

Comments at the BOS Workshop on August 19, 2013

Introduction

Thank you for agreeing to host this workshop and for inviting members of the Planning Board and the Historic District Commission to join with us. The subject - the revitalization and improvement of York Village -- is important to all of us. **[IDENTIFY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WHO ARE PRESENT]**. We would like to begin with a 5-minute summary of what the Village Study Committee has been doing since we last met with you -- February 25th.

Progress Over the Last Six Months

You will remember that we were considering five (or more) options for improving traffic flow in and through the Monument area. We have now narrowed the options down to the three options we consider most feasible; most consistent with the historic character of the village; most consistent with our stated charge to revitalize York Village for residents, visitors and businesses alike. These three options are now being referred to as:

- the Garden option (*formerly Minimum Change*)
- the Park option (*formerly the Delta*)
- the Common option (*formerly the Common*)

Members of the Board received a brief summary of these three options in the packet distributed to you. This document is a DRAFT of the script we are working on for a public service announcement.

Common Elements of Change

The common elements of all the options have not changed. We have identified more than a dozen features which we think would help create the kind of vital and safe space a strong village should have. ***We would like to distribute a list of these to you and to everyone gathered here tonight.*** The list is in the form a ballot where you and everyone else can help us assess public opinion. This form is a critical part of our proposed outreach strategy. It is this outreach strategy which we propose as a focus of tonight's workshop.

The Outreach Strategy

The outreach strategy involves a variety of dimensions:

- the public service announcement on local access television
- open forums for identified stakeholders
- a presence at MarketFest in October
- graphic displays in public places like Town Hall and the Public Library
- mass mailings to voters, and
- creation of a VSC website for the exchange of information.

Some of these efforts will have some level of expense associated with them. Critical to the whole effort is the development of CAD drawings of the three final options as well as an existing conditions drawing encompassing the whole “2-Minute Village.”

Budget Request

As you have seen, we are still working with our original conceptual drawings of the three options. Handsome and useful as these are, they are not technical renderings and they do not extend to the limits of the whole 2-Minute Village. We really need survey-based designs that will show whether the street alignments and road and sidewalk widths and so forth are realizable.

We are requesting funding -- via a memo sent last week from Christine Grimando to the Town Manager -- in the amount of \$32,000 to allow us to proceed with our outreach efforts. This money will make it possible to:

- hire an engineering firm to survey precise existing conditions (\$15,000)
- hire a design consultant to produce the required CAD drawings (\$15,000)
- develop and maintain an interactive website for the project (\$1,000)
- generate materials for various public displays (\$1,000)

To date, we have spent nothing but we are stymied now without professional (external) help on the urban design and communications aspects of the project. We don't expect an answer tonight, of course, but we would appreciate your support for our request. It is our understanding that there are funds in savings on completed York Street improvements.

Conclusion

We are happy to discuss any aspect you or members of the other committees assembled tonight may want. I don't know if you want to talk about the elements of improvement -- mentioned at the outset -- but we would very much like to test our our little data collection sheet by distributing the form tonight. I would like to ask members of the Committee to distribute this survey to everyone present -- including members of the public -- and to collect them at the end of tonight's workshop.

Please direct any questions you may have to anyone on the committee. Thank you.