

Approved by City Council on June 3, 2019



City Council Special Meeting Workshop Minutes
April 22nd, 2019 – 6:00 PM
Franklin City Hall

Call to order

Mayor Giunta called the meeting to order at 6:00PM in Council Chambers

City Council in attendance:

Councilor Jo Brown, Councilor George Dzujna, Councilor Kathy Rago, Councilor Karen Testerman, Councilor Paul Trudel.

Absent:

Councilor Bob Desrochers, Councilor Scott Clarenbach, Councilor Vince Ribas

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Starkweather

Agenda Item I

Mill City Park Rollout Plan

The meeting began with an explanation from Mayor Giunta on where we've been and where we're going with the City's exciting Mill City Park plans.

Executive Director, Marty Parichand explained how only a municipality can obtain these large grants and because the City owns much of the land surrounding the river, it makes it possible to obtain grants and plan out this type of project. He stated that even though he's presenting the information this evening, he alone cannot take credit as being the one who made this possible. This project is much bigger than just one person. The collaborative effort made by many different people is making this possible.

The agenda for this rollout will begin with the Basics (current project status), Legislative updates on the \$1.5M appropriation, Engineering update for the three major grant programs currently in place and another grant on the way, and finally a review of the Master Plan finishing with the next steps.

The following slides were presented by Marty Parichand and are also available on the City's Website Homepage under NEWS. A few key facts were stated: For every kayaker in the water, an average of eight people will come to watch. A kayak enthusiast will want to live in Franklin to have easy quick access to the sport they love.





LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

PUBLIC HEARINGS

EDITORIALS & ARTICLES - 10+ authors

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

COMMISSIONER CASWELL

OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT
<https://www.nhbr.com/outdoor-recreation-office-will-rock-the-granite-state/>



ENGINEERING UPDATE

- A | mill city park
- B | land connections to mill city park
- C.1 | whitewater feature design
- C.2 | whitewater feature construction

Photo: Central Street Media

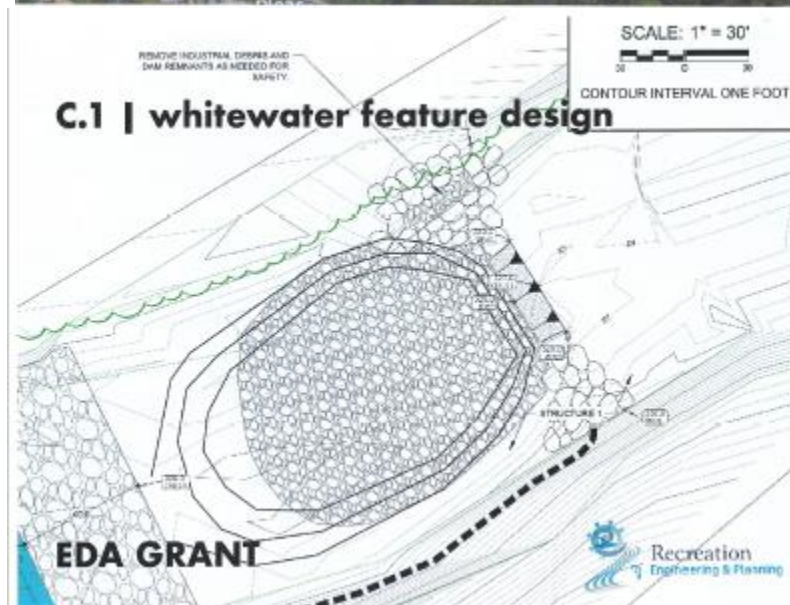


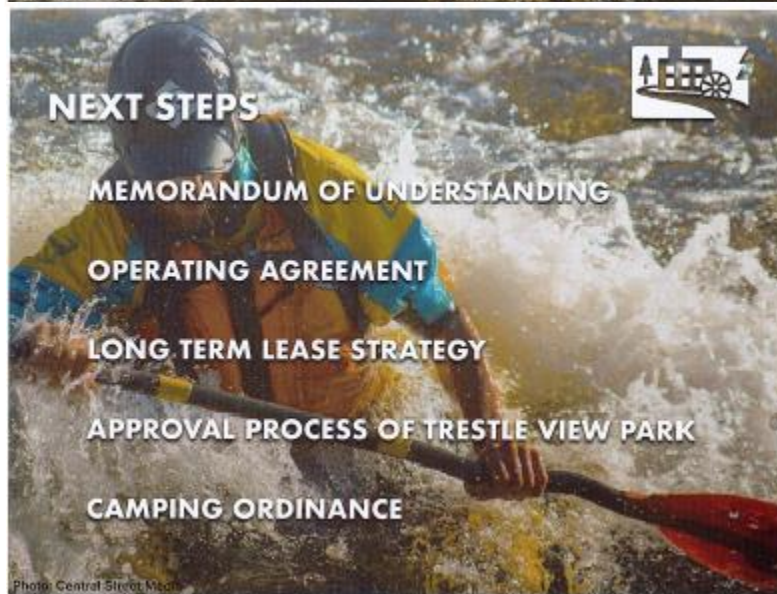
ENGINEERING UPDATE

- A | mill city park (\$400K LWCF Grant)
- B | land connections to mill city park (\$640K TAP Grant)
- C.1 | whitewater feature design (\$130K EDA grant)
- C.2 | whitewater feature construction

Photo: Central Street Media









THE SUMMARY OF FRANKLIN'S WHITEWATER VENUE

Franklin's whitewater venue will enable 365 days of whitewater recreation. Besides paddlers, it will also bring ocean surfers into our river and region.

At one time, Franklin was a vibrant mill community with companies like Stanley Tool and International Paper Company on the banks of the Winnepesaukee River. After the closure of the mills, the community has struggled with only brick remnants of that once vibrant industrial age littering the banks and river bottom of the Winnepesaukee River.

Our community has been reduced to a property poor community, with 28% of our population living below the poverty line, and an assessed property value per capita of \$80,805. We were created by the river, and look back to it for our revitalization.

The State of New Hampshire has estimated that a park similar to ours will attract 160,000+ new visitors and new annual direct spending of \$6.83M. This is a terrific investment for the state. Utilizing the 9% Rooms & Meals Tax, this project will generate new revenues of \$215,000 / year. Hence, this \$1.5M appropriate or investment in Franklin would be paid off in 7 years.

This is not just a park. It is our sustainable solution to grow and improve.



Outdoor recreation office will rock the Granite State

Legislature should support this valuable strategic initiative

April 17, 2019 by Cam Brensinger (<https://www.nhbr.com/author/cam-brensinger/>)



Cam Brensinger

New Hampshire's outdoorists could soon have a strong advocate if the state's Legislature establishes an Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development to help boost the New Hampshire economy – highlighting our state's thriving outdoor recreation assets, from the coast of Portsmouth to the summit of Mt. Washington.

The initial bipartisan Senate Bill 234, introduced by Republican Senator Jeb Bradley, is still working through our Legislature and is exciting news not only for outdoor recreation businesses but also for hikers, hunters, anglers, mountain bikers and others who enjoy the Granite State's great outdoors.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, outdoor recreation accounts for 2.2 percent of the nation's GDP and is one of the country's fastest-growing sectors. Specific to New Hampshire, outdoor recreation generates a whopping \$8.7 billion in consumer spending and supports 79,000 direct jobs—more than the technology sector.

Imagine how much bigger those numbers could be if we did more to leverage our natural assets to attract even more outdoor recreation tourism and business to our state. That's why the time is right to establish the Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development.

Back in February, I traveled to Concord to testify in support of the bill, not only because I'm a New Hampshire outdoorist but because I'm a local business owner. I understand the value of strategic investments like this.

As we've seen in 12 other states across the country, offices of outdoor recreation with full-time directors coordinate their state's outdoor recreation policy, grow their state's industry, promote the social and health benefits of outdoor recreation — especially for children — and oversee investment in outdoor amenities that grow the economy. This bill will put us on equal footing with other states taking steps toward the future, including our neighbors in Maine and Vermont.

Let's embrace our spirit of innovation and forward thinking and again be among the first tier of states that recognize and support the strength of our outdoor recreation economy by establishing this office. I joined a coalition of New Hampshire businesses that have signed a letter of support of this bill, and I encourage you to join the chorus of supporters — businesses and individuals — asking our elected officials to create the Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development.

Cam Brensinger is founder and CEO of NEMO Equipment, an outdoor equipment design company based in Dover.

End of slide show.

Mr. Parichand further explained that the river can be engineered for certain sports and we have the ability to structure the outdoor recreation that is becoming more and more popular and in our very own backyard.

