

MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

April 18, 2017

Minutes

PRESENT: David Pisha, Julie Hance, Scott Wunderle, Jason Rasmussen, Hugh Henry, Rick Paterno, Barre Pinske; Claudio Veliz, Bob Flint, Carla Westine

VISITORS: None

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

1. Minutes:

A motion was made by Carla Westine to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

2. Review Vision Statement:

Historic: It was agreed that items 3 and 5 under Carla Westine's comments could be combined. Discussion ensued regarding needing collaboration between the town and the railroad as well as the town and the Historical Society.

The committee agreed to review all thoughts under the historic category and choose a couple that will take priority. Beautification came up repeatedly for the Village Center area with the town working with property owners in this effort.

Scott Wunderle mentioned the burying of the power lines and that he has received push back from the community members due to the cost. Carla Westine suggested that trees could be used to hide the powers lines in some locations. Claudio also stated that small sections could be done to demonstrate the effects. It was discussed that the area to be focused on should be The Green. Barre Pinske stated that there are lines still up that could be removed because they are not being used. Rick Paterno suggested that a cost-benefit analysis be done prior to removing the lines. Jason Rasmussen commented that some level of design review may need to be entertained in coming years.

There was general consensus on the following: Bringing groups together for more collaboration; Historic District signage; State Grants and tax incentives; Public recognition for historic renovation; Town funded beautification program; Central School/Academy Building better used; Historic Designation/Design Review Board.

Land Use: All members read their comments. Discussion regarding the Central School/Academy Building expanded to including the front lawn as a town courtyard. A central theme discussed is the need to rework the zoning bylaws and set the theme on being business friendly with a smooth process. There needs to be a unified vision.

Recreation: All members read their comments. Consensus was that the Brookside Trail should be completed; the Town should support the new Festival Grounds; Work with VAST to utilize their trail system more year round, there may be issues with this for summer opportunities; Enhance recreational opportunities that already exist; Figure out a way to improve the Church Street walking loop and make it safe.

Transportation: All members read their comments. Consensus was achieved on the following ideas: creating a bicycle friendly community; create bike racks, perhaps locking racks; water fountains on The Green with bottle filler; improved parking at Cobleigh Field with connection to the Green; Encourage tenant and owner parking to be somewhere other than The Green; Review enhancing parking at the Canal Street parking.

Signage: All members read their comments. There was general consensus that the following should be priorities: Create signs that are functional and readable; Signs must direct people to the Green; Signs must be well built and last; Sign design should receive as much public involvement as possible. It was disclosed that the town is in conversation with Claudio Veliz and his firm regarding the design of the first sign.

Rick Paterno mentioned that there are tree plantings needed along Route 103 entering from the South.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9 at 10:00 a.m. at the Fullerton Inn. Julie Hance will confirm with Brett Rugg that the Fullerton Inn is available.

3. Adjourn:

A motion was made by Bob Flint to adjourn. Seconded by Jason Rasmussen. The meeting adjourned at 11:58 p.m.

Julie Hance
Secretary