

Long Term Community Recovery (LTCR) Steering Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, 9/3/13 – 5:30pm  
Minutes

Present: B. Farr, R. Ellis, M. Luce, N. Howell, F. Hurley, S. Flanders, Will (RW), B. Shepeluk, D. Winham, L. Oates

The meeting was called to order by Rebecca Ellis at 5:34pm.

Lauren Oates, Waterbury's second VISTA, was introduced by Barb Farr and was welcomed by all of those in attendance. Lauren discussed her role as an AmeriCorps VISTA serving the town of Waterbury and her interests in the LTCR projects.

Rebecca Ellis suggested the LTCR meetings wind down in December, as many of the 22 projects are off the ground and holding their own. With this phasing out, Barb suggested the group set up an end of action report to discuss what did or did not work in these meetings and what could be improved. Rebecca agreed to draft the report in late October/early November and suggested that those in attendance draft some of their own opinions so that she could add them to the report.

Darren Winham stated that 3 Elm St. will have a new tenant downstairs; they are expected to be in the building as of late November.

Darren and Fauna Hurley, Executive Director of Revitalizing Waterbury (RW), are working on getting an intern to assist them; Darren believes they may be able to work something out with Norwich University.

Darren stated that the Select Board will pay the amount to get the wifi zone project in the village started; he is also working with a supplemental grant in order to get a bigger boost for the project zone. Darren suggested Lauren and Fauna help with this grant. With these supplemental funds, the project may be able to access the fiber optic network.

Bill Shepeluk and Darren are working with the Community Loan Fund on guidelines for the UDAG revolving fund.

Darren mentioned the need to move someone into the Tagatac at One Stowe Street; he thinks this could be modeled after Local 64 in Montpelier (a professional work environment for Vermont freelancers and startups; local64.com).

Darren met with the owner of the building next to Crossroads, at the intersection of Route 2 and Route 100. The owner stated that he is willing to do some work on the property if he can get a tenant, which, Darren suggested, has been reiterated by several village property owners.

Darren brought up the issue of parking in the village. He suggested using USDA community facility funding for parking on Stowe St., though this will require a bond vote and interest in this has been steadily decreasing. He reiterated the importance of finding adequate parking for the town, especially as properties continue to get filled. Margaret Luce agreed with the need for parking, and mentioned the parking benefits of the State Office Complex. She is concerned that parking may be a "blind spot" for residents. Darren encouraged the parking issue be made [more] aware to the public. Margaret believes parking should be weighed heavily when considering a new municipal building site. Darren is concerned about the municipal building

parking being downtown, as this will take parking spots away from potential customers of village businesses.

Darren stated the parking behind the former Ocha Restaurant is not public and soon cars will be towed away. The owners are considering allowing the lot located directly behind it to be used for public parking, though the rate they have suggested may be a bit high. Also, the town would have to decide if they were interested in this lot space.

Darren stated that two companies are very interested in some of the properties in Waterbury. One company is interested in Wasson Hall, and the owner is meeting with a developer to discuss this site soon. The other company is interested in developing a manufacturing site at the flea market grounds, which will bring around 40 jobs to the town. The company is currently trying to get a sewer line to the grounds, and once this issue is sorted out, Darren believes the company will be ready to build. Darren will also be meeting with four additional investors who are interested in the town.

Darren is working on writing an RFP for 51 S. Main St.

Darren spoke about developers interested in Wasson-Stanley: they want to either buy the site and put offices/residences in it or knock it down and rebuild once they talk with their developers. These developers have stated that they may be willing to build and lease out the municipal offices. Barb reiterated that the town of Waterbury gets to make a decision on this property. Darren said Waterbury really needs these investors.

Rebecca stated that Darren's investors need to greatly accelerate their timeline, as the current site list of 14 will be reduced and consulted on by mid-October. In fact, the goal of the Municipal Building Committee (MBC) is to have the consultants' report in by October 11 in order to make a decision by early November to prepare it for the bond vote. By the end of the week, Darren and Barb are going to discuss a date that Darren needs to relay to his developers.

Fauna spoke about Margie Johnson's, a small business consultant, trip to Waterbury on October 16. Margie Johnson will be speaking with small business owners, offering advice and answering any questions they may have to improve their respective businesses. Rebecca suggested that Lucinda Newman meet with Margie when she is in town. Fauna also mentioned that a way-finding process with one of Tripp's people will also be in town that day.

Fauna said that a completed downtown Master Plan is expected in December-January.

Barb asked those in attendance who the weekly LTCR reports should be sent to, as the LTCR meetings begin to phase out. Barb said she will continue to send them out to everyone on the LTCR committee, until members state that they are no longer interested in receiving them.

Rebecca stated that Monica will be attending a workshop put on by the Vermont Preservation Trust in late September.

Margaret mentioned a social media workshop put on by IBM and Google to increase social media's effect/reach. With that, Rebecca also mentioned a September 23<sup>rd</sup> emergency managers and extended partners workshop will be held in order to extend the reach of social media during natural disasters, in order to better utilize emergency funds and resources.

Rebecca stated that Roy Shift has applied for Waterbury to take part in a study funded by the Lake Champlain Basin. If accepted, Waterbury will be a test community to determine how flooding impacts property value.

At 6:34pm, Natalie Howell made a motion to approve the minutes from 8/5/13 as amended. This motion was seconded by Rebecca Ellis and passed unanimously. The next LTCR committee meeting will be on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Oates, AmeriCorps VISTA

Approved on: 10/7/13