

*Town of York ~ Village Study Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ January 17, 2014
York Public Library*

Present: Ron McAllister, Dawn Fernald, Christine Grimando, Stu Dawson, Antonia DeSoto,
Joel Lefever, Scott Stevens, Pete Smith, Lew Stowe, Dean Lessard

Absent: Gloria Gustafson, Ron Nowell, Rob Yandow

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:34am.
2. Meeting minutes for December 13th were approved as is.
3. Based on observations of committee members, it appears that LinePro has not started their physical surveying activities in the village. It was also noted that their survey will include the Hodgkin property and if any recorded deeded easement to the parking lot exists, it should be included in the survey results. Further, Ron noted that Mary Andrews was going to contact the First Parish Church about access to the parking lot over their property.
4. Regarding the May referendum, it was noted that the cost to purchase the Hodgkin parking lot is very small in comparison to the cost to purchase the Davis property.
5. The PSA video production sub-committee reported no progress since our last meeting due to difficulty coordinating busy schedules, but they plan to complete their initial recording prior to our next meeting.
6. The group debated whether budget approval, design decisions or engineering issues are the most important considerations at this time. Dean pointed out that we don't need voter budget approval to spend the funds that were approved for continuation of York Street improvements.
7. Scott pointed out that it would behoove us to get something tangible and manageable completed, such as a section of broadwalk, improved parking or new crosswalks. Joel added that sometimes, the best way to get people excited about change is spend funds on a project component that is very successful and is not going to get undone later, and then they get behind the big picture.
8. Christine plans to prepare a draft RFQ (Request for Qualifications) covering the design phase for the committee to review at our next meeting so that we that we can consider scope and high-level objectives of the project.
9. Stu repeated his earlier suggestion that, as part of this design phase, we need to work with a consultant team representing multiple disciplines including building architecture, landscape architecture, traffic engineering and civil engineering which can walk us through our alternatives in order to determine what's even feasible before we can decide what we want to do.
10. The group decided that our next target should be completion of this design phase with hope that it could be completed in the next six months.
11. The group discussed possibilities for publishing a newsletter by email, Facebook and/or other electronic media which would also provide links to our website. This outreach activity should be managed by a qualified technologist. Ron will discuss the idea with Chris Hartwell.
12. Dean noted that he knows a videographer that could help us with our PSA production. The PSA team asked him to see if he can arrange for support from this person.

13. Pete agreed to send information to the group on survey results collected during recent public events and subsequently entered on our website. He will also send our website link to all members of Whippoorwill Homeowners Association requesting their participation in the on-line Elements Opinion Poll located there.
14. On a side note, Dean announced that he got verbal confirmation from MDoT that the town received a \$150,000 ship grant for construction of the “fisherman’s walk” pedestrian bridge under route #103 which will connect the Wiggly Bridge pathway to the Fisherman’s Walk pathway. Also, Public Works has implemented a smart phone app called “yorkgov” to collect requests, track, and report non-emergency service needs.
15. Our next meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, February 6th at the York public Library. Following that, meetings are scheduled for February 21st, March 6th and March 21st.

Meeting adjourned at 9:58am

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary