

*Town of York ~ Village Study Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ May 5, 2016
York Public Library ~ Wheeler Room*

Present: Ron McAllister, Stu Dawson, Toni DeSoto, Gloria Gustafson, Dean Lessard, Dylan Smith, Pete Smith, Lew Stowe

Absent: Chris Hartwell, Joel Lefever, Robert Palmer, Steve Pelletier, Scott Stevens,

Guest: David Chase, Deborah McDermott

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:34 am.
2. Meeting minutes for April 7th and April 21st were approved as written.
3. Ron welcomed Deb McDermott, reporter for the Seacoast Media Group, who will be gathering information from members of our committee for a feature article in the York Weekly.
4. Dean reported on the status of his interactions with Maine DoT. He has renewed his certification for LPA (Local Project Administration). He warned everyone not to discuss any type of negotiation regarding the right-of-way with anyone in the public. If we do so before the NEPA process is complete, we risk losing the federal funding.
5. Dean noted that the fact that the town holds the deed to the monument island helps make the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process much easier. To date, he has not seen a report on the recent geotechnical studies that were performed in and around the village.
6. Dylan reported that he and Amy Phalon (chair of the Planning Board Village Zoning Subcommittee) met with Deb McDermott to provide information about the new village zoning for a York Weekly article. He noted that he has not heard any negative reaction to the zoning proposal. The next step will be to work on architectural design standards for the new zones. Also, the HDC is planning to expand the historic districts in town, which includes changes in the village.
7. Ron turned the meeting over to Deborah who started her interview by asking each committee member why they think people should vote 'Yes' on Article #60. Many answers related to safety, civic/social/economic/cultural growth, and the potential for beautification. Given the opportunity to have 90% of the cost paid for with federal and state funds, we can't afford not to do it.
8. Deborah asked for a list of the meetings we have had with the public such as merchants, residents, and other stakeholders. Ron referred her to our website, where all of those events are documented.
9. Deborah asked for clarification of the dollar amounts that have been put out to the public. For example, what's the difference between the \$3.6 million and \$4.0 million. Dean explained the complex issues and conditions surrounding these estimates and anticipated commitments.
10. Deborah asked for clarification of existing and potential parking facilities in the village. The group explained the availability of parking spaces today and additional spaces proposed in the Master Plan.
11. At this point, a photographer from Seacoast Media arrived and the meeting was suspended in order for the group to move to village center for photos.
12. Upon their return, Pete reported on the activities of the Friends of York Village committee. VSC committee members were encouraged to write a letter to the editor in support of Article #60.
13. Our next regular meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, May 19th at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 am

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Smith, Secretary