Regarding the \$1.5M, this was portrayed as a pet project for the Governor but however it was portrayed, it is a known shortfall that we will work through. Parichand stated that we already had and still currently have all the pieces in place so we will do what needs to be done to continue working this through the Legislative System. The Mill City Park Board members have spoken at a press conference, Councilors have written newspaper editorials, MCP Board members have also written letters to our Legislation as well as folks from other parts of the country who know first-hand what is possible with developing White Water Park communities.

One of the possibly ways to gain funding is through a community based grant program and administered through a "group" or entity such as BEA (Business and Economic Affairs for New Hampshire). The facilitation of a grant through and entity like that is an option.

Parichand explained how timing is critical in an entities success whether it's a product or service. The Commissioner of NH Business of Economic Affairs Taylor Caswell, through his own works is putting together an outdoor recreation development industry bill to create a new position where outdoor amenities are studied and made to attract millennials not just for visiting but to live. Since millennials are choosing to play first as a priority and work second, they are looking at places that have the amenities that they want then they are looking for a job.

Resident Leigh Webb asked Marty Parichand if he could speak to the statement that he made earlier with regards to the \$1.5M shortfall and what the money would have been used for. Mr. Parichand replied that he will provide information on this a little later in this meeting.

Mayor Giunta stated that for those who keep saying that there are no jobs in Franklin, there are actually many. Watts and Vitex are hiring and have quite a few openings.

Mr. Parichand reviewed the awarded grants that have already been awarded totaling \$1,170,000. He proceeded to review each of the engineering plans for the different phases of the project. Breaking ground is planned for this year, possibly late summer early fall. Electricity and sewer will be available in the park. The Timber frame pavilion construction is planned for the summer of 2020. The pavilion will hold musical venues and is also planned to be seen when driving down Central Street but the exact location point is still being discussed.

Resident Leigh Webb asked if this park will be a four-season type of park and Mr. Parichand replied that parts of it will be, yes.

Resident Ed Levey asked about he musical plans and stated that some residents may not like the music so close to their homes. Parichand replied that the music won't be obtrusive or be occurring during late night hours and will always follow the ordinances and rules.

The next steps will address connecting Mill City Park with the land around it and through the Transportation Alternative Program Grant from NHDOT which will provide \$640K toward this phase of the project. \$512K is actual grant dollars and \$128K was matched by outside donations. These dollars will focus on the assessment of the Trestle Bridge and repairs where needed. Parichand explained the main features of the project areas that will be a focus when the work begins. There will be over 1,200 feet of engineering work. The design which will include steps down to the river that will double as seating and a walkway underneath the bridge to keep people off the street.

Parichand continued to explain the marketing that will be happening for a project like this. Buildings are beginning to be repaired and renovated along with rebranding of the City's outdoor recreation. Investors see the potential but how do we get to where we need to be? Mr. Parichand stated that the estimated cost of this entire project is \$2.3M. An application through the CDFA for \$750K in tax credits and a \$300K match. In Colorado, 50% of lottery income goes toward Outdoor Recreation because they know that is their focus. 80% of Colorado's population does some kind of outdoor recreational activity. New Hampshire is very similar with 67% of our population involved in outdoor recreational activity.

Mr. Parichand further explained that Franklin has all the right ecology and downtown features that makes this a perfect opportunity for our City to flourish. We don't have to convince people

to come here to enjoy the river, people are already coming here to enjoy it. Many that we don't see. He added that we can build on this which has been brewing for many years. Franklin's river and downtown features and connectivity can be compared to the Arkansas River in Salida Colorado. They were once a Mill Town now abandoned and had concrete wall between the downtown and the river but now opened up and drastically changed Economically. An Economic impact analysis was done in 2014 and it is estimated that 160,000 people will come to Franklin and spend \$6.8M directly and \$4.83M indirectly.

Under Section 106 of the U.S. National Historic Preservation Act, any historical structure or artifact that may be removed due to the project must be mitigated possibly by way of putting up a placard. This also applies if the cribbing that is underneath the water, that no-one can see, is affected. Parichand stated that preserving structures is important and the goal while creating this new environment. The goal is to preserve and create a balance between existing historical features and the natural interacting world around them.

Mr. Parichand further explained that Steve Whitman Founder of Resilience, Planning and Design, also a Mill City Park Board Member, an adjunct professor at Colby Sawyer and Plymouth State University was key in helping to create the renderings of maps and the land diagrams to help explain what the future visual plans look like.

If anyone has any questions, contact the Mill City Park team through their either their website via millcitypark.com or their Facebook page.

Resident Leigh Webb asked who will be responsible for sustainability and maintenance of the park. Mr. Parichand replied that as part of the next steps, those discussions will begin happening. Who is doing what and if or what the cost will be. There is a Memorandum of Agreement with the City Council and part of the foundation of the MCP team is that no money will come from the City's General Fund. It is the intent of MCP to maintain the park on a daily basis as well as promote it. There is an Operating Agreement in progress and will be seeking approval from the City Council soon. There will be details on all the questions people have on this project from trash pick-up to plowing in the Agreement documents. Revenue generated from overnight cabins and camping areas will be used toward maintenance and other services.

A Franklin resident asked who will be responsible for safety and security. Mr. Parichand replied that this something that is already in place and will be adjusted and the project moves forward. Emergency planning and access into areas are important parts of the process and will be addressed and evolve with the project. Another resident asked if the work on the river will change the classification of the water flow. Mr. Parichand replied that the water flow is subjective and shouldn't affect the flow.

Volunteers are needed on May 14th for Winni River Clean-up day and the three-day Winni River Days White Water Festival is set to go from June 21st-23rd.

Resident Annette Andreozzi asked how the traffic and number of people will be addressed. Mr. Parichand replied that it's a good idea to do an analysis on traffic and parking but not sure if MCP should be defining it or if it needs to all be figured out today. This is an ongoing process and as more pieces are built and more people come here, these issues can be analyzed and ironed out as we go.

City Manager Milner added that discussions are already happening on these issues and the planning of this major project will tackle the main focal areas first and then move on to other pieces and funding as it all moves forward.

Mr. Parichand stated that a new Mill City Park report will be generated for the public to show some trends of real estate value changes and economic growth projections.

City Manager Milner asked the public if they had any ideas on locations and timing for continuing public meetings on this topic. She also responded to the rumor about what will happen if the City doesn't get the \$1.5M from the state. The money is a piece of the entire project so other options and grants will be explored.

Mayor Giunta concluded this segment of the meeting by explaining "Why Franklin" was chosen for this project. There's a lot being said about the water and hydraulics but none of this could be possible without the dedication and support of the Councilors, the Residents, and the teams involved in the planning and execution of working so hard to turn our City around.

LEAN Roadmap Updates

City Manager Milner opened up the LEAN update session and mentioned that LEAN Expert Richard Ellert would like to attend the next LEAN workshop session to review with the group and assist with any action items that are not making traction. This workshop normally meets on the 4th Monday of every month however since it is a holiday, Memorial Day, she asked the Council if they would be able to meet on May 20th from 4:30-6:30 instead. The Council agreed that the 20th would work.

Education – Council Champion Scott Clarenbach

There are a few red items on the roadmap and believe Clarenbach is out of town. Councilor Dzujna asked if there have been any discussions with MSD yet. City Manager Milner replied that there hasn't been and she along with Superintendent LeGallo haven't discussed anything because that first step on the roadmap hasn't been done yet.

Councilor Dzujna asked if there's something that the group can do to help move things forward. Milner and Councilor Brown agreed that due to the Budget Season, it will be difficult to make some traction. The group agreed that they will request some guidance from Mr. Ellert at the next LEAN workshop meeting. Councilor Brown stated that she is almost ready to release the final Designing Franklin's Education Report and in doing so, may reignite some of the interest.

City Manager Milner moved the April/May actions out two months.

Mayor Giunta commented that Scott was in attendance and directly mentioned to Scott that the City recognized this as an opportunity to collaborate and find savings on both sides and the feedback that he is hearing is that the School Board doesn't believe the LEAN process is necessary and they are LEAN already. Mayor Giunta also added that if the school doesn't want to participate, then we will just remove the action items that the City placed on the roadmap.

Councilor Dzujna stated that the action items should just be moved forward a couple of months until we know for sure where the school stands on this.

Milner moved to the next item and stated that the Joint Finance Committee meeting was held and that she testified in Concord on the Adequacy Bills but didn't know if Superintendent LeGallo did as well.

The City Manager's Budget is on track to be presented to City Council in May.

Recreation – Council Champion George Dzujna

City Manager stated that the Calendar of Events was making a lot of progress. She then asked George to provide his update. He stated that he is ahead of schedule with his items. When he looked at the different organizations, in the City and what they each have going on, he counted 43 different events in the month of April. Dzujna explained a few of the steps of what the organization contacts would need to do in order to submit to the City's Website. This calendar will help the entire City when the different organizations, including the City, plan events to try to avoid over scheduling different events on any day, week, or month. Next steps will be a walk thru of steps on how to submit an event to the City Calendar and official roll-out for June 1st.

Councilor Dzujna will monitor how it's being used and if there's any extra work for Krystal and Audrey. Tasks for May & June were added.

Councilor Brown suggested that when the official roll-out happens, a special News & Announcement should go out to all subscribers.

Dzujna stated that monitoring attendance at events will be a challenge. The people who organize that event should monitor and if there is an uptick in attendance because of utilizing our Calendar, then that sort of information should be captured.

Milner stated that Schwebb will not be partnering with Mill City Park due to an associated cost. The City has already advertised that MCP will not be a fee based park so we really don't want to have an attraction in the park that is fee based. Milner and Richard Ellert will discuss this with the Ski area and see if it could possibly work there.

Councilor Dzujna also mentioned that when he attended the recent Fundraising Event at Funspot for the Animal Shelter, he inquired about a satellite arcade or even a few games in the store fronts in Franklin. The owner of the arcade is entertaining the thought.

Milner also stated that Mill City Park will have their permit application sent in by the end of the week. Main Street Academy is scheduled to come to Franklin on May 7th.

Milner added that CDFA came through with the \$750K Tax Credit Program and they are happy with the City's plans and subsequent plans if certain funding isn't provided.

Business – Council Champion Jo Brown

A draft copy on How to start a Business is out for Council input. The primary way to access will be electronically from the City's website because it contains hyperlinks that a person won't get to utilize if it were in paper form. Councilor Brown will send it out one more time for final approval to Planning and Zoning Director Dick Lewis and Code Inspector Steve Reale. Tasks were reviewed for May and added for June.

Safety – Council Champion Karen Testerman

Councilor Testerman is working with Fire Chief Foss on monthly data for service calls. Enforcement conversations will happen just after this data is reviewed. There is a Police Committee Meeting tomorrow and discussions will occur on this as well.

Resources – Council Champion Ted Starkweather

City Manager Milner stated that he needs to get an overview of his assignment, previously owned by Heather Moquin, by the next meeting so he can begin working them and providing feedback.

City Manager Milner thanked Councilor Trudel for teaching her how to Tweet. The local millennials told her that she needs an Instagram account as well and would love for someone to volunteer and show her how to utilize it.

Milner updated the group stating that the Opportunity Grant Application is in for the Technical assistance and tax attorney's needed to set up the different zones. PermaCityLife was provided \$50k from the NH Community Loan Fund to market the different opportunity zones. This was always part of the plan as PCL begins their exit phase.

Task colors were updated.

Talent – Council Champion Vince Ribas

Councilor Ribas is home sick. City Manager Milner provided some information on the skill matrix. The five City-wide skills have been identified. The department directors have completed their time studies so they will be working on the five job specific skills.

Milner also stated that a secondary training with Richard will be held on May 13th for any director who needs more of an explanation on how to identify job specific skills. She explained that this process has helped identify duplicative processes and highlights tasks that can fill the entire day.

Milner informed the group that Youth Government Week has been moved to the 13th, 14th, & 15th of May.

Value – Council Champion Paul Trudel

Milner provided an update on the 5s process. The City Manager's office is almost done, City Clerk's office is done, the Fire Department and Police Department are meeting with Richard to review the process and get started in their areas. Councilor Brown asked if the School was part of these 5s workshops and Milner stated that they were all invited but were unable to attend. There will be audits of how well the City did in their 5s process. This first round of audits will be completed by Richard Ellert. He will then train Finance Director Lossani and Welfare Director Rhea who will take it over from that point on. Finance and Parks and Recreation are working on their 5s process. Planning/Zoning and Assessing are gearing up to start in May. The Library hasn't started yet. The first audit is scheduled for June 17th

Other Business

None

**Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Jo Brown. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.
All in Favor. Motion PASSED.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Audrey Lanzillo