

***Town of York ~ Village Study Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ March 17, 2016
York Public Library ~ Wheeler Room***

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

Absent: Gloria Gustafson, Robert Palmer, Steve Pelletier

Guest: Ted Little, Regina Leonard

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:35am.
2. Meeting minutes for March 3rd were approved as written.
3. Ron noted that, during their "dollars to task" exercise, the Budget Committee decided to zero out the warrant item regarding relocation of electrical utilities underground, effectively eliminating it from the May ballot. This presents a potential future risk, in that the design currently being prepared is based on these utilities being relocated underground and if funding for doing so is not approved by the time phase one begins, the design will be incorrect. The "silver lining" in this decision is that it will provide another year for us to focus on educating the voters about the needs and benefits of removing overhead utilities from the village center.
4. Ron also shared his regrets that, after it was revised by bond counsel, the final wording of Article 60 for the funding of phase one had lost all of the "poetry" and clarity we had worked so hard to create.
5. The group briefly discussed the design and placement of "lawn signs" promoting our warrant article.
6. Several members described their meetings with village stakeholders. Lew had a good meeting with the Cumberland farm representative who has agreed to attend one of our future meetings. Stu related very positive and supportive responses from Scott Berger and Tim Ellis, however both of them are still concerned about parking. Kirsten Ernst, co-owner of the Central restaurant, is very supportive of our plans. She hopes we will be adding better signage and improving the sidewalks. Scott met with Ray Pape who want to remain neutral. He also reported that the First Parish Church council will be meeting to consider announcing their support.
7. Ron has drafted our annual report for the Board of Selectmen which included thoughts about the demise of our committee once the project has reached the implementation phase. A majority of the committee members expressed their interest in continuing as a committee to support the project as it moves forward.
8. The group felt that the wording relative to the deferral of funding for relocation of above-ground utility wires on page four of the annual report should make a much stronger point about the need for voters to understand the importance of voting in favor of this funding when it appears on the ballot in the future.
9. At this point, Ron turned the meeting over to Regina for an update on the status of the construction design phase. The Maine DoT is still reviewing the design documentation and has not signed off yet. Regina's team can't risk moving forward much further without DoT approval. The good news is that geo-technical work in the village has begun. Dean feels that DoT approval will come fairly soon.
10. Dean's main concern at this point is relative to obtaining approval at all levels for relocation of the monument. Details in the design, once it has been approved, may impact this approval. Public opinion about the new location could affect these approval decisions.

11. Regina brought up the parking section of her presentation to show the group the result of several adjustments to the design of curbside parking. The end result is a net loss of 10 spaces on the street.
12. Lew asked several questions about the plans. For relocating electric utilities.... how many poles need to be moved?... how much per pole? For the monument.... where will it end up?... could we have a visual image to help explain it? What will be the sequence of subsequent phases? It was pointed out that, except for the sequence of phases, the Master Plan already contains answers to his questions.
13. At Lew's request, Regina explained the meaning of 50% versus 75% design. These percentages reference a certain level of design that Maine DoT requires. For example, once 50% design is met, they can begin the federal review process.
14. Dean suggested that our committee should begin working on identifying and designing new signage for the village. He has the ability to fabricate signs using Adobe Illustrator and 3M equipment that he has at the DPW. The group considered forming a sub-committee to work on this effort.
15. Ron asked for volunteers to write letters to the editor. Ted suggested that David Chase would be willing to "ghost write" letters for anyone who was willing. He also suggested that we put a small version of our lawn poster in merchant's shop windows.
16. The balance in our Friends of York Village account is now at \$2,150.
17. Our next regular meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, April 7th at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:21 am

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Smith, Secretary