

***Town of York ~ Village Study Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ January 15, 2015
York Public Library – Community Meeting Room***

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

Absent: Jodi Merrill

Guests: Denis Lachman, Regina Leonard, John Adams, Dylan Baker – TDRC
Mary Andrews, Jon Speers – York Board of Selectmen
Steve Burns – York Town Manager
Charles Szeniewski, Owen Davis – York Public Safety

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:38 am.
2. Meeting minutes for December 18th were approved subject to replacing the first sentence in item #5 to read “Denis expressed concern that, as we continue to provide more detail and substance, members of the Board of Selectmen will stay current with our status.”
3. Ron turned the meeting over to Denis who outlined the meeting agenda, reviewed where the project is within the Master Plan development steps, and then turned the meeting over to Regina.
4. Regina provided an overview of design concepts for the two roadway options being considered for the village. She explained the concerns they had trying to balance pedestrian space with vehicle space. One way to accomplish this balance would be to use “bypass” lanes to support left-hand turns.
5. John took over to summarize and compare traffic movement impacts of each of the two design options. He demonstrated how these impacts differ between summertime peak and off-peak time periods. He also showed a comparison of turning delays using a bypass lane versus a full left-turn lane.
6. Regina reviewed proposed alternative street section designs for the space between the Ellis Insurance building and the Historical Society at the eastbound approach to the intersection. These designs demonstrate that improved pedestrian space can be made available by using narrower bypass lanes.
7. Mary Andrews noted that based on what she sees with these plans, having the town purchase the Hodgkin parking lot is critical. She also cautioned that the idea of moving the monument will be a tough sell with many people in town.
8. Steve Burns seconded both of Mary’s comments, with emphasis on concerns regarding moving the monument. Personally, he thinks both of our design ideas are “beautiful” and hopes we will be able to accomplish what we are setting out to do.
9. Dean noted that we need to be aware of how these designs impact snow removal activities, both from the roadway and from the sidewalks. Wider sidewalks would be much easier to clean. However, brick sidewalks can be a problem for certain equipment.
10. Denis asked for a “straw poll” regarding the group’s preference between the two design options. The poll showed a very strong preference for the “T” concept. Ron proposed that the same question be asked of those attending our February 7th public event. Lou asked if one or two “elevation” views of the village could also be provided for the February 7th event.
11. Joel reminded the group that closing the one-way portion of Lindsay Road between the Holman House and the Old Gaol should still be considered as part of our plans.

12. Regina reviewed the results of their parking studies which show that the existing supply of spaces is adequate for current demand. There is an issue with curbside spaces being used for day-long resident or employee parking.
13. Regina reviewed several “Street Section” designs for the space between the Ciampa and Berger buildings to demonstrate the potential for improved pedestrian space (including ADA access) while providing for vehicle movement and parking. These designs are limited at several points in the village by right-of-way constraints and building locations.
14. Denis asked for another “straw poll” regarding the preferred Street Section for this space. The consensus was for wide sidewalks, ADA access, lighting and street trees on both sides of the street, along with as much parking as possible. Several respondents stressed the need to provide some form of parking near to the retail stores. Ron thinks we should look for available “pocket parking spots” throughout the area.
15. Regina asked the committee for guidance working with village property owners relative to off-street parking areas, building accesses, etc. Ron thinks small group or one-on-one discussions are the best way to work with these folks.
16. Chris reported that she has obtained ideas from several people regarding the Frequently Asked Questions document and is putting together a new draft.
17. The final wrap-up comments were all very positive and the participants were upbeat overall.
18. Our next regular meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, January 22nd in the Community Meeting Room at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:46am

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary