working Group:** Wendi Rathgeber, Tom Gross, Nancy Knight
- c. **Waterville Valley Resort (WVR):** Tim Smith, Matt Hesser, James Sununu, Michael Sununu
- d. **Town of Waterville Valley:** Sharon Charron, Mark Decoteau, Brooke Wakefield
- e. **Public:** Pam Stone, Will Lambert.

New Business:

Wendi Rathgeber begins with an overview of the Town Core Working Group's (TCWG) purpose as developing and maintaining the pedestrian byways of the town core in Waterville Valley, as recommended in the SE Group's report to the Town. The TCWG recent work had been in the planning of the trails surrounding Corcoran's Pond to create a loop around the pond and along Snow's Brook. With the recent sale of WV Company land to Tyrell Development, owned by the Sununu family members Michael and James Sununu, the TCWG decided that they should inquire with Tyrell regarding plans for development of their properties, and determine if the trails project would be affected by any further development. The Sununu's are supportive of the existing trail systems, as well as the development of the new trail around the pond, for the best interest of residents and resort guests for recreational activities, as well as a pedestrian way. The Sununu's believed that any developed trail and in place would fall to the developers to repair or relocate, if needed, and are willing to work with the town to the end. They are supportive of the trails as amenities for guests to ensure that guests receive the best possible experience in the town core area. At this time there is not a current plan for the development of the property, but it will likely align with the resort's 10 year development plan. The Sununu's are presently discussing conceptual plans for the property but nothing has yet been decided. The location of the trail being closer to the pond itself would likely lessen the chances for relocation due to development in the future. There is currently a 10' trail easement in place surrounding the pond. Both James and Michael Sununu stated that they believe they, and Tyrell Development, are aligned with the Town's ideas in improving the pedestrian experiences in the town core.

Wendi Rathgeber asks about the support of the resort for the trail work, in either equipment or manpower, to lessen the costs of the project. Tim Smith responded that springtime offers the best time for this type of work for their support. Other times of the year are more difficult, particularly the autumn as winter preparations will take priority. Mike Aronson asked about the type of support from

the resort; was it in being a paid contractor on the project or to be a partner in the project and absorb costs for equipment and manpower. Mike explains the constraints the Town has experienced regarding small projects, as only a small amount of contractors, sometimes only one, will bid on a project. Thus bid prices can be higher since the bid will not be competitive. Discussion followed concerning the portion of the trail project that was bid out this summer (the Village Trail along Snow's Brook) and concern was expressed by the Board of Selectmen (BOS) regarding the number of the single bid received. The BOS chose not to award the single bid this year and would prefer to combine this with other projects and re-package the bid proposal to get more competitive bids in return. Other projects in the Town's CIP plan that could be included are the pond side pavilion and the trail around Corcoran's Pond (Leavitt's Loop). These items are both slated for 2020 and 2021 in the CIP plan respectively.

Mark Decoteau states that the CIP plan allows for \$550K for the three items; The Village Trail along Snows Brook, Leavitt's Loop around Corcoran's Pond and the Pond Pavilion. The idea was presented of doing the engineering and architectural bidding plans this December for the pavilion out of the current remaining funds (\$133K) appropriated in 2019. If the resort would agree to rough-in the groundwork for the trail loop around the pond for this springtime, then the Town could re-sequence the order of the projects and start the Pavilion itself in 2020, with a December 2019 bid packet, contingent upon the approval of town meeting, so as to be able to start work quickly in the spring of 2020. In 2021 the trail work would then follow on both trails to their completion. Tim Smith stated that the Resort is receptive to work with the Town once the specs and details are presented, provided that the timing fits their schedule. It was also noted that it is good for progress to be seen on these projects and that the collaborative efforts of the Town and the Resort working together for the benefit of residents and resort guests.

The BOS and the TCWG thanked all meeting attendees. The meeting concluded at 10:35am.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Charron