

**Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 7:00pm**  
**In Person at the Temple Town Hall Annex**  
**With Zoom option (meeting recorded)**

Attendance: Jessica Hipp, Lilliane LeBel, Christine Robidoux, Vivian Wills, Bill Torphy

Absentees: Dana Nowell, Keith Charlton

Guest: Peter Allen (Highway Garage Study Committee)

1. Reviewed draft minutes from September 21, 2023. There were two minor changes. Motion to approve as amended by Vivian, seconded by Jessica, all members present approved.

2. Harvest Festival Review (Christine)\*

Christine shared the results of the informal activity designed to open up dialogue around safety in the Village Center. Comments and observations were shared. See attached document for more information.

3. Safety Update

a. Radar Grant Status (Lilliane)

Lilliane spoke with James Gilbert at the NH Department of Safety. In order to apply for the radar grant we also have to apply for funds for extra patrols. The Police Chief has to request the application. Right now they are short staffed. Funds for extra patrols are up to \$1600 and can go to hourly or salaried officers, and would work out to roughly 8 hours of patrolling. Lilliane spoke with Bill Ezell and he will bring this to the Police Board meeting to discuss in a couple of weeks. Lilliane has offered to draft the grant application to make it easier for the Chief.

b. Traffic Study (Lilliane & Bill Torphy)\*

The deadline to apply for the MAST grant to fund the traffic study as part of the Complete Streets program is October 27<sup>th</sup>. The Select Board has not reviewed the DRAFT application yet, but it is on their agenda for next week. It was sent to the SB a couple of weeks ago. Lilliane will send the application immediately after it is approved. The Grant is in three phases and we are applying for Phase I. The next two phases will lead up to implementation, and this will likely take at least a year. The traffic study would likely happen in the spring as part of Phase I if we get the grant.

c. Safety partnership with Police Dept. (Lilliane)

The increased police presence and radar in town seems to be helping a little bit. Lilliane continues to post reminders on Facebook to report speeding or unsafe driving to the police. It can be done anonymously. Lilliane and Bill Ezell also discussed drafting a letter to Millipore in Jaffrey asking them to remind their employees who cut through Temple to be courteous and drive slowly. Lilliane will draft something and send it to Bill to review. Bill also felt we should consider a Safety Forum next year, likely after town

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meeting. Topics to include speeding and sharing information about the traffic study and next steps. Maybe early April, or maybe after the traffic study results are available.

4. Budget Discussion

The CAC has a budget for 2023 of \$400. If we are going to do a mailing or two next year we should propose including money in the budget for 2024. Lilliane will email Gary Scholl to request meeting with the BAC to present our proposed budget.

Motion by Vivian to put \$1000 in the budget for 2024 for two mailings (\$800) plus Harvest Festival supplies (\$200). Second by Lilliane, approved by unanimous vote.

Allen recommends letting the BAC know that we are also applying for a grant to cover other major expenses related to the traffic study.

5. Increasing Subscriptions to E-Alerts

There are currently only about 200 residents signed up to receive E-Alerts. This is a very low number. We should do something to encourage people to subscribe. Lilliane suggests gathering some donations from Temple businesses and doing a random drawing giveaway for new or renewing subscribers to the E-Alerts.

E-Alerts are emails sent to subscribers who have selected to receive news and information through the town website (TempleNH.org). Subscribers can select from the following options (49 total):

- Town Urgent Alerts
- Town News & Announcements
- Board & Committee Meeting Agendas & Minutes (47 Options)

This is a great option for residents who do not use Facebook.

There was discussion on how to make this more user friendly and reviewing and updating the options. Christine noticed that when she opted to receive the Highway Garage Committee agendas and minutes she stopped receiving all the other alerts. Vivian has observed the same issue. Subscribers must subscribe to all they want to use every time, they can't just add one or two. Christine will review the whole list of options, and contact the webmaster to make any changes. Christine will draft a postcard with information on how to subscribe to do a mailing. We need to make sure that we can capture who the new or renewing subscribers are so that they can be entered into the drawing. Allen suggests leaving postcards at the town office and encouraging town office staff to suggest residents sign up for E-Alerts when they are in the office for town business.

Lilliane will share the list of Temple businesses with CAC members and we can reach out to those we have connections to and request a donation of gift cards or items.

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6. Subcommittee Updates

a. A/V Equipment (Christine)

We received a quote from East West for service visits for 2024. A proposed budget amount will need to be recommended to the BAC & Select Board for 2024. East West has different rates for in person service calls and remote. Most, if not all, of the calls this year have been handled remotely, with Keith providing onsite assistance. Christine will contact Keith for a recommendation of a budgeted amount based on how many calls have been needed this year and send the information to Lilliane, the BAC, and the Select Board.

We encourage all boards and committees to contact us to train 1-2 members to use the equipment. The big room is a little more complicated than the annex, but it should be manageable.

b. Welcome Booklet online (Christine)

We don't expect an update until the spring on the progress on converting it to make it available online. Jessica knows someone who is willing to donate money to cover printing costs of the updated version. Jessica will follow-up with the donor to see if they are OK with waiting until next year. Christine will get estimated printing costs to Jessica.

c. School Subcommittee (Jessica)

Jessica thanked Vivian and the Rec Committee for providing childcare during the School Forum on September 28<sup>th</sup> at TES.

The Forum overall was not well received by residents who attended. There was no discussion and it was perceived that there was an agenda or a predetermined outcome. The statements residents were asked to respond to were very leading. The CAC discussed what role, if any, we might take in sharing information and helping with the discussion. Our School Board rep, Liz Swan, has had very few residents reach out to her with questions or concerns.

Jessica shared a document she received which outlines the next steps Prismatic, the consultant company hired by ConVal, will take over the next few weeks.\*

The online forum will be held October 23<sup>rd</sup> through October 27<sup>th</sup>. It will be asynchronous online, which means residents can log on at any time 24 hours a day to post a question or comment and a Prismatic consultant will respond

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within 48 hours. Users will be able to see others comments and Prismatic responses. An overview of district costs and student performance data will be provided. There will also be a confidential follow-up survey open that same week. Prismatic expects to conclude their research by November 15<sup>th</sup> and hold a data analysis meeting to present the results of the forums and surveys. It is important to remember that the discussions are not just about the Elementary Schools. The SMS building is in bad shape, and these significant repairs will be costly. The state does not provide funding for building repairs. The quality of the programs for middle and upper grades also needs to be part of the conversation.

There was discussion of the School Board Reps role and the Select Board Advisory Committee role. Communication has been coming from the SAC rep, George Willard, rather than the School Board Rep. There are a lot of rules around what the School Board Rep can share with constituents. In addition, the School Board meets the same night as the Select Board. Liz Swan, our School Board rep is eager to listen to community input.

Christine shared that there is a group in the state that goes to towns to explain how schools are funded. They are called the NH School Funding Fairness Project (<https://fairfundingnh.org/>). They recently did a presentation in Hinsdale. CAC members may want to check them out to see if we might want to invite them to Temple for a presentation.

Peter Allen shared that he has done a lot of research on the costs. Jessica and Dana have also done some research. We don't see a huge savings for residents in terms of taxes with or without TES, about \$2/month. We need more economic data from the School Board, including how the economics affects the quality of education students receive as well as the community aspects of having a local school.

Jessica will reach out to Liz to discuss ideas or suggestions on thoughtful community engagement as we continue through this process.

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7. Other Board/Committee News\*

The HOP Grant Steering Committee is holding three Housing forums over the next few weeks. All residents will receive a postcard in their mailbox with more details. In addition, the Steering Committee invites residents to inquire about one-on-one interviews. Focus groups will also be invited to sit down for conversations related to their common concerns (business, farmers, retirees, young families, etc.).

Jessica motioned to adjourn, Christine seconded, unanimous approval. Adjourned at 8:39 PM.

**Next Meeting Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 7:00pm**

Attachments:

20231019\_HarvestFestival\_Recap

20231020\_CAC\_Minutes\_DRAFT\_MAST\_Att1 Letter (*DRAFT*)

20231020\_CAC\_Minutes\_DRAFT\_MAST\_Att2 Scope of Work (*DRAFT*)

20231019\_CAC\_Minutes\_DRAFT\_SchoolAtt

Temple postcard final from HOP Grant Steering Committee (Housing Forums)

Public engagement for Temple from HOP Grant Steering Committee (outreach plan)