

City Manager..... (802) 334-5136
City Clerk / Treasurer..... 334-2112
Public Works..... 334-2124
Zoning Adm. / Assessor..... 334-6992
Recreation / Parks..... 334-6345
Fax..... 334-5632



City of Newport
222 Main Street
Newport, Vermont 05855
www.newportvermont.org

Newport City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting Agenda

Monday, May 17, 2021, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

REMOTE MEETING

**The Municipal Building is Closed as part of the Stay Home/Stay Safe Measures
In Order to Participate Remotely:**

Phone 1- (978) 990-5000 and enter PIN: 185354#

or

**by Computer go to <https://freeconferencecall.com> and join the meeting by using id:
cityofnewportremote**

City Council: Paul Monette, Mayor
Melissa Pettersson, Council President
Kevin Charboneau
John Wilson
Chris Vachon

Laura Dolgin, City Manager
James D. Johnson, City Clerk/Treasurer

1. Call the Regular Council Meeting to Order
2. Approve Minutes of May 3, 2021
3. Comments by Members of the Public
4. Memphremagog Community Maritime Presentation; Douglas Casson Coutts, MCM Board Member
5. Small Scale Vermont Bike & Pedestrian Grant application for Wayfinding Informational Signage; Vote
6. Water and Sewer Allocation; Vote
7. Executive Session: discussion of a real estate purchase or lease option, 1 VSA 313 (a) (2); Vote
8. New Business
9. Old Business
10. Set next meeting: Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting: June 7, 2021 @ 6:30pm
11. Adjourn

Non-confidential materials pertaining to this agenda are available for inspection at the City Clerk's office commencing at 9:00 a.m., the morning of the meeting.

Newport City Council Meeting Participation Guidelines

Newport City Council meetings are for the purpose of allowing Council members to conduct City business. Distinct from public hearings or town meetings, City Council meetings are held in public, but are not meetings of the public. City Council meetings are the only time the City Council members have to discuss, deliberate and decide upon City matters. In an effort to conduct orderly and efficient meetings, the Mayor kindly requests your cooperation and compliance with the following guidelines.

1. Please be respectful of each other, Council members, city staff, and the public.
2. Please raise your hand to be recognized by the Mayor. Once recognized, please state your name and address or affiliation.
3. Please address only the Mayor and not members of the public, staff, or presenters.
4. Please abide by any time limits. Time limits will be used to ensure everyone is heard and that there is sufficient time for the Council to complete their agenda within a reasonable timeframe.
5. The Mayor will make a reasonable effort to allow everyone to speak once before speakers address the Council a second time per the limits adopted in the Rules of Procedure.
6. Once public comment has been heard, discussion will be limited to the City Council members.
7. Please do not interrupt or mock other speakers or otherwise exhibit disruptive behavior during the City Council meeting.
8. Please do not repeat the points made by others, except to indicate agreement or disagreement with other views.
9. Please use the hallway for side conversation. It is difficult to hear speaker remarks when side conversations are occurring in the Council Chamber.
10. Presentations to the Council are not open to public comment. However, per the vote taken on December 21, 2015, matters on the agenda requiring a vote are open to public comment immediately prior to the Council vote.
11. Individuals who do not abide by these procedures will be asked to leave the Council Chamber.

DRAFT

Council Minutes

May 3, 2021

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held remotely on Monday, May 3, 2021. Participating in the meeting were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President Melissa Pettersson, Council Members John Wilson, Chris Vachon, and Kevin Charboneau, City Manager Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James Johnson, FD Chief John Harlamert, PW Director Tom Bernier, Rec. Director Jessica Booth, Zoning Administrator Erik Voegtlin, PD Chief Travis Bingham, Program Administrator Rebecca Therrien, members of the Press and Public.

Mayor Monette called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Public Hearing on Newport City Five Year Capital Plan

There were no questions or comments from the City Council or the public.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the minutes of April 19, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Wilson, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by the Public.

None

Planning Commission Member Recommendation

Ms. Pettersson moved to appoint Carole O'Connell to the Planning Commission. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously. Her term expires in 2023.

Newport City Five Year Capital Plan (attached)

Ms. Pettersson moved to approve the Newport City Five Year Capital Plan. Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried unanimously.

Renewal of ANR's Delegation to the City to Regulate the Mooring of Vessels (attached)

Mr. Charboneau move to submit for renewal ANR's delegation to the City to regulate the mooring of vessels. Seconded by Mr. Vachon.

Mr. Charboneau withdrew the motion and Mr. Vachon withdrew the second.

Mr. Charboneau moved to approve the City's filing of a petition for rulemaking with the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) for renewal of ANR's delegation of authority to the City of Newport to regulate the mooring of vessels on portions of public waters within the City's boundaries, like Lake Memphremagog, the Clyde River and the Black River, pursuant to 10 V.S.A. sec. 1424(f). Seconded by Mr. Vachon, motion carried unanimously.

Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways, Class 1, 2 and 3 Roads. (attached)

Mr. Vachon moved to approve the Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways. Seconded by Ms. Pettersson, motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Mayor Monette announced that the City received a grant in the amount of \$90,500 for new light poles on Main St. from the Downtown Transportation Fund.

Old Business

None

Next Meeting Date

May 17, 2021 at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held remotely.

Adjournment

Mr. Charboneau moved to adjourn at 6:57 PM. Seconded by Ms. Pettersson, motion carried unanimously.

Attested _____ This _____ Day of May 2021

Mayor

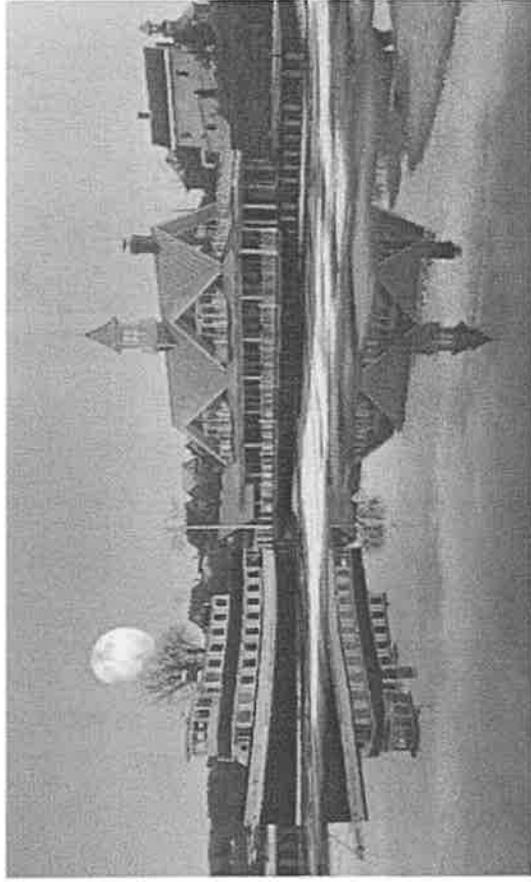


MEMPHREMAGOG MARITIME EDUCATION CENTER

Douglas Casson Coutts

Board Member

Memphremagog Community Maritime (MCM)



The Northern★Star

The Spirit of Newport

MEMPHREMAGOG MARITIME EDUCATION CENTER

- Our Newport version of the Leahy ECHO Center in Burlington ('lessons learned' and 'best practices')
 - Base of operations for the "Northern Star" and MCM – ticket office/snack bar
 - Educational and Resource Center for Lake Memphremagog and the Lake Memphremagog Watershed
 - Seasonal environmental, maritime and watershed educational programs; year around on the "floating classroom" or indoors in the Maritime Center – field trip destination for NEK and Quebec schools
 - Classroom space for experiential learning activities, science lab and meeting space (upstairs)
 - Demonstration space (downstairs) – revolving science, cultural and historical exhibits plus a demonstration showcase opportunity for our local Agri-business partners
-

CENTER OF KNOWLEDGE

- “Go to place” destination – tourism promotion for Newport and Lake Memphremagog
 - Lake-based educational, research and tourism opportunities
 - Marine science and history, environmental education
 - “Hands-On” programs for students, teachers, local community organizations, tourists and visitors
 - Office and program/activity space for Memphremagog Watershed Association (MWA) and Memphremagog Conservation Inc. (MCI)
 - Invasive Species Exhibit
 - Interactive touch exhibits for children
 - Maritime Training Center – water rescue, navigational instruction and courses, underwater research
-

“FLOATING CLASSROOM” PROGRAMS/CRUISES

- Facilitate watershed access for elementary and middle-school students in NEK counties
 - “Youth Discovery Program” - grades three/four – together with MWA (Prouty Beach)
 - “Next Generation Science Leadership Program” - environmental science curriculum, grades 8/9
 - ”Starry, Starry Night Program” – students and general public, with St Johnsbury Observatory, Fairbanks Planetarium
 - Lake Memphremagog History programs – with local and Abenaki historians
 - Collaboration and cooperation with UVM’s Rubenstein Lab and the University of Sherbrooke to provide training and research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students (fisheries, environmental science, water quality management)
-





PROSPECTIVE PARTNERS AND POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

- Great Lakes Network – including Fisheries Commission, International Joint Commission
- Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
- NOAA Sea Grants
- Lake Champlain Basin Program
- Leahy ECHO Center - UVM Rubenstein Lab
- Science Teacher Professional Development and Training - UVM
- UNESCO BIOSPHERE designation
- USDA – rural business development grant programme
- Northern Border Regional Commission (Yellow Barn example)
- National Heritage Area (NHA) – US National Park Service
- Vermont Congressional Delegation – possible “earmark” support
- University of Sherbrooke – fisheries and environmental science research

“LOOK TO THE LAKE”

- MCM would lease the Gateway Center – re-develop and re-purpose
 - Solicit support and funding
 - Collaboration with City of Newport – consistent with current “Waterfront and Downtown Master Plan” – this plan will enhance and expand outdoor recreational opportunities
 - Supports vision to draw more local residents, tourists and visitors to the waterfront and support main street activities and businesses downtown
 - Supports strategy – Four-Season Outdoor Recreation Community
 - <http://northernstarcruises.com/>. Facebook Page – Northern Star Cruises
 - Memphremagog Community Maritime - Facebook
-



Memphremagog Community Maritime, Inc. (MCM), is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization founded in 2017. MCM is dedicated to promoting and providing lake-based educational, research and tourism opportunities that bring together people to celebrate and share great experiences on and around Lake Memphremagog. By utilizing the Northern Star vessel as a destination location, MCM will provide education, maritime history and opportunities for stewardship of Lake Memphremagog through hands-on programs for students, teachers, local community organizations, tourists and visitors to our regional area.



HISTORY

The Northern Star was purchased in 2019 by Memphremagog Community Maritime as an effort to retain the international vessel within the community and upon the lake as a destination location. The vessel operated on the lake in a private for-profit model, but that model struggled. MCM was formed in 2017 with the objective to purchase and operate the vessel.

Steamer travel on Lake Memphremagog has a long and glorious history. Since the mid-1800's, steamers were the main form of travel for community members to Magog, Quebec and points in between. In addition, goods & services were often transported between Quebec and Vermont as key trading partners. Some of the best known steamers in Vermont were located on Lake Memphremagog including the *Mountain Maid*, *Lady of the Lake*, and the last -- the *Anthemis*

IMPACT

The impact of *The Northern Star* on the community is 3-fold. As a destination location within the Northeast Kingdom, *The Northern Star* provides a vital connection for the region of its greatest asset, Lake Memphremagog, its economic recovery and the attraction for visitors alike to our local community. The City of Newport and the local communities have positioned themselves as a four-season outdoor recreation destination.

BENEFIT FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Northern Star has positioned itself as a key asset for local community objectives. MCM supports the community objective to "connect business to the outdoor economy". *The Northern Star* is a key physical asset and its use is intended to bring needed foot traffic and increase sales for local restaurants, retail stores, entertainment and performing arts venues, lodging and tourism-related businesses within the community while providing schools and social service organizations with a "floating classroom".

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING & SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

MCM has partnered with local schools, organizations and community support services by providing a "floating classroom" for educational discovery, learning and training. Listed below are some of the programs that *The Northern Star* is supporting with its activities on Lake Memphremagog.



● **YOUTH DISCOVERY PROGRAM**

The Northern Star, in partnership with the Memphremagog Watershed Association (MWA), will support MWA's **Youth Discovery Program**, an introductory marine science and environmental program introducing 3rd grade students from local elementary schools in our region to classroom and field activities about the Memphremagog watershed. Over 240 students will explore Lake Memphremagog and conduct experiments in the "floating classroom" on *The Northern Star* annually.

● **NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE LEADERSHIP**

The *Next Generation Science Leadership* program is designed to introduce middle school students to the Memphremagog watershed through tributary, lake and pond exploration. Students will carry out program activities and field work based on the NDSS curriculum standards while working alongside local educators and experts in their respective fields. Each class will complete their environmental science & marine classroom study upon *The Northern Star* studying Lake Memphremagog and the effects of local practices, environmental & regulatory laws and its impact on this international body of water. In the spring of 2021, MCM will host 120 middle school students from 4 schools in its inaugural program.



● **STARRY, STARRY NIGHT**

Working in collaboration with local professionals, *The Northern Star* provides local school children, the general public and visitors the opportunity to explore, experience and gaze at the vast and exquisite night skies from the deck of *The Northern Star* while floating in the middle of Lake Memphremagog!

● **LAKE MEMPHRETAGOG HISTORY**

The Northern Star, in partnership with local historian Scott Wheeler, local teachers and libraries, has created a multi-media & educational program using historical photographs, newspaper articles and oral histories by local residents to describe the vast history of our community. This program is designed to showcase the importance of Lake Memphremagog in the development of the City of Newport and the impact of early trade of goods & services with our neighbors to the north - Quebec.

WATER RESCUE & UNDERWATER RESEARCH

The Northern Star is partnering with local hospitals, sheriff departments, city police, state police, fire departments, EMT and Border Patrol organizations to support their critical need for water-based rescue training programs. This unique partnership provides these organizations with advance water-rescue training, water-based research and navigational instruction. *The Northern Star* will provide both on-board classroom and physical space for water and land-base training to support the continued education and training for local officials.

AGRI-TOURISM

Growing in popularity, Agri-tourism is the crossroads of tourism and agriculture. MCM has developed this concept into a series of local tours with over 30+ partners with *The Northern Star* as the lynch pin of the tour. Agri-tourism presents a unique opportunity for businesses to connect with its customers and provides a number of financial, educational, and social benefits to tourists, producers, and our communities. By giving producers an opportunity to generate additional income and an avenue for direct marketing to consumers, agri-tourism increases the volume of visitors to our community and extends their length of stay thereby increasing local taxes and creating new employment opportunities. Additionally, agri-tourism provides educational opportunities to the public, helps to preserve agricultural lands, and allows new business enterprises to be developed from this tour model.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS & SERVICES CONTACT:

The Northern Star

Rick Desroucher, Exec. Director
Doug Coutts, Board Member

CELL: (802) 487-0234

CELL: (802) 673-2435

CELL: (802) 766-9244

EMAIL: northernstarcruise@gmail.com

EMAIL: desrochersrick@gmail.com

EMAIL: douglascoutts@gmail.com



Youth Discovery Program

A Northeast Kingdom 3rd Grade Science Program

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Youth Discovery Program (YDP) is a watershed educational field trip program offered annually to Orleans County elementary school 3rd grade students about Lake Memphremagog by Memphremagog Watershed Association (MWA). The program began in 2012 and continued until 2019. The program utilized the Northern Star sailing vessel and Prouty Beach in the city of Newport as its locations for science research. The program was initially managed by MWA board members and local volunteers on a limited budget. In 2017, MWA hired an Administrative Director. With staff capacity, local donations, and core volunteers, MWA was able to deepen and enrich this 3rd grade learning experience.

Our goal is to build a cohesive understanding of science over time and to build upon these concepts within the classroom. Adding a “hands-on” component to complement the learned classroom instruction, our 3rd grade students will gain a better understanding of our local watershed and help students explore the connections of science to our local region. This program will provide students with a basic understanding of watershed health, challenges, and conservation solutions by addressing issues like clean water ecosystems and the connections to our local land and water.

NEW PARTNERSHIP - BUILDING A BROADER BASE

In 2017, Memphremagog Community Maritime, Incorporated (MCM), a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, purchased the Northern Star sailing vessel from a local bank to assure the boat would remain on Lake Memphremagog as a community asset and “floating classroom.” MWA and MCM have partnered together to bring the Youth Discovery Program back to the 3rd grade classrooms in 2021.

The **Memphremagog Watershed Association (MWA)** is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization founded in 2007. MWA is dedicated to the preservation of the environment and natural beauty of the Memphremagog watershed and to ensure its protection for generations to come. MWA host educational events, organize projects to clean and renaturalize lakes and rivers, protect native plant life, and work with federal, state and local agencies to improve the quality of life in the watershed.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM OUTLINE

The field trips will occur during a 3 week period from late May to mid-June in 2021. The program provides 10 days of field trips with 10 elementary classes attending representing 8 area schools.

Our project goals are twofold: the first is to provide the hands-on learning experience to complement classroom learning. The second is to ensure that students come away from the field trip with a basic understanding of watershed health, the challenges facing our watershed, and conservation solutions available.

- provide teachers with general fact-sheets about watersheds and specific information regarding the Memphremagog watershed prior to the field trip;
- provide the book *Trout are Made of Trees* by April Pulley Sayre. This book is an age appropriate lesson on the connection between land ecology, lake ecology and lake habitat. Teachers will review these materials with students prior to the field trip.

Each field trip will be 4 hours in length which will include 4 learning stations with instructors from MWA and MCM staff:

- 1) What is a watershed and history of our watershed.
- 2) Watershed observations.
- 3) Science/health of the water.
- 4) Reflection and sharing.

The Youth Discovery Guide will focus on replicable science / watershed health activity for water sampling and macro invertebrate lessons. MWA will supply an interactive nearshore teaching kit that students will use to compile their information to share with local schools, town & city officials, and local organizations that support watershed studies and information.

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FLOATING CLASSROOM INITIATIVE

The **Floating Classroom** is where science on the water happens! You can learn about environmental science, the local lakes and ponds and its watershed. The learning is not just in marine and environmental science. Lake-based programming in other subjects such as history, art, and local geography can be adapted to this learning style within this program.

The Floating Classroom vessel, *The Northern Star*, provides students with a real-world learning experience on environmental topics while meeting State of Vermont's Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). There are three distinct and equally important dimensions to learning science in the NGSS Standards and each dimension works with the other to help students build a cohesive understanding of science over time. MCM's goal is to partner with local educators and build upon these concepts within the classroom and bring this knowledge and our students to local watersheds for hands-on experiences.

A high-quality science education means that students will develop an in-depth understanding of content and develop key skills—communication, collaboration, inquiry, problem solving, and flexibility—that will serve them throughout their educational, personal and professional lives. Thoughtful and coordinated approaches toward implementation coupled with local field trips to community streams, rivers, ponds and lakes will connect our students in-class instruction directly to their local environment. Hopefully, this local connection of learned material and exploration will enable our educators to inspire future generations of scientifically literate students to maintain and preserve the natural beauty of the Memphremagog watershed.

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(1) **CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS**

Crosscutting Concepts help students explore connections across the four domains of science, including Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, and Engineering Design. When these concepts, such as “cause and effect”, are made explicit for students, they can help students develop a coherent and scientifically based view of the world around them.

(2) **SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES**

Science and Engineering Practices describe what sciences do to investigate the natural world and what engineers do to design and build systems. The practices better explain and extend what is meant by “inquiry” in science and the range of cognitive, social, and physical practices that it requires. Students engage in practices to build, deepen, and apply their knowledge of core ideas and crosscutting concepts.

(3) **DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS**

Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs) are the key ideas in science that have broad importance within or across multiple science or engineering disciplines. These core ideas build on each other as students progress through grade levels and are grouped into the following four domains: Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, and Engineering.



YOUTH DISCOVERY PROGRAM

The Northern Star, in partnership with the Memphremagog Watershed Association (MWA), supports MWA's 3rd grade **Youth Discovery Program**. This introductory marine science and environmental program introduces 3rd grade students from seven (7) local elementary schools in our region to classroom and field activities about the Memphremagog watershed. This program occurs in May through June during the school year and supports a science based curriculum for 240 students.

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE LEADERSHIP

The Next Generation Science Leadership program emerged from the MWA's 3rd grade **Youth Discovery Program**. MWA's vision is to expand this program to a Junior High model and build upon these early science building blocks. The Next Generation Science Leadership *pilot program* focuses on middle school grade students. The program is partnering with four (4) local schools to educate 120 students in this next level of science and environmental studies. Teachers from these schools will carry out program activities and field work based on the NDSS curriculum standards while working alongside local educators and experts.

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

WEEK ONE: Classroom instruction to Science Techniques
Students will be introduced to science field work including identification techniques, equipment use and application of techniques within the science field.

WEEK TWO: Tributary Exploration & Analysis

Students will explore & analyze the importance of small tributaries impact on the local watershed by introducing its students to a local tributary near their school.

WEEK THREE: Lake/Pond Exploration & Analysis

Using environmental information they have gained on tributaries impact on local ponds and lakes in their hometown, students will assess the environmental impact through a field study on a local pond or lake.

WEEK FOUR: Lake Memphremagog Exploration & Analysis

Each class will complete their environmental science & marine classroom study upon the Northern Star studying Lake Memphremagog and the effects of local environmental laws & regulations impact on this international body of water.

STARRY, STARRY NIGHT

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WATER RESCUE, NAVIGATIONAL INITIATIVE & UNDERWATER RESEARCH

The Northern Star is partnering with local hospital, sheriff, police, state police, fire, EMT and Border Patrol organizations to support their critical need for water-based rescue training programs. This unique partnership provides these organizations with advance water-rescue training, water-based research and navigational instruction. *The Northern Star* will provide both on on-board classroom and physical space for water and land-base training to support the continued education of local officials.

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TO: Mayor Paul Monette, City Council
Cc Jim Johnson, City Clerk/Treasurer
FROM: Laura Dolgin, City Manager
Thomas Bernier, Director of Public Works



DATE: May 14, 2021

RE: VT Small Scale Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Application – Wayfinding Signs

The State of Vermont offers a VT Bike and Pedestrian Grant Program for Small Scale Projects. The maximum grant award is \$125,000. The grant requires a 50% match (cash and/or in-kind) from the project applicant. The grant application is due by 1:00PM on Friday, June 4th. NCIC will assist the City in preparation of the Grant Application. Grant Awards will be announced by the end of July – project will need to be completed by December 31, 2022.

The City of Newport, through financial support provided by the USDA-RCDI Grant awarded to NCIC, engaged the services of Roger Dickinson, Lamoureux and Dickinson Consulting Engineers, to develop a concept plan and cost estimates for upgrading the Wayfinding Signs in Newport. This is an activity that is identified in the Waterfront and Downtown Master Plan. As members of the City Council are aware, the existing wayfinding signage throughout the City is inconsistent, outdated and does not incorporate a universal design.

Mr. Dickinson’s concept plan for placement of improved Wayfinding Signs is included here for your review. Roger recommends a total of 15 new/replacement signs at estimated cost of approximately \$5,000 per sign. The installation for each sign is estimated by Roger to be approximately \$1,500 per sign. The installation can be completed by the Department of Public Works and the value can be included as part of the City’s 50% Match.

Based on Roger’s concept plan:

15 Signs at \$6,500 Installed	= \$97,500 (Total Project Cost)
50% VT Bike & Ped Grant	= \$48,750
In-Kind Match Install	= \$22,500 (\$1,500 per sign – DPW Installation)
City Cash Match	= \$26,250 (Source: Restricted Street Capital Design Projects)

The Newport City Downtown Development organization has contracted with Flek of St. Johnsbury to develop some exciting new concepts for downtown wayfinding signage. It is our intention to utilize the final design selected by NCDD for a refreshing upgrade.

Improved wayfinding signage is a vital component of our Economic Development Strategy to promote and expand the Outdoor Recreational Economy in downtown Newport and the surrounding area. The interconnected trail system from Downtown Newport through to the Eastern Townships of Quebec Province will offer a unique, four-season outdoor recreational opportunity, that is a major focal point in our promotion of the Outdoor Recreational Economy.

Proposed Resolution:

Resolved: That the City Council of the City of Newport, hereby authorizes City Manager Laura Dolgin to prepare, submit and sign all documents related to an application for funding for the Small Scale VT Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program, not to exceed a total project cost of \$97,500.

Resolved: That the City Council of the City of Newport, does hereby commit to funding the required 50% Local Match for the Small Scale VT Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program in the amount of \$48,750, to be provided as in-kind labor, equipment and materials through the Department of Public Works (\$22,500), and cash (\$26,250).

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City of Newport
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May 17, 2021

Jon Kaplan, PE
Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Manager
VT Agency of Transportation
219 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641

RE: City of Newport, VT – Letter of Support
Small Scale VT Bike and Pedestrian Grant Program – Wayfinding Signage

Dear Mr. Kaplan,

On behalf of the City of Newport, Vermont, we offer this Letter of Support & Local Commitment for the Small Scale VT Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant application to upgrade Wayfinding Signage in the City of Newport.

The City of Newport has embraced a transformational economic development strategy to promote and expand the Outdoor Recreational Economy in Newport and the surrounding region. One of the primary components of this strategy is to provide striking, eye-catching and informational Wayfinding Signage to those visiting Newport.

Newport City Downtown Development, the designated downtown district management organization, has recently completed concept plans for a refreshing new logo and improved Wayfinding signage. Newport is in a unique position to promote the exceptional recreational assets of Lake Memphremagog, the City Bike Path, the Boardwalk, the Waterfront Recreational Path, the new Prouty Beach Connecting Path and the new Bluffside Trail system (currently under construction). These recreational trails will link Downtown Newport to the Beebe Spur Trail, connecting to the Tomfobia Nature Trail in the Eastern Townships of Quebec Province. This outstanding trail system offers an international experience for four-season outdoor recreational opportunities.

The Newport City Council strongly supports this Small Scale VT Bicycle and Pedestrian Application, and we do hereby commit the 50% local match of \$48,750 through cash and in-kind equipment, labor and materials through our Department of Public Works.

Thank you for your consideration of this Letter of Support and Commitment. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our City Manager Laura Dolgin.

Signed at Newport, Vermont this _____ day of May, 2021.

