

*Town of York ~ Village Revitalization Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ April 12, 2017
York Public Library ~ Wheeler Room*

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

Absent: Stephen Carr, Dean Lessard, Robert Palmer

Guest: Michael Dow

1. Chris Hartwell called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.
2. Mike Dow reviewed the history of the war monument and suggested that it might be a better option to locate the monument on the First Parish Cemetery property so that it could be maintained on a regular basis. He dislikes the idea of our monuments being used for political purposes or to send political messages.
3. Regarding moving the monument, Stu noted that we need a "landmark" in the center and he thinks the monument should fulfill that role.
4. Pete apparently neglected to send out the minutes from the last meeting although they are completed. They will be provided with the minutes from this meeting.
5. Regarding underground utilities, Stu noted that most towns that have done so started with a small section and then put more underground at a later date. He showed a drawing of the village plan which highlighted a small scope that would only require removal of the pole next to the monument. All wires leading to that pole would be buried underground. Pete noted that one thing we hope will happen when the roads are torn up and replaced, utility conduits will be put in place at the same time.
6. Pete moved that the committee request two high-level plans and cost estimates from Regina. The first for installing limited underground utilities in the direct village center and the second for installing underground conduit in the remainder of the roadway as defined in the original master plan. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Ron discussed the idea that most available funding requires matching money from the town. He plans to look for grants or other sources, such as those that support historical restoration.
8. Pete read minutes from the February 16th meeting regarding parking and signage. Bill, Dan and Pete volunteered to organize a Parking and Signage Work Group.
9. Toni noted that 2017MarketFest will be scheduled for September 22nd and 23rd. The main tent will have a band, dancing, snack food and a pow-wow on Friday night, the 22nd and then the standard craft vendors, food vendors, etc. will be available on Saturday, the 23rd.
10. Ron updated the group about plans for the Davis property. There are multiple developers interested as well as a possible public-private partnership. He raised the question of whether the Davis property is "in the village" or not. It appeared that the group was concerned about any development that would bring an access road down to York Street.
11. Chris pointed out that our committee is not yet "visible" to the community. We may not have anything exciting to report yet and don't want to state anything that we can't follow through on. Ron offered to put together an article describing the new mission and the things we're focusing on.
12. Our next regular meeting will be at 10:00am on Friday, May 19th at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32am

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary