

City of Keene
New Hampshire

MUNICIPAL SERVICES, FACILITIES, AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

6:00 pm

**City Hall, 2nd Floor, Council
Chambers**

Members Present:

James P. Duffy, Chair
Janis O. Manwaring
Philip M. Jones
Sheryl A. Redfern

Mayor Kendall Lane

Members Absent:

Robert J. O'Connor

Staff Present:

City Attorney Thomas Mullins
Assistant City Manager Med Kopczynski
Planning Director Rhett Lamb
Public Works Director Kürt Blomquist
Police Chief Brian Costa
Youth Services Manager Elisabeth Brown

Others Present:

Councilor Carl B. Jacobs
Councilor Terry Clark
Councilor Emily Hague
Councilor Bettina Chadbourne

Chair Duffy called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and explained the procedures of the meeting.

1. PRESENTATION – Juvenile Conference Committee

Elisabeth Brown, Juvenile Conference Committee (JCC) Coordinator and Youth Services Manager, introduced Jerry Kaufman, Chair of the Juvenile Conference Committee. She stated that she will give a history and rundown of the JCC, and then Mr. Kaufman will add his experiences of 24 years of involvement.

Ms. Brown stated that the juvenile court diversion program originated in the 1970s with the NH Probation Department – it is a pre-court diversion for youth offenders. She continued that as the cases and work increased, the program received a grant, and the JCC Coordinator has been a permanent City position since 1977. It is funded by the City and Cheshire County. The program serves all of Cheshire County. It is a program of the Youth Services Department. She is the Youth Services Manager and JCC Coordinator and manages all the programs in Youth Services, reporting to the Human and Youth Services Director.

Ms. Brown continued that court diversion helps youth offenders avoid criminal charges through volunteer panels, such as the JCC committee. Their purposes are to provide relief to the court, the police, and the probation office, and to give an opportunity to youth offenders to avoid prosecution by completing the program. As of July 1, the definition of a juvenile is anyone 18

years old or under – previously the age was anyone 17 years old or under. JCC is one of the oldest court diversion programs in the state and is part of the NH Diversion Network. Legislation was introduced changing the law, to bring accountability and standards to these programs, but they are flexible enough to meet local needs. Programs that are accredited by the Family Division of the NH Judicial Branch have met rigorous accreditation standards and have demonstrated high proficiency. The JCC has been accredited since 2012.

Ms. Brown continued that the membership of the JCC is defined by the Keene City Code. Members are appointed by the Mayor and voted on by the City Council. It has nine members and two alternate positions. There are rotating terms but members can remain for extended periods, due to the nature of the work. Right now the JCC has two groups meeting separately. Cases fluctuate and they adapt as needed. Members are business owners, school personnel, and social services professionals. They are asked to provide ideas and strategies for youth accountability, services for substance abuse, and to encourage positive relationships at home, school, and community. They also support and give resources to families.

Participants of JCC are first time youth offenders who can admit their involvement to the Coordinator and the JCC Committee. Youth and parents must be willing to hold the youth accountable and comply with the JCC requirements. This program is voluntary. Youth are referred by Police, prosecution, or the court system. It is up to the JCC Coordinator to decide whether the youth is appropriate for diversion, and the youth needs to be committed and the parents need to make the decision. JCC does not handle Child In Need of Services (CHINS) cases. The Coordinator provides all of the community resource information to youth, the community, families, school officials, and so on and so forth, whether a youth is accepted into the program or not.

Ms. Brown continued that referrals mostly come from police and prosecutors. Since the bill went in effect, on the juvenile petition there is a space to say why diversion would not be appropriate, and a prosecutor or police officer must write the reason. This year the JCC got seven cases referred back from the court. The court is really holding firm: if it is a first time offender and there is no reason given for why diversion is not appropriate, they refer the case back to the JCC. Judges are really helping out. The JCC is in constant contact with their referral sources.

Ms. Brown continued that to begin the process with a youth offender, the JCC Coordinator has an interview with the youth and their family, explaining the program, and gathering information on the youth's life. They spend a lot of time doing this, to see if the Coordinator and the youth and their family all agree that this program is good for them. They go to an initial hearing. That is where the youth meets the JCC. There are usually four committee members present, including the Chair, who runs the meeting. The youth shares their story, and the committee can ask questions and clarify with the youth what has happened. If the committee feels like they have enough information they ask the youth and family to leave the room and the committee comes up with a contract that will benefit the youth and outlines how they will be held accountable and do the reparations or restitution that is needed regarding their offense. Then it is up to the youth to agree to the contract. There is a time limit and review hearing.

Ms. Brown continued the committee works with the youth to fulfill the terms of the contract and the youth returns to the review hearing and the committee gets to hear, hopefully, about the successful completion of the contract. The committee can accept it and dismiss the charges or they can give additional assignments or send the youth back to court. They have at least a 95% success rate of youth completing the program. Ninety percent of youth who complete the program do not come back to court within a year after successful completion.

Ms. Brown continued that their evaluation technique is that they do recidivism studies. They are mandated to keep up with that, and with up to date accreditation work. She has been in this field for over 30 years, and can say that this committee is the most helpful and powerful opportunity for youth. They have a great set of volunteers that really care for youth and are there for youth and families and they understand the trials and tribulations of youth. These youth do substantially better than the youth in court.

Jerald Kaufman, of 61 Westmoreland Road, Spofford, NH, stated that being the Chair of the JCC is an opportunity to set the frame for both the youth and the family. He continued that he tries to point out that the committee is really a learning opportunity, versus a punishment. Ms. Brown does a great job pre-screening. You have no sense of what the youth is thinking about when they walk in the room and no sense of what they are willing to do. He enjoys that part – figuring out what this is all about and how it will proceed. Having worked at Keene High School (KHS) for so many years, he saw the other side - students in the program took it very seriously. Having Ms. Brown check in and meet with families and youth is critical. This is a choice – still the bottom line for youth is, are you in, or out? It is a powerful statement for a young person to make. Schools and parents appreciate this program. He has been with the program many years.

Councilor Jones stated that he thinks this is great. He continued that many people in this room have done things as youth that they regret and would not want to have following them into adulthood. He asked if the JCC is mandated by State statute. Ms. Brown replied no. Councilor Jones asked if that means it is just something Keene does as a service. Ms. Brown replied that the State does not mandate the program, but it has recognized the program's importance, and there are 14 in the state.

Councilor Jones asked if they deal with misdemeanors and felonies. Ms. Brown replied depending on the felony, yes. Councilor Jones asked about the success rate after these youth become adults. Ms. Brown replied that they have subjective data, not the recidivism data. She continued that they are trying to get it. It is difficult for a program to do that individually. The judicial system is working with them so they can get the information from them and see if they are making a difference years later. She gets anecdotal feedback. Chair Duffy stated that Ms. Brown said seven youth were referred to the court and the court decided to send them to the JCC. He asked if that is an above average number. Ms. Brown replied yes. She continued that the courts are recognizing the value of the JCC and that first-time youth offenders do not need to be taking court time unless they have committed a rather heinous crime. Chair Duffy asked if the seven cases she referred to indicates a spike in juvenile offenders. Ms. Brown replied no, it does not.

Chair Duffy asked if the Earn It program is related to the JCC. Ms. Brown replied yes, that is an adjunct program. She continued that it used to have a different coordinator but now she is the coordinator for both. It is a service restitution program. If the JCC feels they want a youth to participate in Earn It, they can refer the youth there. The court can also refer offenders to the Earn It program and she takes some CHINS cases, too. She helps them manage their community service time and restitution.

Chair Duffy asked what the City Council could do to assist them with this good work. He asked if the youth and families in Keene could benefit from an expanded program. Ms. Brown replied yes, definitely. She continued that she and Mr. Kaufman have both noticed that the main concerns are mental health issues and substance abuse. The average time a youth spends in the program used to be about three months, and now it is five or six months. Mental health and substance abuse issues take longer to weed out. Chair Duffy asked if she said the City and County provide funding. Ms. Brown replied yes.

Chair Duffy asked if any members of the public had questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Brown and Mr. Kaufman for their good work. He continued that they planted a seed in his head about the importance of this work and more that could be done. Ms. Brown expressed her appreciation for the hard work that Mr. Kaufman has done and how he has really stepped up over the past year and has trained new members. She continued that the committee is running smoothly and she is appreciative of all of the work.

The consensus of the Committee was to accept the presentation as informational.

2. PETITION – Scenic Road Designation – Nims Road

Public Works Director Kürt Blomquist stated that City Council received a petition from residents on Nims Road for it to be designated as a scenic road. He continued that the petition was referred to the MSFI Committee and the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission reviews it and forwards their recommendation to the MSFI Committee. Tonight, his recommendation is to place this topic on more time and ask that the Mayor hold a public hearing.

Chair Duffy asked if the Conservation Commission has weighed in. Mr. Blomquist replied yes. He continued that the State statute does not require it – the City has designated them as the review body. The Conservation Commission recently met and reviewed the petition, but those meeting minutes were not done in time to make it to the MSFI Committee's agenda packet tonight. Traditionally there is a public hearing, and that is what he is recommending the committee ask the Mayor to do.

Chair Duffy asked if any members of the public or committee had questions or comments. Hearing none, he asked for a motion.

Councilor Jones made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Manwaring.

On a vote of 4-0, the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee placed the Nims Road petition on more time to allow time to get the Conservation Commission's review to the MSFI Committee and to request a public hearing be set by the Mayor.

Chair Duffy asked the City Attorney if they need to go back to the previous agenda item and make a motion to accept it as informational. The City Attorney replied that that is not necessary.

3. MEMORANDUM – Police Chief – Concerns Over Growing Drug Problem

Police Chief Brian Costa stated that with the transition of Chief from Kenneth Meola to himself, he and staff looked at various Police Department items that were on more time in different committees. He continued that they found that it has been a year since the heroin problem was first acknowledged publicly by community leaders. They felt that it was time to present again on this topic. In June 2014, Councilor Greenwald asked for discussion amongst community leaders, about heroin use. Wayne Woolridge, then the Superintendent of Schools for NHSAU 29, also sent a letter, welcoming dialogue and acknowledging that there was concern. Discussion took place at the MSFI Committee meeting in July 2014. Many community leaders were there. They agreed on two issues –first that there has been an increase in heroin use in the community, which parallels what is happening in the state and nationally; and second, that a three-prong approach is needed, with prevention efforts, Police enforcement, and recovery services.

Chief Costa continued that the Keene Police Department strongly supports the efforts of various community entities with respect to prevention and treatment. One of the ways they do this is to have a medical drop box at the police station, which is consistently utilized. In 2014 the box received over 1,400 pounds of medications, and they are on track to go beyond that that in 2015. The KPD has pledged full support to Impact Monadnock, a new non-profit that seeks early, positive intervention in the lives of disadvantaged youth. The KPD will be participating in roundtable discussions with community leaders through that initiative. Someone from the KPD works as the School Resource Officer at KHS. Plans have been finalized to implement the same prevention program that KHS has at Keene Middle School (KMS) this fall for at risk students. They are taking a more proactive approach earlier on to guide positive decision making. They have representatives at the Cheshire County Drug Court program. They are working on an agreement with the Monadnock Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coalition (MADAC) to share space at the KPD's satellite office downtown. These are just some of the ways the KPD assists in prevention.

Chief Costa continued that the KPD's primary responsibility is enforcement. Tonight they offer a case study of an investigation into an illegal use and distribution of heroin into the community. This was conducted by investigators from the KPD. Since 2013 the KPD and Keene Fire Department (KFD) have responded to 199 service calls - 109 people were given Narcan and survived, but 17 of the calls resulted in overdose deaths due to heroin. A high percentage of those arrested for robbery and property crimes are committed by people with opiate dependency. In response to the growing epidemic, the KPD is working closely with the NH Attorney General's Drug Task Force, the NH State Police, local police agencies, and federal law enforcement offices, including the US Attorney, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Homeland Security. These collaborations benefit

the city with additional manpower and resources. This case study, of which many components have been publicly reported already, is being shared because these arrests were targets of a prolonged, multi-agency investigation starting in 2013. It has targeted large-scale heroin traffickers. It is a great example of the success that comes when multiple agencies participate in an investigation.

Chief Costa continued that Keene had a higher number of property crimes in the summer of 2013. An arrest was made. That single arrest led to the US Attorney's Office, the NH Drug Task Force, and Homeland Security working with the KPD, NH State Police, Salem Police, and Massachusetts State Police investigating heroin distribution in the area as well as sources of supplies. As a result, law enforcement arrested 14 people involved in the conspiracy to traffic heroin, from Lawrence, MA to Keene and other towns. They were able to dismantle a major heroin network that had operated for years. Law enforcement seized over 5.5 kilograms of heroin, as well as cocaine, Oxycodone, cash, and firearms. In response to that investigation the region's Homeland Security Director traveled to Keene to recognize the lead investigator in the case – the KPD's resource that they provide to the Drug Task Force. In his remarks, he equated the 5.5 kilograms of heroin to between 250,000 and a million doses, which were taken off the streets of Keene. That is significant.

He concluded his remarks by noting that many community leaders are present at the MSFI Committee meeting tonight. They represent prevention, treatment, and recovery. Also, Jack Wozmak is here, NH's Senior Director for Substance Misuse and Behavioral Health.

Councilor Manwaring asked: when the KPD gets a tip that some place in the city has drug dealing happening, how long does it take before that person can be arrested? Chief Costa replied that there is no typical timeframe – it depends on circumstances. He continued that in this situation it took almost two years to get to where they are. When information is given, either anonymously or through direct calls, action is sometimes not seen right away. He encourages people to keep giving the KPD the information – the KPD documents it and it becomes a source of information they can go back and research. It is valuable to have that information, even if there is not an immediate arrest.

Councilor Jones stated that he and Chief Costa were at the City/College Special Commission meeting on Monday and learned that much of the public thinks that heroin problems are college-related, but actually, the college is more concerned with alcohol. Heroin is more of a community problem. Chief Costa replied yes, that is true.

Chair Duffy stated that he is taken aback by the number of doses that were taken off of the street. He continued that that this seems like a well-coordinated investigation, with hard work that led to these arrests. He asked what they gained from this. He knows they probably saved many lives. But how quickly will the "vacuum be filled"? Chief Costa replied that it was being filled as the arrests were being made. He continued that he is not just trying to give the KPD a pat on the back. They take this work very seriously and will not stop. They will continue to go after people dealing heroin. They did not solve this. Enforcement is a vital part of the three-pronged approach. He has talked with folks doing prevention work, and Mr. Wozmak, about the importance of everyone continuing to work together.

Chair Duffy asked if any members of the public had questions or comments.

Peter Hartz, of Brook Street in Keene, asked three questions: what resources is the KPD missing, that they wish they had, that they need to combat this epidemic most effectively? What percentage of the existing problem does Chief Costa feel is being addressed? What can the courts do to help the KPD?

Chief Costa replied that the KPD has good resources through working together with others. He continued there are prevention services, but what is most needed, without question, are treatment facilities. Work has to be done. He is talking with Mr. Wozmak, and discussions and plans are beginning to happen. They were effective with this investigation in the sense that 250,000 to a million doses were taken off the street. Yes, addicts will find the heroin somewhere else. But every day there are first time users. How many first timers would have used the heroin that was seized? He does not know, and cannot give a percentage. The KPD's main focus is going after the suppliers. The advantage to arresting a person who is not dealing but is in possession of heroin is that the arrest gives a court-mandated treatment process. The KPD is compassionate and will get people help if they want help, but it is hard to know when a person using heroin will reach out for help on their own – arresting them means the court will mandate treatment.

Chair Duffy asked if any members of the public had questions or comments for Chief Costa. Hearing none, he thanked Chief Costa for his department's hard work. He continued that enforcement is great but treatment is the missing piece.

Jessica White, of 153 Eastern Avenue, thanked the KPD for their increased efforts. She continued that she is a 30-year resident and she and other residents do see the shift. She has a group called *Save NH-Keene Hates Heroin*, which is a wide-ranging group including former and recovering addicts. They are starting to also involve people from the medical field who can help them and speak at forums. Heroin is a crisis. *Save NH-Keene Hates Heroin* focuses on long term improvement in the short term scenario. They are trying to help the community and get other communities engaged as well so one community does not feed another with their issues.

Ms. White continued that they are challenging City leaders to do more. This topic was brought up a year ago and maybe the City dropped the ball. Maybe there were road blocks. But taxpayers want to see more being done. Keene Hates Heroin's goals are to work on funding, and to set up a hotline. There are other hotlines but this one will be focused on this area. The number will go to a core group; it will be at ground level. If a person addicted to heroin has the card with the number on it, they can call, not get arrested, and be safe. They hope to have EMTs and/or nurses to help with the medical piece of it immediately and then get them into a facility.

Ms. White continued that they also want to put together clean up kits. They are finding needles and other drug items in the streets. People do not know how to clean it up and what to do with it. Call the police? Throw them out? They want to do education. A long-term goal is to have a fund available that helps people needing treatment be able to afford a spot at a treatment place. They want to help subsidize when insurance is an issue.

Ms. White continued that residents and tax payers will support Fire, Police, and the City Council, but they do not feel like they are called upon to do that. There is red tape and procedures for funding, yes, and that will take time for the Police and City Council to get through it, so residents want to focus on what they can do day to day in the community. Many times you hear people say, in regards to people who are addicted to drugs, “Let them do it to themselves.” Her group does not accept that. They are asking people to pay mind to people in their agencies who might have that emphasis; the people who think it is okay to just let it happen. It might be counterintuitive to have people with that attitude represent an organization. Keene Hates Heroin has knowledge, resources, and people with time. On August 25 they will have a forum downstairs in the Keene Public Library (KPL). They hope Mr. Wozmak and people in the medical field will come, as well as Police Officers and others, to talk to anyone who wants to come.

Chair Duffy asked if committee members had questions or comments. He asked Ms. White what her group wants to see accomplished. Ms. White replied that this topic was discussed a year ago and numbers keep rising. She continued that they want the City to stop dropping the ball and do not let red tape get in the way. They want the City to reach out to residents. They want to make a difference and should not be underestimated.

Mayor Kendall Lane stated that it has now been a year since the leadership got together to begin discussions about local heroin abuse. He continued that it continues to be a tragedy for the community, individuals, and families. As they move forward, much has happened – they have a new Police Chief, and Mr. Wozmak has been appointed as the “drug czar.” Mayor Lane continued that he will call together a meeting of the leadership of the agencies involved in the fight against heroin, to have an ongoing community discussion regarding those areas that they are strongest in and the areas they can improve upon and the areas that are lacking that they can begin instituting. Mr. Wozmak is willing to work with the City to move this issue forward. They will meet later in August to put together a group that will move forward in this community and continue the battle against this social ill.

David Pence, of 397 Washington Street, stated that he has been addicted but has been clean for 10 years. He continued that he has been trying to get something going in the state. He went out intending to clean up drug paraphernalia in the streets but someone else had already done it. He is trying to get a disposal place in place but is unsure of the appropriate location, whether it is more appropriate for the Fire Department or perhaps the Police Department. They are also working to get kits together, to get this done. He is willing to do clean up every day of the week and so is his colleague, but they need a disposal place. Once they tried the Police Department and they were unable to accept the items. He cannot keep these drug items at his house, where he has a child.

He continued that he has family members who are addicted and he is trying to help them get clean. As the Police Chief said, they need more help. That is their objective with the helpline – to get help for the addicts to get out of the revolving door. No one who is addicted will go into the Police Department; there is a stigma of going there for help. You will go to jail. He knows people who have died, who have received no help – the average wait for a bed is 6 to 12 months. His group needs to help these people, even if it is just getting them to a facility and letting the

facility take it from there. Can the City help with kits? They are doing whatever they can, funded out their pockets, for the hotline. He is not afraid of going to the neighborhoods. He has straightened himself out. He does not want his 4-yr-old grandson to step on a needle at the playground. He is willing to help with that *now* if he can get help with disposal.

Chair Duffy referred these concerns to the City Attorney. The City Attorney asked what “the kit” is. Mr. Pence replied a gallon bag, with a disposable pair of gloves, and tweezers, so people can go out and put items in the bag, and put the bag in a box to dispose of. He continued that they need disposal centers. The Fire Department has paramedics that can do it, but citizens have no access. It would be great if even just a few of them could be given access, so they can bring the drug items there without having to bother a Police Officer. He continued that he does not want to get arrested for cleaning up drug paraphernalia. He wants to dispose of it to save children’s lives. The fear of getting arrested is a big problem. Most addicts will not ask for help because they are worried about getting arrested. What it will take is everyone helping. Everyone has lost someone to drug addiction.

Chair Duffy stated that he thinks Mr. Pence’s ideas are good and he would be interested in exploring them. Mr. Pence noted there is a needle exchange program in Brattleboro and he does not agree with that. He continued that he wants the community to get together to work on a hotline. He will call anyone in the state to make this happen. When he first got clean, he said he would be happy if he could help one other person, but then even helping five people did not make him happy. He needs to help more people.

Carrie Binney, of 130 Elm Street, stated that her family has been terribly affected by heroin use. She continued that she has been doing research and has found that community is key. It is important to not isolate the person with addiction, but to still give them a sense of community. Part of it can be community policing. Like Mr. Pence says, people with addiction will not go to the Police Department. There is a documentary from Vancouver about how police officers walked around town more and became friendly with people on the streets, and they got to know people using methadone and Suboxone. When they noticed people’s behavior changing or that something was not right, they could address it, before the person went back to heroin. Crime decreased, and treatment that people with addiction sought had more longevity. The community embraced this way of dealing with it. It dramatically decreased the crime rate and the incidences of overdoses. Citizens and police can work together to make it more of a community effort, instead of isolating and having the addict afraid to go to the station to ask for help. Maybe the KPD could have a list of places addicts could call, including people in the community. That might go a long way in Keene and to help surrounding areas, to reduce the incidence of our loved ones becoming addicted.

Rob Malay stated that he is the new Superintendent of Schools for NHSAU 29. He continued that he met with the Mayor today. He appreciates the comments he is hearing. He is new to the community and is charged with education. He is hearing a lot of positive input tonight that will help them get through this stage they are going through. It is important to continue to get the prevention message out. He will be at the Mayor’s committee meeting if invited. It is important to get decision-making skills into the minds of youth. Yes, it is trickling down to middle school. It is time to take a stand as a whole community, to say that they are going to really do something

about this. He hears the pieces of the puzzle tonight, and they are off to a great start. He sees many folks committed, and he is committed, too.

Susan MacNeil, of 16 High Street, Gilsum, read the following statement for the record:
“We all commend our local law enforcement for diligently working behind the scenes to arrest drug dealers and criminals influenced by drug use in order to make our community a safer place. But if we want to change the escalating dynamic, then we need to do more than quote statistics about drug use and applaud arrest logs. This information is the end-result of longstanding issues that cause people to behave in dangerous, inconceivable ways. There is no quick fix to the escalating problem of drug use in our community. The longer we linger in a top-down conversation that narrowly focuses on bureaucratic oversight and punishment, the more time we waste in developing an integrated, constructive solution that disrupts the status quo approach.

The bottom line is this: Drug addicts are human beings who have suffered more alienation than the rest of us. This does not excuse their behavior but to ignore this fact puts a potential solution at a high risk of failure. Addiction is the end result of severe distress that causes a person to seek relief from suffering through drug use, which provides dopamine stimulation in the brain. Proven research shows that people who develop an addiction to drugs have a significant history of loss and trauma, causing brain dysfunction.

Being curious about how addicts became addicts will engage a conversation that leads to corrective action. Judging drug addicts as ‘less than’ or ‘those people’ further isolates them from accessing help. Gathering information from addicts themselves about how they became addicts provides the only clear-cut data necessary to envision bold solutions that work. And asking inmates about the role that drug use played in their incarceration is critical to finding an answer to recidivism. In other words, identifying the root causes of an addict’s life – misery, desolation, fear, abuse, poverty, disease, mental illness, homelessness, hunger, lack of belonging – will provide the answer for lasting change.

As those of us on the frontlines know, the people we serve are all too often ignored in the larger world. We need to care about their opinions before we offer them our well-intentioned, but ill-informed solutions.”

Councilor Clark stated that this is a positive thing that is happening. He continued that they all know Mr. Wozmack, who just gave 22 recommendations to the NH Governor to combat this crisis. This is a start. Some recommendations include making it easier for families to access Narcan and Suboxone, expanding access to treatment, and strengthening the treatment network – that is key. Many people in the United States have the mindsets of “the war on drugs” and “three strikes, you’re out,” and other enforcement-type strategies. That is only one leg of the stool. The overall strategy fails if the focus is just that one leg. But now, law enforcement officers are coming out and saying, “We cannot arrest our way out of this problem.” Finally they can actually sit down and do something that is going to matter, instead of pandering to the movements like the “war on drugs” so they are not seen as soft on crime. Now they can focus on prevention, treatment, and recovery, because that is what is really important. He still wants the police out there cutting back on the supply. But it is about the demand. If you do not have

demand there will not be a supply. That is something the community can do – education, treatment, and recovery. They can help get people onto a better way of life, so they are not depressed or having other problems that they want to medicate themselves for.

Councilor Clark continued that Cheshire County has always had a huge substance abuse problem. People's needs are not being met. They are focusing on the wrong things. Now with everyone coming forward they can actually start going in a different direction. Last July they took a step in the right direction by hosting the forum. They need to continue that, and be a liaison to pull these organizations together – when you are only working on one piece of the pie the entirety of the pie escapes you. The City needs to be heavily involved in being a liaison, due to their natural political positioning. They can clear the way if an ordinance needs to be passed, or put pressure on the State. He is thankful that Mr. Wozmak has the position that he does.

Councilor Clark continued that he wants to add a 23rd recommendation: as someone else talked about, the Police Chief from Gloucester, MA, has a great program going. He read part of the newsletter out loud, stating the Police Chief is talking about Big Pharma. *“The pills you manufacture are causing death. Statistically four out of five people addicted to opiates start with prescribed pain medication. We in law enforcement are learning what you do not want us to know. We in policing are cleaning up your mess. You have a choice: provide for the proper treatment for those who develop a disease based in your medication or become the Exxon Valdez of healthcare. Pay now or pay later. We believe you will do the right thing. Do not prove us wrong because if law enforcement is forced to confront any drug dealer, no matter what they use or the institution they hide behind, we will take action.”*

Councilor Clark continued that in other words, it is a big problem that a doctor's first reaction to a person with, say, a toothache, is to give them a drug to take away the pain – say it is five to seven days and 15 to 20 pills. The person's toothache is better. Do they ask their doctor if they need the pills anymore? They need to address that problem. Doctors, medical personnel, and pharmacists are complicit in this problem. They are trying to do good. But he hopes Mr. Wozmak includes the 23rd recommendation.

Councilor Jones stated that both Councilor Clark and Susan MacNeil made it sound like drug abusers are socially destitute people. He continued that years back when people were asking for a zoning change to allow a methadone treatment center in Keene, people were saying, no, it is not just destitute people who need help with drug addiction – there are doctors, lawyers, engineers, and other professionals. Councilor Clark replied that that is right. He continued that when you go to the doctor's office, it does not matter what your social or economic status is – the treatment is the same. You are put on a regime, usually a heavy dose of pain medication. This has to be dealt with. There are problems in society that people ignore because they only exist for poor people or people of color, which is unfortunate. Drug abuse is a problem that crosses all cultural and economic lines. Everyone is susceptible to it.

Councilor Jacobs stated that he has been clean and sober for ten years. He continued that he has learned a lot about what it is to be an addict. He knew he needed help. They cannot expect people to “just say no.” People have to understand that someone like him needs help to stay sober. Something not yet mentioned is that yes, there are huge personal costs – family

dysfunction, deaths, and so on and so forth – but also, there is a lot of money being spent on incarceration without really anything to show for it. As a City Councilor, he is often faced with people wanting him to vote for certain expenditures, and he has to think about what they can get from those expenditures. With this, they would get a reduction of cost. Fewer crimes, fewer people in jail. His life changed in a positive way when he got sober. He has seen that many times. He hopes to hear about how addressing the community's heroin problem pays out not just in terms of people being happy and free, but how it is better business, too. The community comes out financially better if they do not have this heroin problem. He would see money spent on this as an investment that would pay back.

Polly Morris, of Monadnock Voices for Prevention (MVP), stated that her job is working with community leaders, law enforcement, schools, community members, and others, and try to figure out how to reduce the use of alcohol and drugs in the region. She primarily focuses on prevention. Recently she was contacted by the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services and they added staff to MVP to do continuum of care work – prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery support. She has heard great things about how prevention work is necessary, especially early in schools, and she agrees. In terms of intervention, they need more primary care doctors to ask those questions. They need assessment, and insurance benefits, and education for the doctors overprescribing opiates. This did not just happen overnight. It took years to get where they are today with heroin.

Ms. Morris continued that heroin is the drug that is killing people fast, but they cannot forget about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Those kill, too. The County has high rates for all. And people think marijuana is natural, but it is just a longer killer. The area does not have a lot of treatment facilities nor the workforce to back them up. How can the colleges put some kind of certification in their curriculum so people can become licensed drug and alcohol counselors? They make it hard, with hoops to jump through, so there are few of these certified counselors in the state. Also, there is a need for recovery supports. There is the Keene Serenity Center, and Hope for NH Recovery, which encourages people who are in recovery to become mentors to people who are struggling. It would help if people do not use stigmatizing words like “addict” or “alcoholic.” These problems can affect everyone. It is not just the stereotypical man under the bridge drinking out of a paper bag.

Ms. Morris continued that she has hired a woman at MVC to put together a comprehensive array of services. That means getting everyone at the table. She hears that the Mayor wants another committee, but there are already so many committees. They have integrated systems of care already happening. They need to have the meetings there; go to them, and get people like Jessica White at the table, and the homeless shelters, and the people touched by this every day. This is not just an issue for the agencies, the Mayor, the Superintendent, and law enforcement officers – it is for everyone. Everyone is affected.

The City Attorney stated that there was a perception that 10 or 15 years ago there were more long-term treatment centers, and that ended. He asked Ms. Morris if that is because of insurance benefits changing, and if so, what does she think can be done?

Ms. Morris replied yes, that is accurate. She continued that the State funded a lot of people to go to the Phoenix House, but that went away. Now they have the more inclusive health protection program, but there is not a lot of long term-treatment available. It is more difficult for people to fit the criteria that insurance requires. When a person is receiving treatment, someone has to call the insurance company every two days to make sure the person is still covered. She is not an insurance expert, but yes, there are barriers.

Chair Duffy stated that he appreciates the turnout tonight. He continued that consensus is that they need to do something. He reminded everyone of respecting the speaking guidelines giving everyone a turn.

Joe Mirzoeff, of 50 Summit Road, stated that two people tonight spoke about prescription opiates being the gateway drug to heroin. He continued that someone said earlier that the way he got hooked the first time was a neck problem, when he was prescribed opiates, then went to heroin. The Police Chief, too, said that most heroin abusers started with prescription drugs. Someone needs to talk to the doctors who are prescribing these drugs. He thinks that they are over-prescribing. Doctors need alternatives to opiates. Alternatives might be physical therapy, acupuncture, and meditation.

Mr. Mirzoeff continued that marijuana works for pain and he disagrees with Ms. Morris's statements about it. He has seen it make a huge difference in a person's life. A doctor in a wheelchair had a degenerative disease and all that cured his pain was marijuana. He knows someone else, too, who had four of her problems cured simply with edible substances sold in stores. Medical marijuana is legal in the state but there are no places to buy it, and it should be available. A person should be able to experiment on their own without going back and forth to their doctor. It is wrong to put so many people in jail for marijuana. He continued that the City should make efforts to either influence or disobey the State to allow usage of marijuana, which actually helps adults. He does not recommend it for children.

Eli Rivera, Sheriff for Cheshire County, stated that he has heard many folks talk about the problem and what needs to be done. He continued that they have heard about what people want from the City. Two community members have talked specifically about what they need, and they might have more information than law enforcement does, because people talk to them. He knows Ms. White and Mr. Pence. Sheriff Rivera told Mr. Pence that he will provide him the box of gloves and the gallon bags, and get him a disposal box or whatever he needs. He would rather have Mr. Pence pick the drug items up than some young kid who does not know what it is and gets hurt. He would rather have the police do it, but if he had to choose between Mr. Pence and a child at the park he would choose Mr. Pence.

Councilor Hague stated that she comes from a family with substance abuse and she is deeply concerned about it. She continued that the City Council just passed a budget. Chair Duffy was right to ask what the City Council can do. Her two questions are: what should the City Council be looking at for a FY 2016-2017 budget? Funding for outside agencies? Staffing capacities? They should start thinking about it now. Also, how can they make this issue a focus of Healthy Monadnock 2020?

Chair Duffy asked if those are rhetorical or directed at specific people. Councilor Hague replied that she is not looking for specific answers. She just wants to keep the questions in mind.

Councilor Filiault stated that a year ago Councilor Greenwald wrote the letter about this on behalf of he (Councilor Filiault) and Councilor Clark. He continued that he heard a speaker say that the City Council dropped the ball. Sometimes it is like herding cats. Statewide you see heroin in the news every day. Councilors worked hard this year. Finally everyone is coming together at once. Obviously what the area severely lacks is treatment – that is the gaping hole they all see. There are law enforcement officers and caring individuals doing good work, but they need treatment facilities. Mayor Lane will put the committee together. He continued that one issue he has seen, locally and on social media, is that there is a group here, a committee there, but not necessarily on the same page. He knows people are trying. When the Mayor puts the committee together he hopes everyone comes together. They have the same goals. He applauds the Mayor and the concerned community here tonight.

Chair Duffy thanked everyone for coming out this evening.

Councilor Redfern made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Jones.

On a vote of 4- 0, the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee recommends the report from Chief Costa be accepted as informational.

Councilor Manwaring made a motion for the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee to recommend to the City Council that a report be given in six months on the status of community solutions around heroin. Chair Duffy seconded the motion.

Councilor Jones stated that he does not mind the motion but does not know if it is necessary because they will be hearing from the Mayor's committee and this might jumble it up. Councilor Redfern asked if Councilor Manwaring meant that she wanted a report from the Mayor's committee in six months. Councilor Manwaring replied yes.

Chair Duffy stated that he agrees with Councilor Jones. He continued that he is not clear about the six months. He does not agree that the ball has been dropped. He has seen a lot of things happening in this community. They heard testimony tonight about the community getting involved. He thinks the Mayor intends to convene the stakeholders and make a plan. He does not disagree with wanting a report to come back. But the committee has not been formed yet. Maybe it is not fair to determine the scope with a motion now.

Charles Redfern, of 9 Colby Street, stated that he understands Chair Duffy but agrees with Councilor Manwaring. He continued that it does not have to be a final report, but they could at least give a report on the status of their work. If they have not come to a conclusion in six months they should give an interim report, out of respect for all the folks here tonight. This is a concern to them, and they want the city to take tangible action. They should not wait a whole year for the interim report.

Councilor Manwaring stated that she knows they all work really hard, and especially the Mayor. She continued that they have lots of issues before them. She is not in any way doubting that. What concerns her is that she heard people talk about the perception that the City Council was

not doing enough. Chair Duffy has been asking what the City Council can do. Her reasoning for the six month timeframe is she wants a report of what is happening so far. They also heard that there are lots of things going on and this will not be solved in six months. This is a whole community effort. If they had the report, for example, at an MSFI Committee meeting, some of the same people might come out and give them more information. It keeps the dialogue open.

Ms. White stated that as a tax payer and a resident it is her expectation to know what the City Council is doing. She continued that regarding everyone who stood here and said they are going to do something, she wants to know, in three months or six months, if that is really happening. There needs to be accountability. Her group will come back in six months and say how many needles they have picked up, how many hotline calls they have answered, how many families they have educated. This should be an expectation. She is not saying that certain people are not doing their jobs. There are a lot of caring people in this room. There are five people in this room that she knows of, that there is an issue for, and they come here because they care and are invested but they do not know what the city's going to do. The City Council has a responsibility to the citizens - citizens take care of it as much as they can, and they expect the same thing back. All she can do is find her way to the meeting minutes; it is very rare that they have wide open communications about what is going on in the meetings. She had to trudge through a lot of meeting minutes to find information. There is a gap in communication, from the City, to the residents. She is in favor of the motion. The citizens expect that report to happen and they want results.

Councilor Jones stated that he is not opposed to the motion. He continued that Councilor Manwaring has won him over and he will support it.

Chair Duffy stated that he feels the same and apologizes to Councilor Manwaring. He made a motion to amend and add a sentence to the motion as follows:

“The Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee recommends to the City Council that a letter be drafted to our State delegation and Senator Kelly, urging them to do anything in their power as our elected representatives to push for more treatment.”

Councilor Manwaring seconded the motion to amend.

Councilor Jones stated that he supports the amendment but would rather it be two motions. Chair Duffy asked why. Councilor Jones replied because that is the way it should go to the City Council. It is two separate thought processes. The City Attorney suggested approving the amendment, then the amended motion, then making a motion to split it into two. Councilor Jones replied that he would rather leave it as is for now and split it when it goes to the City Council meeting.

On a vote of 4-0, the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee recommends to the City Council that a report be given by the Mayor's Committee within six months of their inception on the status of community solutions around heroin. The Committee further recommends that a letter be drafted to our State delegation and Senator Kelly, urging them to do anything in their power as our elected representatives to push for more treatment.”

Chair Duffy recessed the meeting at 8:01 PM, and called the meeting back to order at 8:04 PM.

4. MEMORANDUM – Public Works Director – NGM Insurance Group – Proposal for Flashing Light System on West Street

Mr. Blomquist stated that this is a follow-up for the MSFI Committee. He continued that as background, in February 2014, the National Grange Mutual (NGM) Insurance group approached the City with concerns about pedestrian crossings on West Street, mainly between Federal Street and the Greek Orthodox Church. Due to the location of their employee parking lot, they have employees frequently moving back and forth across the street. NGM requested a lighted crosswalk. It would cost about \$28,000. The committee reviewed and discussed the situation, and recommended a treatment of the crosswalk with additional signage and stop bar lines. What NGM requested was to see how it goes, to determine if there is a change in driver and pedestrian behavior. NGM folks approached the City with feedback – there has not been any substantial change from employees' perspectives. Cars are still not stopping for pedestrians. Pedestrians keep moving into the crosswalk when one lane's vehicle stops but often the other lane's vehicle does not stop.

Mr. Blomquist continued that NGM proposes moving forward with the lighted crosswalk system, with NGM and the City sharing the cost. It is about \$32,000, and they are requesting that the City pay about \$15,000. The \$15,000 would represent the work done in the street – the excavation, conduit work, wiring, and so on and so forth. Then NGM would cover the remainder of the cost for the system. Kendera Mazzuchelli will talk about the feedback she has received.

Chair Duffy stated that when the issue came up they talked about whether there had been any accidents or pedestrians being struck. He asked if there have been any since then. Mr. Blomquist replied no. Chair Duffy stated that it sounds like people feeling unsafe has continued to spike.

Kendera Mazzuchelli stated that she is here representing NGM. She continued that they came to the MSFI Committee a year and a half ago with safety concerns. Many employees are feeling unsafe crossing West Street. They use a few different crosswalks but mostly use the one by the Greek Orthodox Church. It crosses into the NGM employee parking lot. She has almost been hit and has witnessed others almost be hit. She has watched pedestrians in front of her have to jump back. Even after the new signs were installed, they still see people almost get hit. Thankfully they are not aware of accidents or people actually being struck, but there is still a lot of concern and feedback. They did an employee survey, which was recommended by the MSFI Committee, to see if it is less safe for pedestrians during certain conditions, such as daylight, darkness, rain, and so on and so forth. Really there was not any evidence that it was more dangerous in certain conditions. The results were all over the place and people feel unsafe all of the time. They got permission to bear some of the cost, but they want the City to help.

Chair Duffy stated that he recalls that last time, NGM was asking the City to bear all of the cost. Ms. Mazzuchelli replied that that is true. She continued that since it is such a concern, NGM has decided to also take on some of the responsibility.

Councilor Manwaring stated that if this goes forward and they can do this, she wonders if there can be a change in other crosswalks. She continued that she remembers one of the concerns from last year was that there are three crosswalks close together, and this sometimes contributes to drivers being a little casual about it. Maybe they can have the diagonal crosswalk and then just one of the others in that area. Mr. Blomquist replied that he will look at it. He continued that there is one at Federal Street, and one at St. James Street, and they may be able to eliminate one, but he would need to look at that with the appropriate departments. It is a concern that there are so many, and maybe they can reduce the number. Councilor Manwaring stated that she remembers that there were two off of St. James Street and then the diagonal. Mr. Blomquist replied that she is correct. He continued that they will look at the four and probably one can be discontinued. He can handle looking at it administratively unless someone has concerns with that.

Councilor Redfern asked if the light system will be on all four of the crosswalks or just one. Mr. Blomquist replied just the one – the first one you approach coming inbound. He continued that they do not want lights on all four; there are too many and it could be confusing. But having one lighted crosswalk could at least help the inbound drivers remember that they are approaching a heavy pedestrian area.

Councilor Redfern asked if NGM employees will only use that lighted crosswalk. Mr. Blomquist replied that neither he nor Ms. Mazzuchelli can say that but probably they would choose it the most. Ms. Mazzuchelli replied that it is the one that is the most heavily used now.

Councilor Jones asked if this is a warning, like on Winchester Street by the college, and not a red light. Mr. Blomquist replied yes. He continued that the lights will not be flashing on the pavement – it is more the “wig wag” style. It is a pedestrian-activated bar light towards the bottom, flashing white and yellow to attract attention. Councilor Jones stated that it is good to be proactive when it comes to safety. He thanked Ms. Mazzuchelli for NGM’s spirit of cooperation.

Chair Duffy stated that last year when they visited this issue, they did not go this route. He asked if this is a more effective approach. Perception means a lot more than some people give it credit for. If people do not feel safe that is important. But he does not feel safe crossing on crosswalks lately and almost got hit by a taxi recently. Is this the start? Will others now be coming forward and wanting this for multiple crosswalks?

Mr. Blomquist replied that he does not recommend that these go on Main Street, where they already have indications that you are entering a heavy pedestrian zone. He continued that in this particular case they tried the Main Street treatment. Particularly for people coming from inbound, there is nothing there to tell them they are entering a heavy pedestrian zone. This may create that indicator. He would not want to continue these lighted crosswalks down West Street west because they could become confusing. Other areas might be appropriate, but they do not recommend this for every single crosswalk – maybe for more heavily used ones. They are trying a solar light on the Mills construction the private dorms. Part of the concept is access to the path. As part of that the City required the developer to put solar system lights there. Drivers are not

thinking they are coming into a heavy pedestrian area. They will think they do not need to worry about college students crossing until they get to Ralston Street. The City Council did a step process for this West Street crosswalk. They did not just jump to this. They first tried other techniques to see if it would make a change. The report back is that it did not create a change.

Councilor Jacobs stated that it strikes him that speed tables would work well, like the traffic calming installations on South Lincoln and Winchester Streets. He continued that with this location on West Street, drivers are often looking ahead to the stoplight and thinking that they can make it through the green light if they hurry to get there. He does not think lights near NGM would necessarily help. He asked how the lights compare, in terms of cost, to a speed table.

Mr. Blomquist replied that the speed table would be about the same or a little less. He continued that you have to look at how it affects the road. Speed tables on Winchester Street help bring traffic speeds down and elevate the pedestrians, and in that location there are 6,000 crossings in a 12-hour period – the highest in the city. On South Lincoln Street the speed tables were installed in response to a speeding incident that caused an accident. Emergency services folks might have concerns about speed tables on West Street, because it is a route that emergency vehicles use. Speed tables would be the next level up if the lighted crossing does not help, but it would impact emergency services capabilities. Emergency responders would have to slow down themselves. He likes a systematic approach. They can see how this measure affects driver behavior. Most problems are from people who drive the street every day. They stop noticing the signs. This is pedestrian-activated and does not constantly flash, so it does not fade into a drivers' background consciousness.

Councilor Jones stated that the one in Marlborough seems to work very well. He continued that he wants the background notes to reflect that the reason they do not recommend these lighted crossings everywhere is because this location on West Street is a segue from the commercial district to the central business district. It is a good place to have this type of crossing. Mr. Blomquist replied that that is correct.

Councilor Jones made a motion for the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee to recommend to the City Council that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to work with the Main Street America Group for the installation and acceptance of a lighted crosswalk system on West Street, and for the City to share the expense in the amount of up to \$15,000 from the unallocated fund balance. Councilor Redfern seconded the motion.

Mr. Blomquist stated that if passed, the motion goes to the City Council. He continued that he recommends it come from unallocated funds. The City Council will have a resolution for first reading, which then goes to the Finance, Organization, and Personnel (FOP) Committee, and they can concur with the use of unallocated funds or come up with a different place to get the funds. The City Council is taking a summer break. Committees meet again the last week of August. The funding question then comes at the first City Council meeting in September. After that meeting the City would work with NGM about a schedule.

The City Attorney asked Mr. Blomquist to clarify a procedural question - how is the contribution being handled from NGM? Will they donate to the City or spend it on their own? Mr.

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Blomquist replied that the motion saying “do all things necessary” allows him to work with the City Attorney’s Office and the City Manager’s Office about the best way to do that.

On a vote of 4-0, the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee recommends to the City Council that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to work with the Main Street America Group for the installation and acceptance of a lighted crosswalk system on West Street, and for the City to share the expense in the amount of up to \$15,000 from the unallocated fund balance.

5. POWERPOINT PRESENTATION AND MEMORANDUM – Public Works Director – Complete Streets Policy

Tara Germond, Senior Planner with the Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC), stated that she has been working with Planning Director Rhett Lamb and Public Works Director Kurt Blomquist on the creation of a Complete Streets Policy. She continued that they are here tonight to follow up with a presentation on the draft product. A draft resolution for Complete Streets and a companion document of design guidelines have been provided for review. They also included an update on a complete streets demonstration event that will be on Marlboro Street in September – they will demonstrate some of the recommendations made by the Cecil Group. Mr. Blomquist will give updates on what he sees happening after this meeting and what needs to be discussed in more detail at future meetings.

Councilor Jones asked if other communities under the jurisdiction of the SWRPC are doing Complete Streets. Ms. Germond replied yes, they are working with the Town of Swanzeay to develop a Complete Streets policy and a guidance document and will have a demonstration there on August 29. She continued that they are hoping to work with Troy and Hinsdale next year, then Jaffrey, Winchester, and Marlborough to do the same type of events and policy documents.

Ms. Germond explained that “Complete Streets” means streets that are designed to consider the needs of all users – youth, people with disabilities, bicyclists, motorists, and so on and so forth. They look different depending on where you are. In downtown Keene, a complete street looks very different than, say, in a rural area like Hurricane Road.

Mr. Blomquist stated that this is a follow up to the April 2015 discussion. He continued that staff has been working on creating a Complete Streets policy for three or four years now. They reported to the MSFI Committee that they had a Partnership to Improve Community Health project administered by the Cheshire Medical Center with the SWRPC. One of their goals was developing Complete Streets policies for communities. Since Keene has been actively involved with it, it also was an opportunity to help staff get through the Complete Streets process. Tonight the MSFI Committee has a draft Complete Streets policy which talks about background and implementation, and a copy of the proposed Complete Streets design guide. He is not expecting the committee to deal with these documents tonight. Back in April, they talked about the MSFI Committee beginning the review process in September. They could take on a piece at each meeting in September and October and then make a recommendation to the City Council.

Mr. Blomquist continued that one other item was a regional workshop for Complete Streets that the City would host. That will be scheduled for mid-September and they will invite all the town officials so they can see how Complete Streets could be implemented in their areas. The demonstration project will be September 19 on Marlboro Street between the Savings Bank of Walpole to Grove Street. The intent is to demonstrate techniques from the Marlboro Re-zoning project, to show Marlboro Street as a multi-user type facility.

Ms. Germond gave a PowerPoint presentation. She reported that the City included in its Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) a commitment to Complete Streets and to consider safety and mobility needs for all users. The first step was to identify the different types of complete streets in the city – these are gateway, slow, bicyclist, neighborhood, rural, and the transit overlay. Transit might be any of the other categories as well. The document defines what those street types are and where they are in the city. They considered all streets in the city except for State routes.

Ms. Germond continued that slow streets are ones in the downtown core, where traffic is already slowed down through a number of measures. They intend to enhance that so all modes can move through downtown safely. Some considerations for slow streets are ensuring wide sidewalks, street furniture, waste receptacles, safety when crossing, refuge islands, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and so on and so forth – there is more information in the guidance document.

She continued that gateway streets are ones that emanate from the downtown core and lead to others, like Court Street, West Street, and Washington Street. The needs of all users need to be taken into account. Elements considered for these streets include space for bike lanes or sharrows, parking on streets, unobstructed ways for pedestrians to move, landscaping that is drought tolerant, etc.

She continued that bike streets are ones in addition to the others that are well traveled by bikes or connect to bike infrastructure. The focus is on bicyclists' safety and compatibility with other modes of travel. Elements to consider are bike lanes, sharrows, and space between parking.

She continued the neighborhood streets are the predominant street type in the city, found in the high and medium density zones. Armory Street is an example. All neighborhood streets are different. They need to make sure there are sidewalks or shoulders for pedestrians.

Ms. Germond continued that rural streets are in low density zones and are mainly residential, such as Hurricane Road or East Surry Road, with houses far apart. The complete streets considerations are much less. The focus is on paved shoulder space for people who choose to walk or bike.

She continued that transit considerations focus on current streets that serve the Keene City Express or can serve transit in the future. The document gives recommendations such as covered bike shelters, lighting, crossings, and bump outs. She showed a map of where transit would overlay the street types.

Chair Duffy asked if any members of the committee or public had questions or comments.

Mr. Blomquist stated that he appreciates the hard work of Ms. Germond, other SWRPC staff members, and the Planning Department. He continued that the plan is for the MSFI Committee to talk through the resolution policy and the design guidance document. He can work with the committee to choose the pieces and parts that they want to review at each meeting. He suggests not doing it all at once, and spreading it out over three meetings or so. They can plan to have a recommendation for the City Council in October.

Councilor Jones asked what the traditional street width is. Mr. Blomquist replied that it used to be “one rod wide,” meaning a surveyor’s rod, which is about 16 feet. He continued that a typical highway road in NH was about 33 feet wide.

Councilor Jones suggested that with new development, they look at how wide the street should be – that makes complete streets easier. Mr. Blomquist replied yes, they have standards in place that determine how wide new streets should be. For example, for any new street in Keene the right-of-way width is 50 feet and typical pavement width is 22 to 24 feet. Within those streets there would be sufficient space for lots of multi-user/complete streets components. The challenge is rehabilitating existing streets. This guidance document is a way to make sure they are looking at various components. And if there is conflict, it gives guidance.

Mr. Blomquist continued that for example, if they put bike lanes *and* parking on both sides of Court Street they would have had to take trees down. They discussed that and decided not to do full bike lanes on both sides, and went with sharrows, because trees were important to have. On narrow streets, you cannot do it all – the guidance document gives the ability to identify what they can and cannot provide. Chair Duffy replied that regarding the bike lanes on Court Street, cost was an issue – it would have been a million dollars more. That is what prevented compromise. He pushed for bike lanes, and received lots of pushback. There was debate about whether a bike lane had to be a full five feet wide. Mr. Blomquist replied yes, that is where this guidance document helps.

Councilor Jones stated that Bradford Road citizens were concerned that Complete Streets elements on their street would have brought the public right up to the windows of their homes. Mr. Blomquist replied that the overall community wants Complete Streets – it is in the CMP. He continued that this design guidance and policy is a way of documenting the process the City has already been using. You walk through and look at each street, and consider elements – have you looked at accommodating transit? Pedestrians? Elders, youth? His staff did not look enough at the idea of having a transit stop on Winter Street. They will look at that for West Street. Part of their goal is to reduce single-user cars. This guidance documents the process that the City Council has been using to walk through projects and identify those things. Tonight, he recommends that the committee accept it and place it on more time, so they can come up with a schedule for reviewing it.

Councilor Redfern made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Manwaring.

On a vote of 4- 0, the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee placed the Complete Streets policy on more time.

**6. POWERPOINT PRESENTATION AND MEMORANDUM – Public Works
Director – Babbidge Reservoir Dam Improvements – Alternatives Presentation**

Mr. Blomquist stated that this is a follow up for the design process for the Babbidge Reservoir Dam in Roxbury for the lower drinking water reservoir. He continued that the City received a letter of deficiency (LOD) in 2008 from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES)'s Dam Bureau. It was constructed in 1933. The City received other LODs for other dams. The City Council approved a Master Plan project that looked at the five high hazard dams and came up with preliminary recommendations. The City just completed the Robin Hood dam improvements, which were identified as the highest priority. The Babbidge Reservoir Dam is next.

In early 2014 the City went through a selection process and chose DuBois & King to evaluate the dam and give alternatives and recommend a preferred option. Tonight Shawn Patenaude from DuBois and King will be going through that process, the alternatives, and the recommended option. Following the concurrence of City Council with the recommended option, DuBois & King will begin the preliminary design and permitting process, leading to final design documents and bidding of the project. Construction is scheduled for FY17 in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). People might wonder why it is so far out, and that is because permitting for dam projects takes time, going back and forth with the Dam Bureau's regulatory agencies.

Shawn Patenaude, Engineer from DuBois & King, showed a map and indicated the location of Babbidge Reservoir Dam, due east of Keene. He stated that it is part of a two reservoir system for the City's drinking water. He continued that the Babbidge Reservoir Dam was built over the course of a few years starting in 1931. It is 30 acres in surface area, with a height of 38 feet, and an overall length of 215 feet. The drainage area contributing to the dam is 5.5 square miles. The purpose of the dam is as a municipal water supply for Keene. Combined with the Woodward Reservoir, the Babbidge Reservoir has the capacity to meet the City's water demands for nine months. The purpose of this project is to protect the City's primary water supply. The main concern is that this dam does not have the capacity to safely pass a major storm event. Currently under existing predictions the prediction is that the dam will be overtopped by 1.3 feet during a 100-year flood event and 3.8 feet during the regulatory minimum sized storm representing NH's design storm for a high hazard storm which is 250% of the 100-year flood inflow. If the dam overtopped it would suffer significant damages which could result in destruction of municipal water service or breach of the dam.

Mr. Patenaude continued the first task of DuBois & King was to assess the existing conditions and look at what the NHDES said about it. They found that the dam is in okay condition, well-maintained by the City, and performing as designed. But the hydraulic capacity needs to be considered. To start preliminary engineering work they did a topographic survey, soil borings, and an underwater inspection. The dam has two intakes, one lower and one higher. They wanted to look at both. The City is only using the upper one and the lower one is covered with sediment. They did cost estimates for potential solutions.

Mr. Patenaude continued that the alternatives matrix illustrates the different scenarios they were running. They came to two: either raise the dam or design it for overtopping. If you raise the top of the dam and protect it against the regulatory design flood you would need to raise it almost eight feet. Alternatively, if they added an emergency spillway – not on the dam, but off to the side – they would still have to raise the dam five feet. Raising the dam has two significant drawbacks – during a storm, if you are holding back more water by raising the dam, there is a higher risk for a problem to the public. In addition raising the dam would flood areas around the reservoir and impact the wetlands and contribute to shoreline erosion, which contributes to turbidity, which needs to be treated by the water system. Mr. Patenaude continued that they believe designing for an overtopping scenario is the right way to go, versus going higher. They came up with two options for that.

- 1- Articulated concrete block (ACB). The articulated concrete block application seems to be a cost-effective solution that is safe and well-tested both nationally and locally.
- 2- Roller compacted concrete (RCC). It has the consistency of wet gravel, with cement mixed in. Dump trucks haul it and bulldozers place it. As the cement paste hydrates, it hardens like the sidewalk concrete.

Mr. Patenaude continued that those are the two options of overtopping protection. He showed a rendering of ACB and stated that it is similar to what they would see at Robin Hood, but Robin Hood's ACB is covered with topsoil and is seeded and grassed right now. There are control walls at the top and there is a chute that water flows down. He then showed the area of impact—where the work would be occurring, and where the water would flow to as it is overtopping. When looking at hydraulics and hydrology they found that overtopping of this dam would not occur during a 100-year storm, but at the next level up they would see activation. They probably should not see such an event in their lifetime; there is a 1% per year probability of activation.

Continuing, Mr. Patenaude showed a rendering of the RCC alternative. He continued that there is less grass. The concrete mixture is formed over the earthen embankment. It cannot be grassed or loamed; it has to take the form and shape of a concrete structure. If overtopping occurs they would not want the loam and seed to be distributed into the stream. With the aid of the PowerPoint, he showed the impact area where the water would flow to during an overtopping event.

Mr. Patenaude concluded with a slide about cost estimates. He stated that at this point they look at what they can tell for quantities for materials and the amount of work, to do a cost comparison. The costs are pretty similar to one another, in 2015 dollars, shown side by side for comparison purposes. (The slide says \$1,500,000 for ACB and \$1,900,000 for RCC).

Jim Rousmaniere, Roxbury Selectman, stated that Babbidge Dam is in the middle of nature. He continued that the solution that was taken at Robin Hood dam is appealing and the other one that is purely concrete would be less appealing.

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Councilor Jones stated that in the presentation they say “options A and B” but the recommendation is for “option 1.” Mr. Blomquist replied that when he says “option 1” he means the same as “option A,” the Articulated Concrete Block.

Chair Duffy stated that Mr. Rousmaniere’s comments hits one of his concerns. Also, ACB has already been proven to work at Robin Hood. He asked if any members of the public had questions or comments.

Councilor Jones made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Redfern.

On a vote of 4- 0, the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee recommends to the City Council that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to move forward with Option A – Articulated Concrete Block for the Babbidge Reservoir Dam.

7. Adjournment

Hearing no other business before the committee, Chair Duffy adjourned the meeting at 9:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Britta Reida, Minute-taker