

*Town of York ~ Village Revitalization Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ October 19, 2017
York Public Library ~ Wheeler Room*

Present: Stephen Carr, Stu Dawson, Toni DeSoto, Brent Drennan, Mike Estes, Chris Hartwell,
Dean Lessard, Bill Lord, Ron McAllister, Dan Poulin, Don Rose, Dylan Smith, Pete Smith

Absent:

Guest: Leah Drennan

1. Chris Hartwell called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.
2. Meeting minutes for September 21st were approved with minor corrections.
3. Chris explained that Regina has reached out to the Historic District Commission and is planning to meet with them in November to discuss the design plans.
4. Stu noted that the schematics of the village center that we have so far don't show the aesthetic conditions that exist today nor what we want them to be in the future. Regina would like us to work on defining and documenting the improvements that we foresee in much more detail.
5. Mike suggested we could consider using some of our local funds to work on specific areas of improvement right away. However, Stu cautioned that we need to be able to define and understand the "big picture" goals regarding these aesthetic issues before we begin to drill down into any specific components. Bill clarified that, for example, we need to confirm how we will handle the overhead utilities and supporting poles or define how much of the non-paved areas will be vegetated versus bricked.
6. Stu displayed drawings of the village intersection that show a suggested reduction of the amount of "green" space proposed in front of the Bank of America with a comparable increase in the amount designated for the monument area. He noted that we need to address these kinds of "big picture" issues before any final detail design or construction begins. Dean agreed that these types of design adjustments can be handled fairly easily at this point in the process as long as it doesn't impact things like available rights-of-way or on-street parking.
7. A motion authorizing Dean to forward Stu's proposed intersection revisions to Regina for consideration was passed unanimously.
8. Dean reported that KACTS has approved an additional \$795K from their 2020 allotment which means we now have a total of \$2.1m secured for our project.
9. Mike asked if we would be able to complete the intersection phase with the \$2.1m that will be available by 2020. Dean answered that it should be doable depending on how the boundaries of that phase are defined. He noted that his next step will be to have the design team determine what portion of the project could be done for the \$2.1 million, with the central intersection taking priority.
10. Mike asked if the intention is to install underground conduit in anticipation of future utility relocation. Dean answered that it is the committee's goal, but the cost for that work cannot be taken from the \$2.1m. We have until 2020 to locate the needed funds elsewhere. The design team has been asked to estimate the cost for this effort so that we can bring it to the voters for consideration.
11. Chris, Bill and Mike reported that visitors to the MarketFest booth were mostly very positive about the project plans and looking forward to seeing them implemented. Discussions about placing the electric utilities underground also seemed to meet with favorable response.

12. Chris noted that our consultants will be presenting the project plans to the Historic District Commission at the library on November 1st at 5:30pm. They hope to obtain the commission's suggestions and concerns relative to any impact the project might have on vital historic properties in the village.
13. Dean explained that, based on the availability of the \$2.1m in 2020, the next thing he needs to do is define the scope of work that the \$2.1m will be spent on, after which we need to provide the final project design plans based on that scope to the Maine DoT by October of 2019.
14. For our next meeting, Dean hopes to have an update on the November 1st Historic District Commission meeting, feedback from the consultants on Stu's proposed village center revisions, and a definition of the scope of work that we can get done for \$2.1m.
15. At Mike's request, as he was not on the committee when the workgroup was formed, Pete and Chris explained the purpose, plans and goals of the Parking & Signage Workgroup.
16. The group agreed that due to the upcoming holidays and our current project status, our next regular meeting will be at 10:00am on Thursday, December 14th at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 11:26am

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary