

***Town of York ~ Village Study Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ November 20, 2014
York Public Library – Wheeler Room***

Present: Ron McAllister, Toni DeSoto, Stu Dawson, Gloria Gustafson, Chris Hartwell, Dean Lessard, Robert Palmer, Dylan Smith, Pete Smith, Scott Stevens, Lew Stowe

Absent: Joel Lefever, Jodi Merrill

Guest: Denis Lachman, Regina Leonard – TDRC, Tom Fowler, Joel Lufkin – Landmark Corp.

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:38 am.
2. Meeting minutes for November 6th were approved as written.
3. Ron turned the meeting over to Denis who began by reviewing the “big four” partners meeting and what we learned from the meeting that can help us plan for Event #2 workshop. In general, the group felt that they did not get as much participation and useful feedback from the partners as they had expected. They also noted that it would have been better if more board members from the partner organizations had attended.
4. Denis pointed out that it will be very important to keep these same partners involved as the project goes forward. He also noted that future plans for the old Methodist church property will have a significant impact on our ongoing plans for the village.
5. Regina explained that after considering the results from the partners meeting, they plan to revise their approach to Event #2 by keeping the presentation at a higher-level “big picture” which will focus on how each of the three proposed intersection designs would result in a different impact on other critical elements.
6. Denis proposed that the focus of these events should be how to put the “Village” back into York Village. As part of that effort, Regina noted that we need to call attention to the current “imbalance” between traffic and parking with all of the other aspects of a desirable village. In addition to treating parking as a commodity and increasing available off-street parking, active management of safe on-street parking will be an important aspect of village improvements.
7. Denis and Regina asked the group for opinions and advice on which graphics to use for the next presentation. The general consensus was to show one medium to high level view of all components (roadways, pedestrian and bike paths, green space, etc.) and then work with the three close-ups of the village intersection to demonstrate the different impacts.
8. Denis asked if logistics for the next community event are all set. Pete confirmed that room setups, equipment and refreshments are ready to go. Ron noted that a reporter from Seacoast news will be attending and also that he has arranged for the facilitators.
9. At this point, Denis turned the meeting over to Tom Fowler and Joel Lufkin, civil engineers from Landmark Corporation, to explain how they will help with detailed mapping and doing engineering research relative to additional surveying details plus water, sewer and all three electric utilities. They will be outlining the impact that each of the proposed village designs would have on these utilities. In addition they will be providing budget level cost numbers for related infrastructure changes.
10. Dean noted that we are still waiting for the LinePro to provide D.O.T. right-of-way information. Given that they have not yet been paid, he expects the information to be forthcoming soon.

11. Robert suggested that we should do our best to provide capital budget numbers to the Town Manager by January 16th in time for the capital budgeting schedule. He noted that an opportunity might exist for relatively easy funding approval if the School Department's plan for a new performance center was not ready in time for this budget cycle. The committee discussed their concerns about having any confidence in such numbers given the short time frame. Regina also expressed concern about floating any numbers without letting the outreach process percolate.
12. Ron will be writing a progress update letter to the BOS prior to their meeting on December 8th and he will be attending that meeting to answer any questions. It was further proposed that the VSC try to set up a workshop session with the BOS prior to that meeting. In lieu of that, Robert will approach the Interim Town Manager to see if time could be provided on the regular agenda for Denis and Regina to make a PowerPoint presentation.
13. Denis asked the group for their wrap-up thoughts which resulted in the following notable comments:
 - ~ our mission statement needs to reference residents as well as businesses
 - ~ there's a lot of information and tasks to be crammed into such a short time frame
 - ~ a decision is needed relative to redesigning the use of Hospital Drive
 - ~ our group has great energy and represents a good cross-section of the town
 - ~ we should ask for funding to get "something" done soon to keep the momentum going
14. Our next regular meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, December 4th at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50am

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary