

***Town of York ~ Village Study Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ February 19, 2015
York Public Library – Wheeler Room***

Present: Ron McAllister, Stu Dawson, Gloria Gustafson, Joel Lefever, Dylan Smith, Pete Smith, Lew Stowe

Absent: Toni DeSoto, Chris Hartwell, Dean Lessard, Jodi Merrill, Robert Palmer, Scott Stevens,

Guests: Charles Szeniaowski – Lieutenant, York Police Department

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:33 am.
2. Meeting minutes for January 15th were approved subject to changing item #11 to read "...closing the one-way portion of Lindsay Road between the Holman House and the Old Gaol should..."
3. Meeting minutes for January 22nd were approved subject to changing item #6 to read "...explained the *negative* impact..."
4. Meeting minutes for February 5th were approved as written.
5. Ron, Dylan and Pete reported on recent meetings where Denis and John Adams presented our plans to public safety and veterans groups. Their participation and feedback was very positive overall.
6. The group reviewed the results of our public outreach at Event #3 on February 7th. Attendance was significant (about 105 people) and again, the results were very positive.
7. Ron expressed concern that our momentum will be impacted by the fact that no more public activity is planned until mid-April. To offset this, he plans to send another progress report to the BOS and present it at one of their March meetings.
8. The group discussed Cumberland Farms impact on the village and ideas for relocating it or updating it to improve the aesthetics of the village center.
9. Stu suggested the idea of developing some "fantasy plan" graphics to show what various sections of the village might look like 25 or 50 years from now. What might the Bank of America, the fire station or the Cumberland Farms sites look like then? Although there was concern that it might create unreasonable expectations for some people, the desired opposite effect would be to stimulate a much higher degree of interest for people who haven't shown much interest in our current proposals.
10. The group discussed examples of potential economic development in the village based on existing knowledge, comments heard from property owners and business leaders, and current possibilities. The consensus is that there is a lot of pent-up growth potential that could be released once village revitalization is underway.
11. Ron solicited feedback in regard to TDRC's participation in the project so far and what we need them to focus on going forward, especially as it relates to the completing the Master Plan.
12. Ron related that he has asked Denis to provide drafts of each section of the Master Plan as they are developed so that we can react to them as the work proceeds. We need to be sure as soon as possible that the end product will meet our needs.
13. It's clear that there is a lot of work to be completed in less than three months. Dylan pointed out that his experience makes him concerned that there is not enough time to address all of the issues and aspects required in a thorough plan, even at the conceptual level. Committee members agreed that if we have to push the deadline out, then we will do so.

14. Pete proposed that we put together a memo to outline what topics and concepts we expect to be addressed in the initial Master Plan. To that end, we should confirm the boundaries of the area included in the plan, the topics included and what documentation components will be provided (text, lists, graphs, diagrams, drawings, etc.).
15. Ron gathered a list of topics to be included in the plan from the committee which he will provide to TDRC as guidance for meeting our expectations.
16. Our next regular meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, March 5th in the Wheeler Room at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 am

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary