

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

Present: Ron McAllister, Stu Dawson, Chris Hartwell, Joel Lefever, Dean Lessard, Robert Palmer, Dylan Smith, Pete Smith, Lew Stowe

Absent: Toni DeSoto, Gloria Gustafson, Jodi Merrill, Scott Stevens,

Guests:

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:38 am.
2. Meeting minutes for March 5th were approved as written.
3. Ron announced the sad news that Bert Ciampa had passed away. He will be missed.
4. Ron also announced that he will be delivering our latest status report to the BOS later today and will be speaking about it at their next meeting. Pete expressed his concern about declaring any specific date for delivering the Master Plan in that report.
5. Robert suggested that we provide an overview of our status to the three candidates who will be running for Selectmen during the upcoming May election.
6. Joel suggested that it might be useful to arrange for some sort of informational display at local breakfast restaurants where people gather daily to discuss civic issues.
7. Denis started a review of the Master Plan Draft #2. He noted that we should still be looking at the “big picture” of organization and content and not spending any time getting into “editing” which will be the responsibility of the Editing Sub-Committee.
8. The document still contains two parts, the “Condensed Report” and the “Chapters.”
9. Review of the Condensed Report brought out the following notable comments:
 - ~ need to minimize the textual content of twentieth century history
 - ~ be sure that the shade tree on Sheet 2 doesn’t block the view of the monument
 - ~ be sure that each diagram has an appropriate title and keys are consistent
 - ~ highlight a “point of reference” on each diagram so viewers can orient themselves
 - ~ consider putting off-sheet references on the edges of each diagram
 - ~ be sure that the “scale” of each diagram is consistent – perhaps combine sheets 3 and 4
 - ~ consider adding an initial “master” diagram the shows the relationship of sheets 1 - 6
 - ~ use bullet lists and add small graphics to the “top points/recommendations” pages
 - ~ switch chapters 7 and 8
 - ~ use the title “Introduction” instead of “Chapter 0”
 - ~ consider including a section reflecting an “imagined” York Village of the future (2050?)
10. Review of the Chapters brought out the following notable comments:
 - ~ include a few historical photos in the Introduction to break up the text (visual break)
 - ~ include photos, diagrams and charts to break up the text in other chapters
11. Denis was asked if he could counsel us on village zoning – one answer he gave is that, in his opinion, “scale” trumps “style.” He referred us to section 6.1.

12. Lew asked Denis if we should develop a timeline chart to track our progress as we move forward. He thought not, in that it would be difficult to accurately project very far forward until after each step is completed. A high-level plan would be more useful.
13. The group discussed the apparent need for an Economic Development Director in the Town of York. Ron suggested that it might be prudent to consider including economic development in the responsibilities of York's Community Development Director.
14. Denis wondered how the community would feel about floating a hefty bond for supporting much of what we are considering. The resulting discussion did not discount the possibility.
15. Denis noted that on April 2nd we will receive an "editing" draft of the Master Plan for the Editing Subcommittee to review during the week of April 6-10. Chris suggested and Denis agreed that it would be best to work on the Chapters before working on the Condensed Report (which is an extract of the Chapters).
16. The Editing Subcommittee agreed to meet at Ron's house on April 7th from 10-12, April 8th from 2-4, and April 9th from 12-2. Denis noted that he would attempt to provide some chapters by March 31st, 80% of everything by April 2nd and 100% of everything by April 16th.
17. Denis advised us to determine our "quality" expectations and approach to corrections/revisions before starting the editing. Ron noted that TDRC owns the document and has the final decision, but we do want to end up with a grade 'A' product. Denis suggested that we should focus on the need for clarity and accuracy.
18. Responding to a request from Dylan as to whether he could attend a Planning Board workshop, Denis noted that TDRC is well over budget on this contract and he would be reluctant to spend any additional unplanned time on it.
19. The wrap-up comments were all positive except when Ron described a dream he had where we were having this meeting and throughout the meeting Denis was lip-synching Dean Martin's latest hits.
20. Our next regular meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, April 2nd in the Wheeler Room at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 am

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary