

Margerie Reservoir Trail Advisory Committee
January 30, 2024 - 6PM

Committee Member Holly Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. on Tuesday, January 30, 2024. Present were Committee Members Antonio Iadarola, Public Works Director & City Engineer, City of Danbury & Town Engineer, New Fairfield; David Day, Public Utilities Superintendent, City of Danbury; Peter Hearn, New Fairfield; Robert Fisher, Outside Counsel, City of Danbury; Jeff Main, CLA and Parks, New Fairfield; and Ken Gucker, Alternate, Danbury. Absent: Ann Marie Mellas, Alternate, New Fairfield. Present from the public were Melissa Lindsey, New Fairfield First Selectwoman; (inaudible), Danbury; Peggy Stuart, Danbury; Andrea Gartner, Danbury Councilwoman; (inaudible), New Fairfield; Claudia Miller, New Fairfield; Ann Brown, New Fairfield; Tom Perkins, New Fairfield Selectman; (inaudible), New Fairfield; (inaudible), New Fairfield; Patricia Del Monaco, New Fairfield Selectwoman; Khris Hall, New Fairfield; and (inaudible), New Fairfield.

Members and attendees introduced themselves. Member Robinson suggested that the committee elect a new Chair based on committee vacancies.

A motion was made by Member Day, and was seconded by Member Iadarola, to nominate Holly Robinson as the Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Ms. Hall noted that despite changes to elected officials in New Fairfield, the town continues to support the trail.

Minutes

A motion was made by Member Iadarola, and was seconded by Member Hearn, to accept the meeting minutes from the last meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Status of RFP

Member Iadarola explained the process so far which consisted of the Committee selecting a surveyor and wetlands soil scientist. The Authorization to Award (Surveyor and Wetlands bids) was sent to the State of CT for review, and was approved. Furthermore, the New Fairfield Agent is currently working on drafting purchase orders for the approved bidders. He noted that New Fairfield is the grant receipt of \$2.2 million, which will be allocated towards the Committee's recommendations. He confirmed that the City now has a primary State contact, and the next step is to start the RFP for design services. Alternate Gucker offered his help to expedite communication with the state if needed.

Project Timeline

Chair Robinson asked about the next RFP and project timeline. Member Iadarola explained that he will present a draft RFP for design services to members for their review and input prior to the next meeting.

Schedule

The Committee discussed meeting schedules and confirmed that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 6pm, in New Fairfield.

Chair Robinson requested a timeline for surveying and soil testing at the next meeting, and spoke about performing community outreach. Alternate Gucker asked about environmental work. Member Main discussed concerns in the area which is degraded with runoff from the roads, and he suggested reviewing potential

wildlife needs in the Spring. Member Iadarola confirmed that drainage and run-off concerns will be addressed during the surveying process. He noted that the area has wildlife sightings including an eagle nest near the quarry.

Member Hearn spoke on wildlife concerns. Alternate Gucker noted that the area still has microburst damage. Member Hearn noted that New Fairfield's new Plan of Conservation is in development, and suggested that they verify the commission's endorsement of the trail. Chair Robinson suggested new members walk the area in the Spring, and Member Iadarola stated he will provide a detailed map for new members to review.

Furthermore, he discussed the study of prospective routes. Member Main suggested implementing design ideas from nearby established trails. Chair Robinson spoke on the importance of the Committee hosting community meetings to receive feedback and address concerns. Furthermore, she requested that the Committee invite property owners who live along the trail to the community meetings. Alternate Gucker provided an overview of the trail grant for the new Committee members.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Iadarola, and seconded by Member Hearn, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Robinson, Chair
Antonio Iadarola
David Day
Peter Hearn
Jeff Main

Received by email on 02/14/2024 @ 11:24 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield