

***Town of York ~ Village Study Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ April 7, 2016
York Public Library ~ Wheeler Room***

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

Absent: Dylan Smith

Guest: David Chase, Ted Little

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:33am.
2. Meeting minutes for March 17th were approved as written.
3. Ron announced that Deborah McDermott is planning to do a "fair and balanced" story in the York Weekly about the Friends of York Village and the upcoming ballot. She wants to talk with people on both sides of the issue. Also, he noted that she hopes to attend our May 5th meeting.
4. Dean reported that there had been a change of job assignments at Maine DoT and that he expected the Project Development manager to be the one signing off on the contract to do NEPA work.
5. As for KACTS funding, Dean noted that March 31st was the deadline to apply for funding and York submitted strategic planning estimates for all three of the remaining phases. The first phase is to re-align the roadway in the village center for which \$545k has already approved. Each of the next three phases will be to complete one of the outlying "legs." The strategic planning cost estimate is about \$700-800k for the York Street west to Lindsay Road leg, about \$400-500k for the Long Sands Road north to Woodbridge Road leg, and about \$1.5 million for the York Street east to Moulton Lane leg.
6. The latest word from KACTS is that York was the only town to submit anything, so we may be able to obtain the entire \$795,000 allotment for this year. However, it's possible that one of the other towns could come up with a late submittal. Dean also explained that we could request additional funding from the DoT at any time.
7. In response to a question from Lew, Dean noted that, if overhead electric utilities are not relocated underground, the existing pole next to the monument would be moved by CMP at their expense to a location chosen by them.
8. Dean also reported that geotechnical survey borings have been completed in the village with no unexpected issues.
9. Ron reported that our funding warrant article got a 4 to 0 preference vote from the Board of Selectmen. As a village property owner, Robert Palmer recused himself from the vote. During the hearing prior to the vote, there were public comments both for and against.
10. Dean clarified that the village revitalization project is now a DoT project. The estimated cost to do the NEPA documentation and right-of-way certifications that we need for federal approval is \$38,000. We have asked them to let us administer the project for them because we have a committee in place that is familiar with it. The other key clarification is that this project is not increasing our taxes, as it is being funded by federal and state taxes that we have already paid, and that we are bringing back to the town. If we don't bring the money here, it goes someplace else.

11. On behalf of the Friends of York Village (FoYV), Chris reported on the status of their publicity campaign with the following highlights:
- ~ A draft of Frequently Asked Questions has been prepared, but answers need to be written.
 - ~ Several committee members offered to either write letters to the editor or encourage their acquaintances to do so.
 - ~ The FoYV have a presence on FaceBook and can post an advertisement there for a very small cost.
 - ~ A couple of email notices will go out to the VSC list prior to the election.
 - ~ As for newspaper promotions, the FoYV could reserve the entire center section of the weekly Sentinel for about \$1,100, but someone will have to design the content.
 - ~ A black and white quarter page ad in the York Weekly would cost about \$500. Using color would cost a little more. An image of the yard sign could be used.
 - ~ Yard signs should be received in a few days. About 60 signs will be placed in selected public areas. The remaining 40 signs will be brought to our next VSC meeting for volunteers to have placed on private property.
 - ~ Window signs will be made available for local merchants, etc.
 - ~ Pete will gather input from committee members and manage the list of supporters in anticipation of using the list in newspaper ads.
 - ~ The balance in the Friends of York Village bank account is now at \$2,567.27.
12. Our next regular meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, April 21st at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 am

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Smith, Secretary