

**RECORD OF SPECIAL MEETING  
ELLSWORTH CITY COUNCIL**

**DATE: March 08, 2019**

**TIME: 8:30 AM**

**PLACE: ELLSWORTH CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**CITY COUNCIL PRESENT: BLANCHETTE, FORTIER, GRINDLE,  
HAMILTON, HUDSON, AND MOORE.**

**CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: PHILLIPS**

**KEY SPEAKERS PRESENT: CITY MANAGER DAVID COLE, TAMMY MOTE,  
STEVE FULLER, JENNIFER MERCHANT, AND HEIDI GRINDLE.**

*Call to Order.*

Chairman Blanchette called the special meeting of the Ellsworth City Council to order at 8:30 AM.

*Council Order #031900, Request to authorize the City Manager to sign a project agreement for a grant under the Recreational Trails Program through the State of Maine for the Ellsworth Harbor Walk Trail Extension Project.*

David Cole, City Manager reminded the City Council that the City had received notice of receipt of a grant in the amount of \$50,000 under the Recreational Trails Program from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry. At this point the final agreement needs to be signed and the City Manager needs authorization to sign that agreement. Cole provided a brief background by explaining a request came before the City Council for authorization to submit the application and commit the \$30,716 required matching funds. Steve Fuller, Assistant Planner was present at the meeting as he has been coordinating the details and completing the work on this project. Cole noted the funding to cover the \$30,716 will be addressed at the March 18, 2019 Regular Council meeting. The plan as designed by Tammy Mote, Deputy City Manager is currently to reallocate bond funds from the \$3 million dollars that were just sold last month. There are sufficient funds within that bond funding to cover this expense and it would make sense as there are other bond funds being allocated to the Harbor for other related projects. The Council will have the opportunity at the March 18, 2019 Regular Council meeting to fund the project with any funding source they feel most appropriate. Councilor Fortier noted that some Councilors have voiced different thoughts concerning the actual design of the project. He noted Fuller has included a note on the plan (see attachment #1) indicating changes can be submitted in consultation with the Harbor Commission. Fortier felt any changes to the plan should come back to the City Council for final approval. The Council will listen to the Harbor Commission but the choice concerning the final engineering design has to be reviewed and approved by the City Council. Councilor Moore agreed with Fortier that would be the proper steps. Councilor Hamilton noted the preliminary drawings that were submitted are going to be reviewed and there will be some discussions concerning the final design as it has not been set at this point. Today only the funds are being committed to move the project forward. Hamilton agreed with Fortier there will be some opportunities for the plan to be discussed and make

**Call to Order.**

**Approved - Council Order #031900, authorize the City Manager to sign and enter into a project agreement for a grant under the Recreational Trails Program through the State of Maine for the Ellsworth Harbor Walk Trail Extension Project.**

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amendments. Cole characterized this project as the grant has been accepted with the design provided (see attachment #1); however, they do allow for changes within the design. The Harbor Commission as well as some or a majority of the City Councilors have felt strongly that the existing pavers should stay in place. Cole could not image the State objecting to that plan in lieu of asphalt pavers. It was noted the design reflects a fairly basic alignment that extends along the water to the new gazebo and then juts up the inlet. If minor alterations are needed for that based on good reasons, Cole could not imagine the State would object. The State wants to ensure they are still receiving the same value on the project; they would be concerned if the City downgraded the project from what the City committed to regarding the proposed project. This is a competitive program therefore the project must be completed at the level that was originally proposed, which all parties involved are committed to seeing to the end; however, minor changes can be made and still ensure the goals are met. The proposed plan will be shared with the Harbor Commission, the Green Plan, and other interested parties in an effort to ensure all thoughts and suggestions are considered. The final design can be brought back to the City Council. Chairman Blanchette encouraged members of the public that have experience in design and landscaping to contact the City Council or the Harbor Commission to add their thoughts and expertise to the project design. Moore agreed there would be plenty of time to finish the final design. Cole noted the City Manager will be signing an agreement that contains the original design plan within it; however, the City will be moving forward under good faith that the State will not unreasonably withhold those changes. Fortier noted if they did for some reason, he would accept the original design to ensure the project is completed.

*On a motion by Fortier, seconded by Moore, it was*

**RESOLVED to approve Council Order #031900, authorize the City Manager to sign and enter into a project agreement for a grant under the Recreational Trails Program through the State of Maine for the Ellsworth Harbor Walk Trail Extension Project.**

Before a vote was taken, Cole recognized Fuller for his work on this project and all the other projects he has been working on in the absence of the City Planner. He has done an outstanding job on this project.

**A final vote was taken on the above motion with all members present voting unanimously in favor.**

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*Adjournment.*

*On a motion by Fortier, seconded by Moore, it was*

**RESOLVED to approve adjournment at 8:42 AM.**

Before a vote was taken on the motion to adjourn, Jonathan Stolley a residence of Westwood Drive spoke on the Ellsworth Harbor Walk Trail Extension Project. He thanked Fuller for his work on this project and suggested perhaps including groups such as the Boy Scouts or other groups that contribute to the enhancement and improvements of trails to contribute with benches or other items that might add to the project. For example, he personally would not mind adding a bench to the project since he finds the project worthy and meaningful. He suggested the public input from groups and individuals may enhance the project with not only their talents but maybe some other resources as well to reduce the cost of the project. Cole stated the input would be welcomed and noted the design takes advantage of the waterway and the views but does leave open a great deal of greenspace and other opportunities for enhancements. Stolley suggested making the proposed design available on the City's website or making it public in some other way.

**A final vote was taken on the above motion to adjourn with all members present voting unanimously in favor.**

**A TRUE COPY**

**ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
HEIDI-NOËL GRINDLE**

**Approved -  
Adjournment at 8:42  
AM.**