

***Town of York ~ Village Study Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ January 22, 2015
York Public Library – Community Meeting Room***

Present: Ron McAllister, Stu Dawson, Gloria Gustafson, Chris Hartwell, Dean Lessard,
Jodi Merrill, Dylan Smith, Robert Palmer, Pete Smith, Scott Stevens

Absent: Toni DeSoto, Joel Lefever, Lew Stowe

Guests: Denis Lachman, Regina Leonard – TDRC
Ray Roy, Rick Ciampa, Kim Tourigny, Lori Mitchell, Jean Scott, Carolyn Brennan –
village property owners and merchants

1. Chairman Ron McAllister called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.
2. In the interest of saving time, discussion and approval of the meeting minutes for January 15th was postponed until our next meeting.
3. Ron turned the meeting over to Denis who welcomed our guests and provided a brief recap of recent activities, discussions, and decisions relative to revitalization of the village center.
4. Regina explained the research and analysis that has been done so far in support of the proposed designs for a new village intersection. This included traffic and parking studies performed during both summer and late fall.
5. Denis and Regina then reviewed the particulars of both the “Y” and “T” traffic flow options and how they differ in terms of vehicle movement, pedestrian safety, parking availability and landscape elements. Regina described several “street section” design options for the limited right-of-way space between the Ciampa and Berger buildings in relation to traffic lanes, parking space, sidewalks, ADA compliance and landscape design.
6. Regina also explained the negative impact that the high number of current curb cuts along York Street has on traffic flow, the availability of parking, and pedestrian crosswalks. Implementing “parking management” will be critical to mitigating the loss of on-street parking spaces that will result from either one of the proposed village intersection designs.
7. Regina asked the group for their thoughts regarding any of these issues which resulted in the following comments:
 - ~ consider a portion of the fire station parking lot for public use
 - ~ hope that the town will purchase the Hodgin lot for off-street parking
 - ~ consider the town owned land next to Coventry Hall for off-street parking
 - ~ need to be sure that all parking areas are adequately lit and accessible by sidewalks
 - ~ diagonal parking is more efficient but also very dangerous for vehicles and pedestrians
 - ~ there are a lot of service businesses at street level in the village whose employees use street parking – these spaces should be available to customers of retail shops and restaurants
 - ~ perhaps the individual groups of parking spaces behind the buildings on the north side of York Street from Rick’s to the Bagel Basket could be combined and improved –this could result in the development of new shops or restaurants at the rear of existing buildings
 - ~ consider allowing only one exit to York Street from this parking area
 - ~ the town and the merchants could share the cost for some of these improvements
 - ~ a combined dumpster area/loading zone could be shared by all adjacent merchants
 - ~ eliminating a lot of on-street parking will be a major problem for many businesses

8. Ron, Denis and Regina thanked our guests for their active participation as well as their candid and thoughtful contributions to the plan whereupon the guests departed.
9. Denis reviewed the logistics and plans for Event #3 on February 7th including the need for two additional small group facilitators.
10. Chris reported that she is still working on organizing the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. She has received input from several committee members.
11. The committee reviewed a “discussion draft” of the proposed Master Plan Report organization and provided several suggested additions and revisions.
12. Denis reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule which includes meetings with public safety and veterans organizations on January 30th.
13. The final wrap-up comments continue to be fairly positive.
14. Our next regular meeting will be at 8:30am on Thursday, February 5th in the Community Meeting Room at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 am

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary