

***Town of York ~ Village Revitalization Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ December 14, 2017
York Public Library ~ Wheeler Room***

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

Absent: Dean Lessard, Don Rose

Guest: Leah Drennan, Regina Leonard

1. Chris Hartwell called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.
2. Meeting minutes for October 19th were approved with one minor correction (KACTS).
3. Chris reported about her visit to the Historic District Commission's recent meeting where Mike Sabatini from Milone & MacBroom gave a short presentation about the village design plans. She learned that, even though they don't have any formal approval role in the process, they did express their approval of the overall plan. They did say that they hoped we would look at historic pictures when considering the landscaping, particularly the types of trees to be planted. They cautioned against turning the area into "Disneyland."
4. Chris also reported that, at their November 27th meeting, the Board of Selectmen agreed to the idea of "phasing in" the project over multiple years.
5. Responding to Bill's question about funding for burying electrical conduits during this phase, Mike noted that it is not in this year's capital budget projections and that our committee needs to provide reliable information on the estimated cost and scheduling to the select board in order for them to include it in future capital plans.
6. Regina presented an updated diagram showing the current Phase One Boundary Plan. It depicts the areas designed for "full-depth" construction, which means that roadway all the way down to its base will be removed and reconstructed (about 18 inches deep). The ideal situation is to complete all of this full-depth reconstruction work in one session to take advantage of the equipment and expertise that will be on site.
7. Regina also handed out drawings that describe a revised concept for the village square itself which includes a circular brick plaza around the monument along with trees, benches and other landscaping details. In addition, she described various "streetscape" treatments that are being considered. This includes street lights that are "full cut-off" fixtures, also known as "dark sky compliant" lights. The proposed light poles will include power outlets for use with decorative lighting, etc.
8. Stu expressed his preference for elm trees and noted that the American Elm trees that were recently planted in front of the Old York Historical building on York Street have thrived so far.
9. Leah asked for clarification about the plan for the bike racks shown on Regina's handout. Regina explained that although the rack shown is for a single bike, the plan is to install several of them in each location. She will be looking for assistance from the Bike/Ped Committee as to the best locations.
10. Over the next few weeks, the design team will be continuing to refine the design details, construction sequencing, and phase one boundaries. They are waiting for the town to set up accounts with the utility providers so that they can get support from the utilities regarding feasibility and costs related to moving/burying wires, etc. Mike pointed out that, once these refined cost estimates are available, the committee needs to define the scope of the underground utility component and bring a specific proposal to the BOS.

11. After much discussion about alternatives, costs and funding sources, the committee voted unanimously in favor of a motion to reconfirm the Phase 1 boundaries as defined by the blue "cloud" on the most recent UG Utilities Concept diagram provided by Milone & MacBroom.
12. Mike informed the committee that town representatives plan to meet with Jud Knox next week to discuss the town's and hospital's plans for the Williams Avenue land adjacent to the front driveway of the fire station (257 York St.). This parcel is identified as a potential municipal parking area in the village master plan.
13. Our next regular meeting will be at 10:00am on Thursday, January 18th at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 11:41am

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary