

***Town of York ~ Village Revitalization Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ January 26, 2017
York Public Library ~ Wheeler Room***

Present: Chris Hartwell, Stu Dawson, Toni DeSoto, Dean Lessard, Bill Lord, Ron McAllister,
Robert Palmer, Dan Poulin, Dylan Smith, Pete Smith,

Absent: Steven Carr

Guest: Regina Leonard
Leah Drennan

1. Dean Lessard called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.
2. Each member of the group introduced themselves.
3. Regina handed out project update documents including a "Purpose and Need Statement," an "Application of On-Street Parking and Crosswalk Standards" and an "Underground Utilities Concept" map.
4. Regina noted that Maine DoT has decided not to accept the "bypass lanes" as originally proposed at the intersection of York Street and Long Sands Road. Dean added that MDoT is going to accept the proposed ten foot wide travel lanes which helps to offset some of the increase in turn-lane width. Stu asked if we might be able to negotiate with the MDoT for wider sidewalks in exchange for no bypass lanes.
5. Regina will be submitting the Preliminary Design Report (PDR) to the Maine DoT in early February. This report fleshes out a lot of the technical design details. Dean explained that one key to getting the PDR report done is that MDoT has asked the KATCS committee not to commit any more funds to our project until it has been submitted. At this point, York is still the only community with a project underway, so we should be in good standing once the PDR is done.
6. Regina explained the process behind preparation of the "Purpose and Need Statement" which spells out the rationale of the project and is required for justifying the federal funding component. She also reviewed the "Application of On-Street Parking and Crosswalk Standards" document which summarizes the impact of variances in the proposed design for York Village. Formal recognition of these variances by the BoS is needed as part of the next submittal.
7. Regina noted that, on January 11, she made a presentation to a very well attended meeting of the York Garden Club and that they have plans to organize a working group once the project commences. One topic at this meeting that resulted in a lot of discussion, both pro and con, was brick sidewalks.
8. Stu suggested that paved areas be considered as an alternative to large garden plots, especially at the primary intersection in the village center. That would provide opportunities for pedestrian activities such as a sidewalk cafe or concert right in the middle of the village. This should be an agenda item for future committee meetings.
9. Dean reported that the town and MDoT have both been researching right-of-way conditions in the village with little success in finding records for York Street heading east towards the harbor. A decision will be needed from the BoS on how to move forward without adequate existing legal records.
10. The group nominated and approved the following committee officers; Chris Hartwell as Chair, Dan Poulin as Vice-Chair and Pete Smith as Secretary.

11. Chris took over the meeting from Dean and called attention to the Final Report from the Village Study Committee which included a list of things that need to be accomplished as the project goes forward.
12. Pete reminded the group that the Friends of York Village (FOYV) still has a bank balance. It was pointed out that FOYV is a separate organization and must meet to decide any future participation.
13. The group decided to continue their meetings at 10:00am on the third Thursdays of each month in the Wheeler Room of the library until further notice.
14. In preparation for the next meeting , Chris asked the members to read over the VRSC Charter and the VSC Final Report and think about what issues should take priority.
15. This led to a discussion where the group seemed to agree that the issue of relocating overhead utility lines should be an immediate priority. Regina reported that she is expecting some revised estimates very soon from the utility companies for moving the lines underground in the immediate village.
16. One question is how much it would cost to install conduit during road realignment construction in anticipation of future relocation of lines underground.
17. Pete asked Regina if it would be possible to get a separate estimate of the cost for doing each component of burying the lines only in the immediate center of the village (phase 1 of the road construction). Once the initial cost estimates are in, Regina will see if she can get any numbers for this smaller segment.
18. Our next regular meeting will be at 10:00am on Thursday, February 16th at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 11:38am

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary