

MINUTES OF THE UPPER FALLS AREA COUNCIL

DATE: March 15, 2018

LOCATION: Emerson Community Center

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Marie Jackson	Maxine Bridger
Susan Huffman	Anil Adyanthaya
Jo-Louise Allen	Nina Kochs
Jack Neville	Julie Irish

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Carol Stapleton (Parks and Recreation)
Councilor John Rice

PUBLIC:

Milissa Lawrence

A. Approval of Minutes from February Meeting
Minutes were approved.

B. Public Comment

C. Treasurer's Report

We have in the bank \$2696.32

D. Presentation by Cypress Management re Proposed marijuana dispensary on Elliot Street
Some of the principals who had been here in February returned to give more details on the planned ingress and egress to the dispensary.

They reported that they had had good discussions with Ed Negoshian and the two other property owners.

They are doing a traffic impact study and noted that people use the Cypress site to cut through to CVS.

They are proposing a single egress/ingress 24 feet wide with a sidewalk and a sharp 90 degree turn at the entrance to slow down the traffic. They are proposing a more formal access to CVS so that vehicles won't be able to cut through their site to get to CVS. They are planning to put up signage urging drivers not to block the egress/ingress.

They discussed the projected increase in vehicle use of the site compared to the current usage. There would be additional usage in the evenings and midday to three on Saturday.

There was then a question and answer period.

Q. What is the width of the sidewalk?

A. 5 feet on the southside. Cypress is donating some of their land to get to 24 feet.

Q. How will you fix the blind corner at the entrance turn?

A. With a wider entrance/exit the sight lines will be better. If the wall on Negoshian's side comes down, there won't be a mural, but there will be better visibility. The biggest issue is the speed of the cars cutting through, but a sharp 90 degree turn will help with that. Maybe the wall can be replaced with a landscaped island.

Q. Who owns what?

A. The parking lot is like a Tetris board with CVS owning a small piece for exiting and the cleaners also owning a small piece for exiting.

The backup onto Route 9 might be helped by Do Not Block striping. There are four landlords: Negoshian; Cleaners; CVS; Cypress.

Cypress needs to reach out to some of the abutting properties.

When the plans are finalized Anil will get a copy of them from Cypress. They hope to go before the Land Use Commission by June. The Spanish preschool across Route 9 seems to be no problem because of Route 9.

It was noted that the City Council has a moratorium on recreational marijuana sites until the State provides clearer guidance.

E. 1238 Chestnut Street Construction

Milissa Laurence who lives across from 1238 Chestnut Street reported her concerns about the place. There seem to be a lot of empty spaces there. After the site improvements there will be more tenants and more traffic and maybe more accidents. As of now the Ossipee/Linden Street intersection is the site of a lot of accidents. Maybe there should be a 4-way stop sign there. Parking is also a problem, with people from MyGym not using the parking lots and people parking illegally. The hollow parking garage also creates a lot of noise.

Recommendations from John Rice: Call the traffic police when cars are parked illegally. Call the Traffic Department and ask that they put the Ossipee/Linden intersection on the traffic calming list. Try to get the accident list from the time MyGym opened. Councilor Rice offered to get in touch with the appropriate people.

It was also mentioned that during the last renovation something used on the parking lot caused an allergic reaction to some of the abutters. It was recommended that if it happens again Inspectional Services should be called. It was also suggested that people talk to MyGym and ask them to ask their users to be considerate of the neighbors.

F. Unleashed Dogs on Upper Falls Greenway

There have been lots of incidents of unleashed dogs on the Greenway. Carol suggested calling Animal Control. They may not arrive in time, but a complaint will be registered. They won't act until they have compiled a list of complaints.

It was suggested that we put signs on the bulletin boards reminding people that dogs must be leashed on the Greenway and that there is a dogrun at the Braceland park.

G. Soup Social Planning

We have some large posters and some small ones to put up and we have two signboards.

There was a discussion of the soup donations so far. Marie said she asked for a list of allergens from the soup donors and asked them to say whether the soup was vegetable or animal based.

We will start setting up at 3 and we will pick up the soup at 4. Bring extension cords.

Julie will print up a list of 10 things to know about Upper Falls and the Area Council and hand it out at the Soup Social.

H. Fundraising Idea—NUF Car Magnets

Motion: Print 250 NUF car magnets with the word “historic” on top.

Motion passed with 6 for and 2 opposed.

It will cost \$275 for the magnets and we will sell them for \$5 each.

I. Ken Newcomb Book Award

We will put out a call for nominees. We are looking for good students active in the community.

Students can nominate themselves or be nominated by someone else. We take recommendations from teachers. The issue of home schooled kids was raised since we notify the local high schools of the award. We will talk to Jen Kohl about home-schooled kids. The issue of children of Area Council members was also raised. It was felt they should also be eligible to receive the award.

Applicants for the award are asked to write a very short essay. It was suggested that we have a title for the essay, such as: What Upper Falls means to me. The essay should be accompanied by a short bio.

J. Newton Serves

April 29th is the date set for Newton Serves. The Greenway has been our project.

Deb Crossley was pitching to the Needham Street Vision Group the project of getting rid of invasives. To do a proper pulling of invasives requires a permit and special techniques.

Julie walked the Greenway to assess needs. There is not much litter, but raking, and clearing brush need to be done.

K. General Upper Falls News

Margaret Alexander is doing a great job at Upper Falls News.

There is a power line down on Indiana Terrace. The wire is very low, just 6 feet off the ground. Eversource can't fix it until an electrician fixes the attachment to the house and the City inspects the reattachment.

L. Public Comment

A question was raised on how to follow Northland's activities. It was suggested one look at the subgroup on NextDoor.

M. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.