

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

Present: Ron McAllister, Toni DeSoto, Stu Dawson, Gloria Gustafson, Chris Hartwell, Jodi Merrill, Robert Palmer, Dylan Smith, Pete Smith, Scott Stevens, Lew Stowe

Absent: Joel Lefever, Dean Lessard,

Guest: Denis Lachman, Regina Leonard, John Adams – TDRC,
Judd Knox, Steve Pelletier – York Hospital

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:36 am.
2. Meeting minutes for November 20th were approved as written.
3. Ron began by reviewing the results of Event #2 with the committee. One issue that was noted is that because we had such a large turnout, the work groups were a bit too large and unwieldy. The good news is that there were many key players represented and the energy was high.
4. Ron reported that our submittal to the Capital Planning Committee will be made on January 11th. It will not include specific funding requests, other than our support for funding of the York Street sidewalk extension and the Hodgin lot. The master plan will not be refined enough for us to justify any specific funding amounts until next February. Lew expressed concern that we will not be requesting any other funding in May of 2015, even if it were to be just for a first phase.
5. Stu pointed out that it would be impractical to try to rebuild the village infrastructure in phases even though it would seem more palatable to request capital funding in phases. Everything is so interconnected and inter-dependent that it doesn't lend itself to a phased approach.
6. Ron noted the need for our committee to address economic development planning which is not part of the TDRC contract.
7. At this point, Ron welcomed Judd Knox and Steve Pelletier who joined the meeting to share York Hospital's position regarding our overall revitalization plans. The hospital board and Finance Committee consider Hospital Drive to be very important and want it to remain as an access to the hospital grounds. Also, they intend to retain ownership of the Old Methodist Church. However, they assured us that the church building will be maintained in such a way as to support our revitalization plans.
8. Denis took over the meeting to review TDRC's plans for their BOS presentation on December 8th. He asked John to review traffic impacts of the three intersection concepts (Y, York tee, Long Sands tee) for the committee. John demonstrated traffic movement for each of the concepts with the intersection both "signalized" and "unsignalized" using his animated traffic flow tool. It was clear that a signalized intersection provides much smoother and quicker traffic flow for each option. In addition, it provides for much safer bicycle and pedestrian movement.
9. It was suggested that another traffic flow and parking usage study be performed during the non-tourist season, it would help us make better decisions regarding the intersection design. John plans to provide a formal report of his findings for the committee's consideration moving forward.
10. Denis pointed out that we need to "narrow down" the number of options very soon. If not, it will significantly extend the time and cost for preparing the master plan. The group took a "straw poll" to determine which option looks best at this point. The York "T" option got 11 out of 13 first choice votes. Another poll will be taken after curb cuts and parallel parking spaces are added to the drawings.

11. Looking at the upcoming schedule, Denis proposed that we hold a special meeting on January 8th in order to have more time to prepare for the next Partners Meeting and Event #3. However, after much discussion about the best way to go forward with the Master Plan and associated requests for funding, it became clear that there is not as much pressure to meet short-term funding goals as was previously thought.
12. Denis pointed out that normally voters are not asked to approve a Master Plan at Town Meeting. Rather, they are asked to approve funding for all or portions of the Master Plan after it has been endorsed by the BOS. Changes to the Comprehensive Plan that are driven by the Master Plan could be brought to the voters in November.
13. Denis suggested that they will rethink the plan and schedule given that we are not shooting for a particular deadline at this point. He noted that looking at off-season traffic counts and refining the traffic flow options to include curb cuts and parallel parking is going to take some time and maybe we should look at what it's going to take to be really comfortable with a preferred option.
14. Given the results of the committee's straw pool, Regina asked if it made sense to drop the Long Sands "T" option in order to reduce the work involved in refining the traffic flow options. The group agreed.
15. **Lew Stowe requested and received confirmation that the zoning sub-committee should proceed to review village zoning and make recommendations for improvement to the Planning Board for possible inclusion in the November 2015 town meeting referendum.**
16. Closing comments from committee members indicated that they were relieved that the schedule will be more relaxed, but they want to be sure to that we don't lose the project's energy and momentum.
17. Our next regular meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, December 18th at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50am

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary