

***Town of York ~ Village Study Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ March 3, 2016
York Public Library ~ Wheeler Room***

Present: Ron McAllister, Stu Dawson, Gloria Gustafson, Chris Hartwell, Robert Palmer,
Scott Stevens, Pete Smith, Lew Stowe

Absent: Toni DeSoto, Joel Lefever, Dean Lessard, Steve Pelletier, Dylan Smith,

Guest: Ted Little

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:36am.
2. Meeting minutes for February 18th were approved as written.
3. Ron noted that our committee annual report is due by the end of this month. Also, we are on the BOS agenda for March 14th, so he is planning to create one report that will satisfy both needs.
4. Drafting the warrant article language is still in progress at this time. Dean has offered some revisions and the latest text has been sent to the Town Manager for review.
5. After discussion, the group agreed that it would be unproductive and possibly distracting to include the proposed village zoning changes into our public outreach campaign for revitalization.
6. Ron polled the committee members regarding the results of their outreach. Stu noted that the owners of The Central restaurant are very positive and specifically hoped we were going to improve signage that would help people locate them from the center. Scott visited with Ray Pape who was in supportive of our efforts and speculated about rearranging the building layout to make room for some other venture such as a restaurant.
7. At this point in the meeting, Brian Johnson and David Howe of CBRE and Warren Bowes of the Bank of America (BOA) joined the meeting to discuss their concerns and suggestions in regard to the revitalization plan. CBRE represents the BOA in real estate matters. Ron briefly reviewed the highlights of our Master Plan and Lew noted that it would be implemented in phases such that their operation should only be directly impacted during an early phase.
8. They want to be sure they continue to have visibility, especially that their signage is not blocked. Also, they would like to retain the two parking spaces in front of their building. As expected, parking is an important issue to the BOA. Several potential options to replace street parking spaces lost by the proposed roadway realignment were shared with them. Planned improvements to the drainage system in the village were also reviewed.
9. The group decided that it would be prudent that each person who agrees to support us and have their name appear on testimonials sign a form to that affect. Chris has drafted such a form for our use. Chris is attempting to keep a list of all of our confirmed supporters and she asked that each of us send her an email with information about each supporter they have identified.
10. At the moment, it's difficult to determine exactly what to put in our promotional material and to plan when and how to get the message out to the public. Options include lawn signs, newspaper ads, newspaper inserts, letters to the editor, posters and direct mail.
11. Given the limited time available, Ron suggested that Chris, Ted and anyone else who wants to take their own initiative should place ads, purchase signs, etc. as soon as they can do so.

12. Several committee members agreed to approach more influential members of the community such as Mary Andrews, Kinley Gregg, Helen Rollins, and Tracey Jackson-McCarthy to ask for their support.
13. The balance in our Friends of York Village account remains at \$1,850.00.
14. Our next regular meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, April 7th at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 am

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Smith, Secretary