

***Town of York ~ Village Study Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ December 17, 2015
York Public Library ~ Wheeler Room***

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

Absent: Joel Lefever, Robert Palmer, Steve Pelletier, Scott Stevens

Guest: Regina Leonard

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:35am.
2. Meeting minutes for November 19th were not approved due to late availability.
3. At Ron's request, Dylan and Pete reported on the results of the Planning Board's first public hearing on the proposed new York Village zone that was held on December 10th. The response was mainly positive. One concern that will need future consideration is how historic property will be adequately protected under the new zoning regulations. The final Planning Board hearing will be on January 28th.
4. Ron noted that he was contacted by Devon Rowe from the York Hospital regarding the potential for promoting a healthy smoking-free environment in the village. Although they support the idea, the committee felt the issue was not relevant to our work at this time.
5. The group discussed the anticipated increase of queuing on Long Sands Road southbound at the intersection with York Street. Regina noted that she expects feedback from MDoT regarding the intersection fairly soon and that should help determine whether we need to be concerned.
6. At Ron's request, Regina provided more detail regarding the project phases, but she explained that until the first phase of "roadway alignment" is completed, detail of subsequent phases would likely be inaccurate.
7. Stu repeated his concerns about how "phasing" the project will just cause more disturbance, delay and cost. Regina pointed out that Phase One will cause the most disturbance to traffic and commerce in the village. Dean noted that however we approach it, we must be sure not to do anything that might jeopardize the federal funding that is promised through KATCS which is based on phasing over several years.
8. Chris reviewed the status of her Stakeholder Contact list and noted that there are a lot of names on the list that don't have a committee member assigned as a contact. Scott Stevens has offered to take several names, but there are many others not assigned. There is also concern about managing the list carefully so that we don't appear to be uncoordinated. It is recommended that Regina's November presentation is the best one to use when contacting the stakeholders.
9. Ron noted his concern about the difficulty getting reimbursement of committee member's expenses from the town. Because our efforts are not part of an approved capital project, the costs are not budgeted and have to come from other available discretionary funds. Dylan will ask Steve how he wants us to handle this going forward.
10. Regina announced that she will be joining Malone & MacBroom as Senior Landscape Architect in Portland. She assured the committee that this change will not impact our project. Congratulations to Regina !!

11. Stu asked if there's anything we should be doing to proactively address the parking issue. Regina noted that the whole idea of "managing" parking in the village will be critical to getting through the project successfully. Limiting the time that vehicles spend in on-street parking spaces through better utilization of off-street parking, signage, lot sharing, enforcement and financial incentives (fees) should be considered.
12. Pete pointed out that we also should have a special plan for managing the parking during active construction of Phase One. How will we offset the additional spaces lost along the street?... Would the hospital provide some spaces temporarily?
13. Our next regular meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, January 7th at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:04am

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Smith, Secretary