

MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

January 17, 2017

Minutes

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

VISITORS: Shawn Cunningham, Brett Rugg; Drew

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Carla Westine to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2016 Steering Committee meeting. Seconded by Jason Rasmussen.

Hugh Henry stated that he had requested a bibliography from SE Group and he would like to see that provided soon. Drew stated that he would provide this at the next meeting. He indicated that most of the information has been provided, however he will create a list.

Drew reviewed the Community Visioning Workshop. A copy is attached to these minutes. Hugh Henry questioned the use of the terms “The Green” and “The Common”. Brett Rugg stated that GPS is an issue for The Common. Hugh Henry noted that there is a question regarding boundary lines and ownership of The Green. Drew stated that this issue could be helped with the wayfinding recommendations and signage on the green.

Claudio Veliz questioned the process and the plan gets prepared. Drew noted that baseline information has been gathered and is not getting formed into a plan. Illustrations will be done of 8 – 10 locations in town. He indicated that the first draft of the recommendations will be given at the next meeting.

Claudio Veliz questioned the use of the old Jiffy Mart site and if there are limitations on the use of the property.

The Committee discussed the report on the “triangle”. Carla Westine stated that the “triangle” idea has not been put forth by the community and questioned its origin. Bob Flint stated that this was a possible solution to getting traffic to the Green that was mentioned at the community visioning workshop. Drew mentioned that the 1 way triangle is one option. SE Group will present other options. Jason Rasmussen noted that the one way streets will allow the streets to be narrowed which will allow for more green space along the roadways. Claudio Veliz mentioned that a one year study could be done to test this concept. Hugh Henry expressed his concerns regarding the removal of any historic houses or structures.

Discussion ensued regarding the sidewalk between town hall and Lisai's market, and the sidewalk conditions in general.

SE Group indicated that they will assess the bike lane needs in Chester as well as evaluate the possibility of bike lanes. Drew noted that there is an economic benefit to being a bike friendly community. He stated that providing bike parking and restrooms in town are essential. Jason Rasmussen stated that he will distribute the new guidance for bikes to the group.

Barre Pinske stated that he would like to see blight laws put into effect along Depot Street. Scott Wunderle questioned if there are incentives to help clean up houses and the streetscaping within the town.

Hugh Henry mentioned that the Universalist Church is now illuminating their stained glass windows at night. This could be done by other churches to display this form of art.

Drew from SE Group discussed the vignette locations. Those discussed were: Old Jiffy Mart site and Depot Street; The Green; Cobleigh and Main Street looking back to the Green; Maple Street; Gateway coming in from the East; Route 35; School Street and the river walk; Depot Street and Coach Road; Maple Street and Depot Street; Town Hall triangle; Train Depot looking south; Stone Village, photos only; Yosemite Fire House; Maple Street coming off of Main Street; Depot Street looking towards Jiffy Mart; The Green looking out towards Main Street.

Bob Flint asked that the vignettes show wayfinding samples as well. He also mentioned that trails should be included.

Barre Pinske noted that the VAST trails might want to be included as well.

David Pisha questioned who takes the comments and makes them become a reality. Drew noted that an Implementation and Action Plan will be developed with associated costs. It will also indicate who the players are.

Kelly Arrison noted that there is a perception about the plan that this only applies to the Green which needs to be corrected.

Kelly Arrison announced that there will be a presentation given at the Newsbank Conference Center on January 30 at 6:30 p.m. entitled The Heart and Soul of Planning.

The committee discussed the next community workshop. It was agreed that Julie Hance and David Pisha will coordinate with Newsbank and select a weekend in late February or early March.

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on February 14, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Fullerton Inn.

A motion was made by Carla Westine to adjourn. Seconded by Claudio Veliz. The meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Julie Hance
Secretary