



COMMITTEE REPORT – Town of Rockport

DATE:7/19/22
Force

START TIME: 5:00PM

COMMITTEE: VPI Task

CHAIR: Doug Cole

LOCATION: Richardson Room

IN ATTENDANCE: Jon Duke, Doug Cole, Denise Kennedy Munger, Sally Cook, Orion Thomas, Clare Tully, Michelle Gallant, Mary Jane Young (by phone). **ABSENT:** Kimberlee Graffam, Mike Young.

ITEMS DISCUSSED: Revision of Draft Bylaws; election of officers; use of Sharepoint; scheduling of initial Maine DOT meeting; history of informal bridge group and establishment of VPI; donation of Terry DeWan’s landscape architect consulting services.

The first meeting of the VPI Task Force began with introductions of the members. Orion Thomas then led the members through the initial agenda items.

MOTIONS:

Denise Kennedy Munger motioned to nominate Doug Cole as Chair of the Task Force. 2nd: Sally Cook. Vote: Unanimous.

Denise Kennedy Munger motioned to nominate Mary Jane Young as Vice Chair. 2nd: Doug Cole. Vote: Unanimous.

Doug Cole motioned to nominate Clare Tully as Recording Secretary. 2nd: Denise Kennedy Munger. Vote: Unanimous.

After electing the officers, Task Force members proposed the following changes to the draft bylaws:

Following discussion about the likelihood of the Task Force’s work extending beyond a year, Michelle Gallant motioned to delete the last sentence of the second paragraph in “Section 1. Purpose and Scope”. 2nd: Denise Kennedy Munger. Vote: Unanimous.

To mirror the Maine DOT model, Denise Kennedy Munger moved to change the name of the Task Force from Village Improvement Plan to Village Partnership Initiative. 2nd: Sally Cook. Vote: Unanimous.

After some discussion, it was determined that a motion was not needed to reflect the increase in the number of task force members from 9 to 10, which had already been approved by the Select Board, or to make other routine corrections in the bylaws, such as replacing “committee” with “task force”.

Denise Kennedy Munger motioned for the Task Force to adopt a Remote Participation policy. Jon Duke explained the need for the Task Force to hold a public hearing for this purpose, which must be advertised in a newspaper in advance. He said he would initiate this process. Ms. Munger then withdrew her motion.

Orion Thomas gave a brief demonstration of the Sharepoint system. He also confirmed July 22 at 10AM as the time for the Task Force's initial meeting with the Maine DOT team assigned to the Goose River bridge project. The Task Force also discussed frequency and time of day for its own meetings to best accommodate members' schedules and to advance its work. The meetings typically will take place biweekly in the late afternoon.

Chair Cole then asked if Task Force members had any other questions. Clare Tully asked for clarification about comments by Chair Cole and Ms. Munger indicating that the sidewalk on the Bridge would be moved from its existing location overlooking the River to the Harbor side. Ms. Tully noted that in addition to Rockport Marine Park itself, immediately adjacent areas such as the scenic pullout above the Harbor and elevated sidewalk on the upriver side already provide scenic views of the Harbor. She noted that the Bridge's current sidewalk provides a rare and dramatic scenic view of the River, which also plays an integral part in Rockport's history. Ms. Tully also asked about consistent references to replacing the bridge, as Maine DOT also has presented several options for restoration. Ms. Munger responded that nothing has been decided.

Chair Cole then provided the Task Force with a brief history of an informal group of Rockport business leaders and residents which he had taken the initiative to gather ahead of Maine DOT's preparation for the Bridge project. The group toured the Bridge area on a wintry day earlier this year. A Rockport resident then generously offered to pay for the services of Terry DeWan of TJD&A, a landscape architect and planning firm in Yarmouth, ME, to help guide the group. Mr. DeWan has experience with Maine DOT projects in other towns and also has worked on projects in Rockport, such as the new public library. Jon Duke noted that he subsequently recommended to the Select Board that the informal group should be replaced by an official VPI Taskforce. Chair Cole indicated that the donor had expressed willingness to continue to fund Mr. DeWan's services if the Task Force wished to use him in a consulting role.

Michelle Gallant moved that the Task Force agree to accept the donor's offer to fund the Task Force's use of Terry DeWan's services in a consulting role. 2nd: Sally Cole. Vote: Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Cole motioned to adjourn the meeting. **TIME:** 6:25PM

2nd: Sally Cole. Vote: Unanimous.

NEXT MEETING: July 26, 2022 at 5PM. LOCATION: Richardson Room