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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!

Date: June 25, 2010

Contact: Michael Provost, director@rochestermainstreet.org or call 603-330-3208

RE: Rochester Main Street Receives Grant

Parson Main Receives \$10,000 Grant Towards “Facelift” !

Design Committee volunteers at Rochester Main Street are pleased to announce they received notification late last week that the Central Square Project received a \$10,000 Cultural Conservation Grant from the NH State Council on the Arts, Conservation License Plate Trust Fund. The purpose of the grant is the re-patination of the statue of Parson Main, located in Central Square in the heart of downtown. The re-patination process will complete the work recommend by Rika-McNally Associates that was undertaken by the city in 2007. That work centered on cleaning and repair work on the granite base of the statue and outlining future repairs to the statue. The statue is listed on the National Historic Register as a contributing object in the Downtown Rochester National Register Historic District and was also the subject of a NH inventory of Public Statues done in 2002. Parson Main was the first permanent minister in Rochester, also serving the local residents as a doctor, lawyer and advocate.

Volunteers at Rochester Main Street are working on a Central Square upgrade to include restoration/refurbishment of the fence, resetting of the wobbling granite steps in the walkways, new appropriate street furnishings, specially designed banners and an improved landscape treatment requiring minimal maintenance. The volunteers are working in cooperation with the City of Rochester, Public Works, and Historic District Commission in the planning and execution of the project. The volunteers wish to thank all the businesses and organizations in the community who so graciously took the time to write letters of support for the application, and our local legislators who have continued to support the arts in this tight budget cycle. The Conservation License Plate Fund is only

made possible through the sales of the NH Conservation License Plates, known more commonly as “moose plates”. The grant is administered by the NH State Council on the Arts for the NH Department of Cultural Resources, with no matching funds required.

Currently community volunteers are working on the refinishing of the fence, with three sections having been completed to date. Work on the fence is expected to continue throughout the summer. Kerry McMahon of Salmon Falls Iron Works is working on the restoration materials while the volunteers are doing the refinishing of the fence. The project is expected to be completed by June 30 of 2011, with work ongoing throughout that time. Total project cost for the work on the square is expected to be approximately \$30,000. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to this project or volunteer assistance, then please contact the Rochester Main Street office at 603-330-3208 or email director@rochestermainstreet.org. The Parson Main/Central Square Project is supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and National Endowment for the Arts