

***Town of York ~ Village Revitalization Steering Committee  
Meeting Minutes ~ February 16, 2017  
York Public Library ~ Wheeler Room***

***Present:*** Chris Hartwell, Stu Dawson, Leah Drennan, Bill Lord, Ron McAllister, Dylan Smith, Pete Smith,

***Absent:*** Steven Carr, Toni DeSoto, Dean Lessard, Robert Palmer, Dan Poulin,

***Guest:*** none

1. Chris Hartwell called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.
2. It was noted that Dean would not be attending as he was dealing with the results of the recent snowstorm. It was also noted that Dan Poulin is out of town on vacation.
3. A motion was made to approve the minutes from January 16<sup>th</sup> but, prior to voting, Stu asked for a discussion in order to reinforce his position on item #8 regarding the balance between landscape gardens and paved gathering spaces in the village center. He suggests that we consider those spaces as the "living room" of the village and we should be designing spaces that become cultural and social meeting places for people to gather in the village. The committee expressed agreement with Stu's ideas. The minutes were then approved as written by unanimous vote.
4. Chris noted that Regina had sent the preliminary design report to the MDoT for quality control review. Pete asked that a copy of the report be made available to the committee and Chris agreed to request it.
5. In regard to the question of underground utilities, the design team is leaning towards including the installation of underground conduits in the first phase of construction. The committee strongly supported this approach. It was pointed out that if the conduits are already available, it will be a lot easier to obtain future funding for moving the wires underground.
6. Pete suggested that it may be useful to form a "Utilities Workgroup" with Stu as the designated "czar." Stu generously agreed to take the lead if such a group was formed. The plan is to involve other members of the community who have either an interest or related skills in this workgroup as it moves forward.
7. Ron brought up the continuing need to identify additional funding opportunities to support implementation of the overall Master Plan. He offered to be the leader of a Funding Workgroup to address that goal and to begin to research on what might be available.
8. Another item on our committee's agenda is parking availability and parking management. We need to form a Parking Workgroup to dig deeper into available parking options, abutter's attitudes, and opportunities for participation from village businesses. Dylan pointed out that we need to get answers to existing open questions such as the future of the Hodgin lot and the fire station driveway area. It was proposed that publishing an accurate inventory of available parking spaces and developing new signage to direct drivers to available off-street parking areas is something that we could address in the short term.
9. Dylan pointed out that we should review the recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan and make sure that we approach parking issues in a way that will fulfill those recommendations.
10. Pete suggested that the Parking & Signage Workgroup proceed right away to develop new signage using the system that Dean proposed at our September 8th meeting. At that meeting, Dean showed samples of several signs that his department could prepare by designing the content of the sign and sending it to 3M who would create an adhesive "film" that he would then apply to an appropriate metal backing. Bill pointed out that doing this soon would provide a "test" of the impact of such signage on the village businesses and motoring public.

11. Leah described a plan that the Bike/Ped Committee has for putting temporary markings (cones, white tape, etc) at both ends of Moulton Lane to test the effectiveness of road & sidewalk modifications. She suggested that a similar experiment could be implemented during a summer weekend in front of the Berger building which would define a wide sidewalk, parallel parking spaces, and temporary signage directing motorists to public parking at the fire station. She further proposed that the Village Association might want to hold a sidewalk sale during the same weekend to bring in more pedestrians. Clearly, this would require approval of the Board of Selectmen and town safety authorities as well as participation from the merchants in the Berger building.
12. Dylan and Stu added that, in their opinion, this type of experiment should be done for a period longer than one weekend, and should involve several other areas throughout the village. One possibility for scheduling this experiment might be during the York Days festival in mid-summer.
13. Pete pointed out that the final Master Plan shows 10 new parking spaces within the front driveway area of the fire station. Perhaps those parking spaces and the revised driveway islands could also be marked out and tested during this exercise.
14. Chris summarized the meeting with one important result being the formation of three workgroups; Utilities, Parking, and Funding.
15. Our next regular meeting will be at 10:00am on Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25am

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Smith, Secretary