



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

Approved June 1, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2022

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

Members Present: Joseph Tierney, William Gilet, Jr., Laura Lee, Janet Murphy, Brian Creamer, Mike Walsh

Others Present: Paul Cohen, Town Manager
Gary Persichetti, Director of Public Works
Lisa Marrone, Director of Economic Development
Evan Belansky, Director of Community Development
Steve Callaghan, DPW Parks and Playground Coordinator

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

Vinal Square Concept Plan

Howard Stein Hudson is working on a concept plan. The cost estimate is \$4.7 million. The Town will likely be responsible for 25 percent of the cost.

Mr. Persichetti, who is retiring at the end of May 2022, said he will spend time with the new DPW Director and new Town Engineer who will soon be joining the Town to familiarize these individuals with the project and handle transitional matters.

Mr. Cohen will request approximately \$340,000 through Rep. Golden's office for the State Legislature to earmark these funds for the project. We should know by July if this funding was granted.

Information has been received about a large warehouse-type development being proposed on Tyngsboro Road in Tyngsboro. There is the potential of truck traffic coming through Vinal Square.

Business Updates

Ms. Marrone reported on a new establishment at 83 Middlesex Street, called Project Kompass.

It is a non-profit residential home offering life skills. training and mentorship to young girls in the process of transitioning to independent lives. It is fund completely through private donations.

The Lighthouse School is opening a second location at 285 Mill Road, with ribbon cutting scheduled for May 4.

Spring Town Meeting approved funding for a National Fitness Campaign site to open at the corner of Chelmsford Street and Wilson Lane.

The Summer Farmers Market will be returning after a 2 year hiatus. The target date to open is Saturday, May 28. Details are still being worked out.

In the Center Village, a computer coding center is scheduled to open in mid June.

Other

Mr. Belansky reported that the 40 Vinal Square property is for sale. Possible uses for the property include an adult day care center. He has not heard anything further other than that the property is currently for sale.

Wreaths and other holiday decorations should be removed soon.

Varney Playground

Mr. Callaghan reported that he had met with members of the group who attended our March meeting relative to the playground design. An area will be kept aside for a "phase 2" structure. There will be benches and picnic tables at a later date. The project work will take place within 100 feet of Freeman Lake, and Mr. Callaghan is attending the April 18 Conservation Commission to discuss. He does not anticipate any problems with the proposed work in terms of the 100 ft. buffer zone to the lake. He said the playground is still open and time frame for removal is late summer or early fall. There is still drainage work to be done, and the addition of a handicap ramp. Information of the playground removal will be publicized to ensure timely notice to the neighborhood and community who uses it.

Mr. Tierney stated that phase 2 may need some fund raising. He again stated all are welcome to participate in this effort. It was suggested that a member of the Friendship Park group that successfully raised significant funding to build their playground, be invited to one of our committee meetings to share ideas and strategy on how this was done.

Mr. Cohen said that baseball field repairs are planned as a second phase of the over Varney Playground project. Mr. Persichetti said that an aged drain basin was found, and this will take some time to repair. A season of play may be lost. The availability of supplies to do the work is also in question. He added that beach a bid for beach work was approved, and this work will take several weeks.

Other

It was announced that Chelmsford's representative in the State Legislature Tom Golden, had been named Lowell City Manager, and would soon be resigning from the Legislature in the

next few weeks. Mr. Gilet stated that Rep. Golden had been very helpful and supportive to the Chelmsford community throughout his time in office, and encouraged people to send him a thank you note for his service.

This year's Memorial Day Celebration will take place on the North Common. Repairs to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial have begun, and there will be new landscaping and a concrete area built around the monument. Mr. Eriksen and members of the DPW crew were thanked for their timely efforts to get this done for Memorial Day.

Mr. Tierney expressed his appreciation to all on the committee, and again requested and encouraged anyone in the community with an interest in our mission to attend a meeting or reach out to committee members for information. He looks forward to working with all who wish to help.

Meeting Minutes: March draft meeting minutes tabled to next meeting pending corrections. The February draft meeting minutes were approved with one correction noted by Mr. Creamer seconded by Mr. Gilet. Unanimous.

Next Meeting Date. Mr. Tierney will poll members about their availability for the next meeting, and try to set up a playground subcommittee meeting as well.

There being no further business, Mr. Gilet moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Murphy. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Murphy