

MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

February 14, 2017

Minutes

PRESENT: David Pisha, Carla Westine, Julie Hance, Kelly Arrison, Scott Wunderle, Jason Rasmussen, Claudio Veliz

VISITORS: Shawn Cunningham, Brett Rugg; Mark Kane

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Carla Westine to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2017 meeting as amended. Seconded by Claudio Veliz.

4th paragraph, 1st sentence, add “how”, remove “of” and change “not” to “now”

Mark Kane began a discussion relative to the old Jiffy Mart and that corner. Shawn Cunningham spoke with Cairns who said the only restrictions will be against a convenience store and gas station.

The Committee discussed the “triangle”. Hugh Henry had provided comments in writing regarding his concerns with the triangle proposal. Mark Kane did say that limiting some traffic by going to a one way circulation pattern would have some benefits. He said that the triangle change will move traffic towards The Green but will likely not have a huge economic benefit. Mark Kane stated that the effort of drawing traffic towards the Village should be done well before the triangle. He stated that he is looking for direction from the Steering Committee as to whether or not to proceed on this thought.

Mark Kane stated that they have looked in bicycle accommodation. He stated that the committee will need to discuss this further to see how the town wants to proceed and to what level.

Mark Kane began discussion relative to the comments made by Claudio Veliz during the last meeting and after the last meeting. Claudio Veliz stated that he wants there to be no concerns regarding conflict of interest with his firm. For the sake of disclosure, Claudio Veliz stated that he has been communicating with professional firms regarding restriction of chain stores and potential text for the Town Plan. He stated that this explains his “bowling ball in the punchbowl” comment. Carla Westine questioned if he is being compensated financially for this work. Claudio Veliz stated that he is not. He is simply gathering information from these firms that he has known for many years. Discussion ensued. Mark Kane clarified for everybody that what the Master Plan sets forth as policy goals, will then need to go to the Planning Commission and then the Selectboard for approval.

Mark Kane commented that it might be beneficial to have a general land use conversation amongst the Steering Committee in a standalone meeting without SE Group present.

Discussion ensued regarding Land Use changes and the relationship with the Master Plan. Jackie Cassino talked about funding opportunities that are available to help with this discussion.

Mark Kane stated that the Public Workshop will be March 12 from 1-4 at Newsbank. Mark Kane reviewed the 14 study locations which will include study vignettes, concept plans and cross sections. Copies are attached to the minutes.

Mark Kane demonstrated the street light along the center of town. He also talked about the Ashlar stone pillars that could be used as plaques for signing at historical sites. Discussion ensued regarding excess VTrans signage. Mark Kane stated that there will have to be some discussion with Vtrans regarding the signage and what can be consolidated.

Claudio Veliz questioned if these changes to the Village will create a negative contrast to east of the village. Mark Kane agreed that there will need to be conversation regarding the boundaries of the Village and creating some continuity graduating into the Village Center.

The group discussed the triangle situation. There were a few options presented and discussed. It was also mentioned that the old Murphy house could be moved so the corner at the triangle was town owned and freed up for wayfinding usage. Carla Wetine noted that the house is currently for sale.

The committee agreed that widening the sidewalk along Main Street is a good idea. Kelly Arrison also asked for there to be a connection between The Green and The Depot.

The next community workshop was discussed. The draft drawings will be presented at separate stations. There would be 2 or 3 stations within the community that would require a walking tour. Discussion ensued regarding how to proceed and if there needs to be a walking tour. It was agreed to have the presentation inside, open house style and to provide a self-guided walking map with a follow up survey for people to provide comments.

It was agreed to have another meeting. Julie Hance will coordinate a meeting date.

A motion was made by Carla Westine to adjourn. Seconded by Claudio Veliz. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Julie Hance
Secretary