

*Town of York ~ Village Study Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ April 16, 2015
York Public Library – Wheeler Room*

Present: Ron McAllister, Gloria Gustafson, Chris Hartwell, Joel Lefever, Dean Lessard,
Dylan Smith, Pete Smith, Scott Stevens, Lew Stowe

Absent: Stu Dawson, Toni DeSoto, Jodi Merrill, Robert Palmer,

Guests: Steve Burns, Chris Blackburn

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:38am.
2. Meeting minutes for April 2nd were not available for review.
3. Ron informed the group that the edited Master Plan documents have been returned to TDRC for final assembly. The completed plan including the appendices, should be delivered to us by April 20th.
4. The estimated cost for all work, including moving electric utility poles to optimal locations, is \$3 million. The estimated additional cost for relocating electric utilities underground is \$7 million.
5. Dean informed the group that CMP will move poles for no charge, but only to their own choice of locations. If we want them to be placed beside or behind buildings, the town would have to obtain utility easements and there might be certain difficulties meeting code when connecting to buildings.
6. Dean suggested that, during the design phase, we should obtain an alternate design for placing electric utilities underground which could then be used in a future phase.
7. The big question is how to present the estimate to town officials and the public. Dean suggested that, for transparency, we should present the plan as two parts.
8. There was much continuing discussion about many issues related to burying electric utilities and also about the best approach to presenting the plan for funding going forward. It appeared that the consensus of attendees was to bury the utilities and go for full project funding up front.
9. Steve Burns noted that more important than “how much” money we want is to consider “when” the money is needed. Even though the project can’t be physically phased, it will take several years to complete and funding (bonding) could be phased over those years which would soften the blow.
10. Steve also suggested that we might look at contracting with someone to manage the funding process – budgeting, grant writing, etc.
11. Our approach to the BOS should be that TDRC has delivered the completed Master Plan and we would like the BOS to forward it to the Planning Board for them to hold hearings in preparation for having it adopted into the Comprehensive Plan by the voters in November. Also at this time, we should ask for additional funding for the Schematic Design phase.
12. Hard copies of the Master Plan need to be provided to members of the BOS, Planning Board, Budget Committee, village property owners and our committee. Steve offered to have necessary copies of the document reproduced at town hall.
13. Our next regular meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, May 7th in the Wheeler Room at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03am

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary