

*Town of York ~ Village Study Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ October 16, 2014
York Public Library – Community Room*

Present: Ron McAllister, Toni DeSoto, Gloria Gustafson, Chris Hartwell, Joel Lefever, Dean Lessard, Jodi Merrill, Robert Palmer, Dylan Smith, Pete Smith, Scott Stevens, Lew Stowe

Absent: Stu Dawson, Steve Burns

Guest: Denis Lachman, Regina Leonard, Rodney Lynch – TDRC, Natalie Gould – York Hospital

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:33 am.
2. Meeting minutes for October 2nd were approved as written.
3. Ron turned the meeting over to Denis and Rodney for them to review the funding strategy and process. Rodney described the design and contents of the database he uses to research funding opportunities. Denis showed the group the very busy and tight schedule of Rodney's visits with local property owners and business leaders. Rodney provided an overview of the conversations that he has had so far with these folks and what village priorities they focused on during their meetings – parking, sidewalks, lighting, storm water drainage, etc.
4. At Lew's request, Rodney explained the inner workings of Tax Increment Funding (TIF) and expressed his opinion that it could ultimately be one of the best forms of financing for our project. Denis pointed out that TIFs need to be crafted very carefully and explained very well in order to be successful.
5. Lew asked if it would be productive to reach out to state legislators for help influence funding results. Rodney answered that he didn't think so, and explained that the most important thing is to develop and maintain a good relationship with individual staff members at various funding agencies.
6. Rodney explained that most all funding grants require a local match. He recommends that towns set up a bond account and treat it as a "letter of credit" to qualify for grant awards. In York, this will require placing a request in the five-year capital plan.
7. Lew noted that everyone keeps asking for a "number" to put the cost of our project into perspective. Denis explained that the master plan will include a "budget" number for implementing the plan. Ron noted that the town manager has released a capital planning schedule which would require us to provide a capital planning funding request for next May's referendum by mid-January at the latest.
8. Ron said that the Capital Budget Committee, School Committee and the Energy Steering Committee have all expressed a desire to have a joint meeting with us. We may need to have a structure in place to deal with these committees.
9. Lew started a discussion about the three corporate businesses represented in the village – Cumberland Farms, Bank of America and FairPoint Communications. Denis suggested that the committee should be in contact with them soon to explain that "we are on the move; we know they are very important players; and we will want to have conversations with them in the near future."
10. Denis reviewed our upcoming schedule and milestones with a focus on planning for Event #2. There was consensus that a Saturday would be preferable given the amount of information that needs to be covered and to hope for continuity with the people who attended Event #1. Pete added the Event #2 to the library schedule for November 22nd from 10:00am to 1:00pm.
11. Denis and Regina explained what will be presented and overall expectations for Event #2.

12. Committee members who will be working at MarketFest discussed what will be presented at our booth and what materials will be available. Ron reviewed the time assignments for manning the booth and asked for volunteers to fill in open slots.
13. Our next regular meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, October 16th at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:06am

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary