

***Town of York ~ Village Study Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ September 4, 2014
York Public Library – Wheeler Room***

Present: Ron McAllister, Toni DeSoto, Gloria Gustafson, Chris Hartwell, Dean Lessard, Jody Merrill, Robert Palmer, Dylan Smith, Pete Smith, Scott Stevens, Lew Stowe

Absent: Stu Dawson, Joel Lefever, Steve Burns

Guest: Denis Lachman, Regina Leonard – TDRC

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:34 am.
2. Meeting minutes for August 21st were approved after adding a note to item #5 that a map of existing bike trails provided by Cycle York was given to Dean for inclusion in our study materials.
3. Lew and Pete reviewed the results of an initial discussion with the Planning Board regarding proposed revisions to zoning in the village. Lew pointed out that any zoning changes must align with the town's Comprehensive Plan, which therefore must be reviewed first. Robert noted that in order to address zoning, village boundaries must first be defined in detail by the committee.
4. Dylan noted that we need to include the results of our outreach events in any determination of zoning changes and he further proposed that the VSC Master Plan should ultimately become an addendum or a component of the Comprehensive Plan. He further noted that "form-based" zoning is too complex to address thoroughly at this juncture, although some of its principles might be included.
5. Ron established a new Village Zoning Sub-committee which initially will include Dylan, Scott, Lew, Pete and Robert. Robert noted that, given the time it takes to get things completed, the sub-committee should get started as soon as possible.
6. Ron turned the meeting over to Denis who reviewed project status to date and remaining activity planned through to the end of October. He suggested that the same review should be presented to the BOS sometime before the October 4th Community Design Workshop. Robert will try to get it on the BOS agenda for September 22nd.
7. Regina described the process that they go through to develop final project maps and noted that she cannot complete that process without the land survey results which she has not received yet. The plan was for Dean and Stu to review the survey results before releasing them, however they have not been able to get together to do so. Robert made a motion to release the "draft" survey only to TDRC and not to any others until it has been approved. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.
8. Denis reviewed a typical three hour agenda for a Community Design Workshop day. The resulting work group products become templates from which we move forward and that make it very clear that it is a citizen driven process, and not something that came out of a few individual's heads. He noted that he will train the break-out group facilitators during our October 2nd meeting. Also, he noted that TDRC will provide materials and direction for the meeting, but will not be responsible for the venue, break out rooms, and refreshments, etc. He pointed out that the success of these events is entirely dependent on how many people attend.

9. Pete has reserved all the library meeting rooms for October 4th and offered to take responsibility for setting up the rooms and arranging for refreshments.
10. Chris distributed a list of local stakeholders grouped by category such as village business, town organization, church, etc. and asked committee members to identify any of the stakeholders that they would be willing to contact with an invitation to the event.
11. Chris and Jody will be meeting to put together and distribute promotional material. The committee agreed that they should proceed promptly and without needing committee approval of their designs. Posters, etc. should be placed around town ASAP.
12. Denis asked that someone on the committee set up meetings with Rodney Lynch to go over funding options and ideas with local business leaders and property owners. Several members, including Chris, Gloria and Robert will follow through on this.
13. Regina laid out a draft map of the village and asked committee members to add notes relative to missing features such as existing or proposed potential parking spaces, pedestrian or bike paths, etc. This led to a lengthy discussion and resulted in identification many additional features.
14. Ron asked for committee feedback on new logos and slogan samples provided by Chris and Jody. The consensus was that the logo should reflect multiple buildings but be a simplified abstract drawing style. Also, that the word “study” be eliminated from any slogan in favor of something like “Revitalize” or “Imagine” York Village. Chris suggested that we could bring the issue up at the Community Design Workshop as some sort of a contest for attendees to select from multiple options.
15. Ron will be placing an article about the upcoming Community Design Workshop in the September 17th York Weekly.
16. Our next regular meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, September 18th at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40am

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary