

***Town of York ~ Village Revitalization Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ August 17, 2017
York Public Library ~ Wheeler Room***

Present: Stu Dawson, Toni DeSoto, Brent Drennan, Mike Estes, Chris Hartwell, Dean Lessard,
Ron McAllister, Dan Poulin, Dylan Smith, Pete Smith

Absent: Bill Lord, Don Rose, Stephen Carr

Guest: David Chase

1. Chris Hartwell called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.
2. Chris welcomed Mike Estes who will serve as our BOS representative going forward.
3. Meeting minutes for June 22nd were approved with one amendment to note that Brent and Don were planning to develop a project planning & tracking document.
4. Ron reported that he had talked with Christine Grimando (prior York Planning Director) about potential opportunities for funding. Unfortunately, she couldn't offer any encouragement.
5. Stu reported that he was also unsuccessful in locating any available opportunities for defraying the cost of placing electric utilities underground. He noted that despite the extensive nature of infrastructure upgrades in Ogunquit, their electric utilities remain overhead. He remains hopeful that we will be able to eliminate the utility poles that are located directly in the village intersection.
6. Pete reported that the Signage/Parking workgroup has been on "vacation" since our last committee meeting. The group plans to build an inventory of current and proposed parking needs for all businesses and residents in the village as well as a comparable inventory of current and proposed parking availability.
7. Dean provided an update on the MDoT's response to our preliminary design plans. He reminded us that the project is being funded through KATCS whose allotments to York through 2019 total about \$1.3 million. He is hoping that we will also be awarded about \$800k for the 2020 period.
8. One question resulting from the MDoT review was when the construction would begin. The answer is that it will be dictated by the funding and Dean would like to delay starting until there is enough funding available to do a larger initial segment of the work.
9. Ron asked that the minutes reflect the committees gratitude and appreciation for everything that Dean and Dylan have done to secure the KACTS funding. Their organization and preparation has been outstanding.
10. Dean pointed out that if, at any time, the town wanted to mount a capital campaign to assist in the funding, it would be appropriate and desirable. He pointed out that doing so would not result in any changes to the timing or amount of KACTS funding.
11. Dean presented a copy of the finished preliminary plans as provided to MDoT for committee members to review. He explained right-of-way, easement and stormwater issues and how they will likely be handled. In particular, he explained various "prescriptive" rights situations that may become problematic during construction and noted that the MDoT takes responsibility for negotiating any disagreements.
12. Dan described his hopes for the village becoming much more of a "destination" for tourists and locals to dine and shop rather than it to be a place that people pass through on the way to the beach. The committee shared their hopes for the same result.

13. In summary, Dean thinks that the project is in "pretty good shape" with MDoT. If we were to get the full 2020 KACTS allotment, then a significant component of the project could be developed in the first phase.
14. David suggested that we need to publicize the information that construction will be delayed until adequate funding exists and that the overall project is likely to involve multiple phases over several years.
15. Dean suggested that, while waiting for the construction to begin, the Parking/Signage workgroup could identify likely signage targets and sign placement locations. With that information, Dean could have the signs produced and we could begin placing them in anticipation of the start of work.
16. Chris wondered if we could start working on the proposed parking area improvements along the back side of north side York Street businesses from Cumberland Farm to the Bagel Basket. After the parking inventory is done, perhaps we could meet with the involved municipal and private parties to discuss needs and potential options. Pete described an idea he had to construct a parking deck in the same area.
17. The group agreed that we should have a presence at this year's MarketFest. It would require committee volunteers to set up and manage the booth during the day. It would also be important that everyone who works in the booth provides correct and consistent information to visitors. The preliminary design plan drawings would be good as visuals for presentation. In addition, Chris suggested purchasing some sort of promotional reminder to hand out.
18. Our next regular meeting will be at 10:00am on Thursday, September 21st at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55am

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary