



**TOWN OF CHELMSFORD  
VINAL SQUARE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN  
COMMITTEE**

Approved May 11, 2021

**MEETING MINUTES**

**April 13, 2021**

**7:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER VIA ZOOM**

**Members Present:** Joe Tierney, Janet Murphy, Bill Gilet, Brian Creamer, Laura Lee

**Others Present:** Evan Belansky, Community Development Director  
Paul Cohen, Town Manager  
Steve Callaghan, Parks and Playgrounds Coordinator  
Lisa Marrone, Director, Business Development  
Carlin Andrus, NMCOG

Mr. Tierney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Updates**

Mr. Tierney read the names of the newly elected Town Meeting Representatives for Precinct 3.

He informed the members that he will not be able to continue in his role as chair of this committee due to a number of outside commitments, but will remain as an active member.

The Town Wide Clean Up is scheduled for April 30. Mr. Callaghan of DPW will deliver trash bags. He stated that Mill Town Plumbing may deliver mulch to Varney Park as a donation to the community. Mr. Callaghan also reported that the next step for the Varney Playground update is a vote to approve the funding through CPC at the Spring Town Meeting.

**Vinal Square Survey**

Mr. Andrus of NMCOG stated that he is preparing a survey to receive public input which will be published on their website. Mr. Belansky said he would like the survey to identify a specific area of study and to ask for examples of the type of improvements people would like to see. Mr. Andrus said he will do this and add visual examples.

**Trees**

Mr. Belansky has asked Mr. Jahnle of DPW to procure planters in black as the preferred color. The decision on what to plant has not been made yet. Arborvitae is a possibility, Mr. Creamer noted. The Tree Committee submitted a list of shrubs that might do fairly well.

#### Business Updates

Ms. Marrone said she would like to re-introduce ribbon cutting ceremonies that can be streamed live on Zoom. Her hope is to create awareness that new business are indeed opening in the community, and she indicated that there are few coming up. She continues to visit local businesses and offer her support.

Mr. Gilet said he had been in contact with Ms. Tremblay, owner of the hardware store. She advised that her tenants will not be renting space in the building after all. Ms. Marrone will contact Ms. Tremblay to discuss.

#### Other

Varney Avenue along with the parking area for the courts, are slated to be paved this year.

#### Town Manager

Mr. Cohen reported that he had reached out to Rep. Golden and asked for \$250,000 to fund the construction of sidewalks from Wellman Avenue (Williamsburg Condominium) to Vinal Square. He also has requested \$25,000 to pay for repairs to the Vietnam Veterans monument on the North Common which has begun leaning to one side. Federal assistance will be released in May 2021 for business recovery. Mr. Cohen encouraged businesses to reach out to Rep. Golden with requests.

Ms. Creamer made a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes for March 13, 2021 as submitted, seconded by Ms. Lee. Unanimous.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 11 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

There being no further business, Mr. Creamer moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Gilet. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Murphy