



City of Concord, New Hampshire

41 GREEN STREET
Concord, NH 03301

FROM: Main Street Project Fountain Committee

DATE: June 8, 2015

SUBJECT: Proposed Fountain on City Plaza in front of the State House

Recommendation:

- Accept the following report.
- Set the inclusion of a privately funded fountain as part of the Main Street Project for a public hearing on July 13, 2015

Background:

The City Council authorized the study of whether a privately funded fountain could be incorporated into the Main Street Project at this time, without significantly compromising the construction schedule. A committee composed of Councilor McClure, Councilor Champlin, Mayor Pro Tem St. Hilaire and private parties including the Concord Chamber of Commerce has been studying a proposed layout of a fountain, funding of the project, and inclusion of the feature into the existing timeline of the northern portion of the Main Street Project scheduled to end during the fall of 2015.

Discussion:

Design: The fountain, designed by Jonathan Law and Roman Fountains, would be located on the southern side of City Plaza, approximately 25 feet from the center of the arch. It will be in a defined zone approximately 55 feet long by 10 feet wide. The water features would be flush mounted within granite pavers matching the paver design on the northern side of the plaza. The entire fountain feature will consist of 24 – 30 jets, with integral LED lighting, aligned along the dark stone design of the plaza (see design drawing). This flush mounted design will allow for full use of the plaza, with the fountain in off mode, during times of meetings, fairs and other events that occur there.

The fountain water features would operate in three zones. Each zone would have the potential of 4 programs of rising and falling water and lighting display. Different color lighting can be preprogrammed and will augment the movement of the water enhancing the visual feature at night. A 12 foot wide walkway area will be retained between the planters along the street and the fountain. A wind control system will ensure that, during times of

high wind, water does not extend beyond the fountain area. The water will be treated to maintain compliance with public safety codes and will be recaptured and recycled.

Funding: The fountain will be fully funded with private dollars. A fund raising campaign is currently underway. In addition to privately raised funds, a grant proposal has been submitted to the Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) for \$200,000 to support the fountain. The City Council authorized a letter of support to accompany this proposal.

Timing: The CDFAs determination will be made on July 21. At that time, the remaining private funds should be committed and should we be fortunate enough to obtain the CDFAs funds, we will have all the funds necessary to support the project.

Meanwhile, the committee has secured private funds to ensure that the fountain is fully designed by July 21 and we have coordinated with City staff to fold the construction of the fountain into the Main Street project construction so as not to unreasonably delay the completion of the current construction segment, Centre St. to Pleasant St. Final schedule impacts will be determined as the project progresses.

Roman Fountains representatives and our landscape architect, Jonathan Law, have met with City staff to ensure compliance with applicable federal requirements and to coordinate scheduling.

A public hearing on this proposal in July will provide an opportunity for the public to comment in advance of the Council decision on whether to accept the private funds for the fountain construction. This schedule will ensure accommodation of the fountain into the Main Street project construction schedule. By acceptance of the report, City Council also authorizes staff to begin project evaluation, coordination, and permitting with necessary agencies as required.