

***Town of York ~ Village Study Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ December 18, 2014
York Public Library – Wheeler Room***

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

Absent: Joel Lefever, Dean Lessard, Jodi Merrill

Guest: Denis Lachman – TDRC

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.
2. Meeting minutes for December 4th were approved with a stipulation that Lew Stowe's comments regarding village zoning recommendations be added as item #15.
3. Stu noted that his comments referenced as item #5 in the minutes were correctly reported, but that he should have added that some private sector improvements could very well be phased in over time.
4. Ron asked for comments about Denis's presentation to the BOS on December 8th. In general, everyone thought the presentation was excellent and at just the right level for this point in time. Lew is hoping that the BOS members will show a stronger interest in our plans going forward.
5. Denis expressed concern that, as we continue to provide more detail and substance, BOS members won't keep up with us and then, all of a sudden, they will indicate that they're not fully informed and not ready to make important decisions. Pete suggested that we invite them to attend our meetings to improve the transfer of information.
6. Another suggestion for improving awareness of our efforts is to reach out to town department heads and leaders of local civic groups on a regular basis.
7. Ron reported that he had provided our latest status and future funding ideas to the Capital Planning Committee. Robert said that funding for purchase of the Hodgin lot is being considered for FY2016.
8. Denis recapped where we have been and our plans for moving forward. Given the holidays and several scheduling conflicts, the group agreed to meet on January 15th and again on January 22nd. Prior to the meeting on January 15th, TDRC will be preparing an updated traffic report and committee members will work on the draft of Frequently Asked Questions.
9. The third public event is planned for February 7th at the library. There is some concern about having enough separate spaces for small group break-out sessions. It appears that we would not be able to manage more than eight groups.
10. In addition to these meetings, we need to meet with several other stakeholders such as the fire department, police department, ambulance service, VFW and American Legion to share our plans and obtain their feedback. Dylan offered to contact the public safety organizations. Lew will contact the VFW and Pete will contact the American Legion.
11. A decision was made to invite BOS members to attend our January 15th meeting as a way to keep them aware and involved in the process. A written invitation including an RSVP will be placed in their mailboxes at town hall.
12. Denis described the principles and importance of developing a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to provide "general" information to the public. Chris offered to lead a sub-group responsible for on-going development of a FAQ list specific to our project. The results of this exercise will influence the chapters in our Master Plan.

13. Denis suggested that our committee consider collaborating with other organizations in town that are working on issues similar to ours. For example, Cycle York is developing their own master plan for cycle/pedestrian paths, including some in and around the village. It would be useful if we were able to cross-pollinate members between our committee and theirs. Denis suggested that it would be more effective if the work of our Master Plan was seen as the larger armature which sets the stage and informs other groups exactly where to put their emphasis when carrying the work forward and implementing their component of the overall plan.
14. We are going to need a coordinated strategic economic development plan. It should start by identifying various economic sectors within our community such as historic, creative arts, tourism, recreation, technology etc. It's important to know how people in these disciplines feel about our village economy. Further, we need a proactive approach to utilizing grant opportunities. Perhaps the town should identify an economic development czar.
15. During the wrap-up, Ron suggested that each member work within their own sphere of influence to understand what our committee can focus on as we move forward.
16. Our next regular meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, January 15th in the Community Meeting Room at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:34am

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary