

***Town of York ~ Village Study Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ November 5, 2015
York Public Library ~ Wheeler Room***

Present: Ron McAllister, Stu Dawson, Toni DeSoto, Gloria Gustafson, Chris Hartwell, Joel Lefever, Robert Palmer, Dylan Smith, Pete Smith, Lew Stowe

Absent: Dean Lessard, Scott Stevens, Steve Pelletier

Guests:

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:34am.
2. Meeting minutes for October 1st were approved as written. Due to the lack of a quorum, there were no minutes for October 15th.
3. The group cheered the November referendum results at which our Master Plan was approved for incorporation into the town comprehensive plan by a margin of two to one, and the proposed village zoning amendments were also approved.
4. As a result of the last minute attempt by a few village merchants to scuttle our plan at the referendum, Robert suggested that members of our committee reach out to them to better understand their concerns and determine if there's something they need that we should consider adding to our plan.
5. Lou pointed out that Dean made an excellent presentation of the proposed costs of village revitalization to the Capital Planning Committee including "softening" the initial cost impact for preparing for underground electric utilities.
6. Based on feedback that he has heard, Lew suggested that we need to continue to clarify such things as our plans for the monument, burying the utilities, managing public parking, and signage.
7. Pete expressed concern about relying on newspaper stories to carry our message, in that he doesn't believe a large percentage of town residents read the local papers. Also, it's likely that very few York residents look at the town website or our Village Study website. He proposed that we find a way to spread the message to every home in the town.
8. The group lamented that very few village stakeholders attended our public forum on October 29th. It seems that people may not care for classroom style presentations
9. Chris proposed that, in addition to using other public relations media, we should hold another public meeting where we address all of the misconceptions. In addition, we should put out "yard signs" asking for a positive vote on our referendum item on the May ballot. Toni suggested we march (with costumes?) in the December 5th Christmas Parade with a banner depicting our "Christmas dream" of a revitalized village.
10. Ron announced the upcoming Community Dialogue meeting to be held at 9:00am on November 14th at the First Parish fellowship hall. The subject is "what facility does York need most?" It will be a perfect opportunity to hear how a significant segment of our community feels about the York Village Master Plan and how it fits in with other potential capital projects.
11. Dylan noted that the Planning Board is developing a York Village Center District Zone which will be ready for presentation to village stakeholders during December and then to the general public shortly thereafter. It will consist of two defined areas, a village "core" area and a village "peripheral" area.

12. The group discussed some of the details of the proposed zone(s) such as pedestrian oriented uses on the first floor, setbacks, lot coverage and permitted uses.
13. Pete suggested that the York School Committee might be willing to include information about the Village Master Plan in their spring mailing. If not, we should look into doing our own bulk mailing.
14. Our next regular meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, November 19th at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55am

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Smith, Secretary