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Winter likely to delay Riverwalk start

Paving of Lot P on hold

BY MARK URBAN murban@record-eagle.com Nov 17, 2018



TRAVERSE CITY — The early onset of winter likely will put a couple of construction projects in downtown Traverse City on ice.

The Downtown Development Authority heard an update on its annual work plan from Chief Executive Officer Jean Derenzy at its monthly meeting Friday morning.

Derenzy said permits for the long-discussed Boardman Riverwalk have been received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but work on the project adjacent to the Uptown Development may wait until the spring. Derenzy said she will consult with City Engineer Tim Lodge on whether the project awarded to Elmer's Crane and Dozer Inc. begins now or in the spring.

DDA board member Harry Burkholder, co-chair of the Lower Boardman River Unified Plan team, wondered if construction could wait until the committee looked at the bigger picture of the entire river. But the DDA is committed to beginning Phase I of the Riverwalk within a five-year period that is rapidly approaching its end.

City Attorney Lauren Tribble-Laucht said the DDA has "a commitment and duty" to put in the boardwalk and a delay might put those agreements in jeopardy.

In another weather-related report, DDA Parking Director Nicole Van Ness said the paving of Lot P near the intersection of State and Pine streets will not be done this winter. The lot will remain closed and the earliest paving would start is April 15.

In other business, the DDA Board of Directors:

— Scheduled its board leadership and training/development session for Dec. 14 from 8-10:30 a.m. Elaine Wood from Woodside Strategies will facilitate the session. Derenzy said the regularly-scheduled DDA board meeting for Dec. 21 may be moved to the end of the training session or canceled.

"I'd like to put everything into one date," Derenzy said.

— Approved entering into a concurrence encroachment agreement between the Radio Center 3 Condominium Association and the City of Traverse City in order to put flashing between the Radio Center 3 building and the Hardy Parking Deck. It would prevent any mildew, moss or mold from growing between the new development and the northwest corner of the garage.

— Appointed five DDA board members to a subcommittee to assist Derenzy with the redevelopment of Parking Lot O on the corner of State and Cass streets.

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Mark Urban

Business writer