

***Town of York ~ Village Study Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ November 6, 2014
York Public Library – Community Room***

Present: Ron McAllister, Toni DeSoto, Stu Dawson, Gloria Gustafson, Chris Hartwell, Joel Lefever, Dean Lessard, Dylan Smith, Pete Smith, Lew Stowe

Absent: Jodi Merrill, Robert Palmer, Scott Stevens, Steve Burns

Guest: Denis Lachman, Regina Leonard, John Adams – TDRC, Joyce Andersen

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.
2. Meeting minutes for October 16th were approved after changing the next meeting date in item #13 to read November 6th.
3. Ron turned the meeting over to Denis for a brief summary of the business interviews held by Rodney, an explanation of the Funding Opportunities spreadsheet, and a review of event #1 including resulting documentation. He also explained how the process goes from multiple scenarios to the preferred one.
4. Regina reviewed the steps of TDRC's general project approach which includes listening, documenting, analyzing and strategizing. She then related these steps to the VSC's principles and to community input, including the key elements that came out of our opinion polls.
5. She reflected on village assets and opportunities with an emphasis on our history as a key asset and opportunity for the future. Other opportunities include attracting new businesses, being more supportive of tourists, and integrating trails and green spaces wherever possible.
6. Regina then described how much of the village land assets are currently dedicated to automobiles and how that needs to be adjusted to clarify traffic patterns, parking and pedestrian/bicycle routes.
7. In regard to parking, she noted that their traffic/parking study showed that usage of parking spaces was more of a problem than availability. Better parking management, including signage, would go a long way to improving this situation. Parking should be treated as a village commodity.
8. She pointed out that one of the advantages of York Village is its many "destination resources" such as town hall, library, hospital, museums, and First Parish Church. There are also opportunities to improve open space, parks, and recreational spaces.
9. One potential opportunity would be to create a new roadway or a pedestrian walkway through the Parsons property from York Street to Woodbridge Road.
10. Regina provided an overview of several new concepts for the intersection of York Street and Long Sands road – Island Concept, York Tee Concept and Long Sands Tee Concept with the monument on the other side of York Street. These latter ideas were an "eye opener" for the committee. Also, it was noted that these tee concepts result in a lot more available green space.
11. John reviewed his traffic evaluation spreadsheet which analyzes traffic congestion, queuing and delays anticipated for each of the proposed design concepts. This evaluation also included suggested improvements which focused on adding dedicated turn lanes.
12. Finally, Denis explained the planned project events and milestones remaining through January.
13. Our next regular meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, November 20th at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00am

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary