DRAFT 20 October 2021 Town of Clifton Maine TIF Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the town office building. Present were Chairperson Linda Graban, Vice Chairperson John Williams II, Secretary David Cogdell, and members Nancy Hatch and Steve Armenia. Not present was member Jeffrey Achorn.

Upon a motion by John/Steve and unanimous vote, the minutes of the September 15, 2021 committee meeting were approved.

There were various discussions relating to an 8 April 2021 letter and related documents that had been provided to the committee by the town office. The letter, addressed to the Clifton Select Board Chairperson from the Commissioner of the State’s Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), advised that DECD had approved an amendment to the town’s TIF District and Development Program. It was not initially clear whether the documents related to the Pisgah Mountain or Silver Maple projects. (NOTE: Upon subsequent examination, the letter appears to relate to the Pisgah Mountain TIF District.)

There were various discussions about the Town’s road paving efforts and what the Selectmen’s upcoming priorities would be. One document in the above-mentioned package indicated that a portion of Springy Pond Road might be earmarked for paving. This, in turn, raised various questions since it is not a town road but provides the only access to the Pisgah Mountain wind farm. After further discussions, it was agreed that Nancy would place on the Selectmen’s upcoming agenda the question of what their road paving priorities are, as well as the Chemo Pond boat ramp and any other TIF-related priorities.

The results of the circa 2019 town survey were discussed. There were suggestions that the town might benefit from obtaining fresh data and the best means by which to conduct a new survey. Upon a motion by John/Steve and unanimous vote, the committee agreed to pursue the matter further. Linda will contact the Select Board to obtain their approval prior to proceeding with a goal of having a new survey available for the public by election day.

Broadband was discussed in some detail. It was noted that the committee would benefit from an update as to the status of the town’s broadband upgrade. It was also noted that the broadband grant application will be submitted to the state in November.

Linda said that she wants the committee to review the aforementioned DECD documents at the November meeting as well as discussing the topic of TIF-funded grants and scholarships.

There was a discussion as to what the committee’s attendance policy should be as well as whether the committee would benefit if there were more members. Linda will discuss with the Selectmen.

Steve provided an interim status report on his efforts to contact certain officials in Lincoln and Burlington regarding their experiences with TIF-related matters.

There was a discussion by the committee and other attendees of the benefits and disadvantages of using TIF money to establish a satellite Eddington fire station in Clifton. It was suggested that a vacant building that had, until recently, housed a local towing service on Route 9 might be a suitable facility.

John said that he would invite a friend of his who is responsible for economic development in Belfast to attend the November meeting to provide his insights.

Upon a motion by Steve/David and a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Minutes were prepared by Committee Secretary David Cogdell.