

***Town of York ~ Village Revitalization Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes ~ October 24, 2019
Wheeler Room ~ York Public Library***

Present: Stephen Carr, Mike Estes, Chris Hartwell, Dean Lessard, Ron McAllister,
Dan Poulin, Dylan Smith, Pete Smith

Absent: Toni DeSoto, Brent Drennan, Scott Stevens, Jodi Merrill

Guest: Leah Drennan

1. Committee Chair, Chris Hartwell called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.
2. Meeting minutes for September 26, 2019 were approved as amended by the chair.
3. Dean presented a map of the latest on-street parking plan for Phase 1 which would provide 69 legal parking spaces located throughout the village to replace 40 spaces that will be eliminated by the roadway revisions proposed in the master plan.
4. The group discussed various methods proposed for "calming" traffic such as narrowed lanes, "bump-outs" and varied road surface textures/colors. Dean clarified that travel lanes will be significantly narrower, but plowing obstacles such as planters or speed bumps will not be used.
5. The group reviewed the usefulness and safety of the proposed layout of crosswalks in regard to typical pedestrian activity in the village. It was noted that the new "T stop" intersection design and moving the monument out of the drivers sight-line will also improve pedestrian safety. Also, most sidewalks will be much wider than they are now.
6. Mike proposed establishing a designated "employee parking lot" somewhere off-street on town-owned land, such as near Coventry Hall. Another option would be to develop a "well designed" parking lot on privately-owned land behind the York Street buildings between Cumberland Farm and the Bagel Basket.
7. Dean reviewed the status of Maine DoT's current project activity. He has some concern about the priority and their approach to establishing right-of-ways throughout the village. He's hoping that any conflicts with owners can be resolved with minimum legal issues and cost.
8. Dean noted that available funding for design has been spent and more design work is required. He pointed out that \$50,000 previously approved for underground utility design is no longer needed and should be shifted into the fund for design. A motion was made and passed to authorize him to present the revised parking plan and a request to reallocate the \$50,000 at the next BoS meeting.
9. Dylan pointed out that the Historic District Commission (HDC) must also approve all road improvements in the village before Phase 1 can commence. They have been updated on the current plans and a meeting with the design team, including Regina, has been planned.
10. Dan described recent activity of the Parking and Signage Workgroup (PSW). One thing that is planned is a survey of business, resident and property owners to determine current and expected future parking needs. The PSW team has been waiting to execute this survey until Phase 1 is closer at hand.
11. Pete asked about the likelihood that a complete detour around the village center will be needed at any time during Phase One construction. Dean responded that he sees "major disruption, absolute lane closures and alternating traffic with flaggers." However, he doesn't see a complete detour. He thinks the DoT will require that the contractor maintain at least one-way traffic.

12. Mike expressed concern about the public response to additional money being put into the 2022 capital plan in anticipation of it being needed for Phase 1. He thinks we should wait until the funding shortfall has been clarified before deciding what to put in the capital plan. Dylan pointed out that we also need to keep in mind that additional capital funding will be required for landscaping, benches, lighting , etc.
13. Dan related some details about an accident in front of his store which was caused or influenced by the head-in angle parking design. A driver experiencing a medical event wandered off the right side of her lane and struck the back of a pickup truck, which careened forward into the flower shop window. In addition to the physical damage, a teenager narrowly missed being pinned between the truck and the building. This incident is one that proves the need to eliminate those angle parking spaces.
14. Mike noted that there may be many more opportunities to improve traffic and parking conditions during Phase 2, especially around Williams Avenue and the fire station. Dan pointed out that PSW team members will be collecting ideas and suggestions about traffic and parking from the village stakeholders during the survey.
15. Pete asked if the group that, thinking outside of the master plan, our committee should pursue the idea of relocating utility poles behind buildings along York Street. For example, through hospital land from behind the Old Gaol to the fire station or from behind town hall through the library land to the Bagel Basket. Dean pointed out that assuming property owners cooperation, the town would have pay CMP to make the move. The group thought it is something that could be considered in the future.
16. Chris stated that she is hoping, as we go forward, that every member of the committee can get involved in a work group.
17. Our next regular meeting will be at 4:00pm on Thursday, November 21st at the York Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm

Respectfully submitted, Peter Smith, Secretary