

Waterbury Long Term Community Steering Committee

May 6, 2013

Minutes

Present: R. Amore, L. Tingay, M. Callan, B. Farr, M. Luce, M. Rivera, E. Loomis, N. Howell, R. Ellis, M. Monley, S. Lotspeich, D. Winham, B. Shepeluk

The meeting was called to order at 5:37pm by R. Ellis and started with introductions around the table.

Richard Amore and Leanne Tingay presented the group with an overview of the Vermont Downtown Program project. Grant recipients must have sustained actual damage in the downtown area. The designated downtowns must have a designated downtown group (like Revitalizing Waterbury). Warren and Waitsfield are the only two Village Centers in this group; the rest are Designated Downtowns. These include Brattleboro, Wilmington, Waterbury, Brandon, and Barre.

A group of consultants (including Arnett Muldrow and Laz Scangas) has been hired to provide its services to the recipients. On June 6th they'll be in Waterbury conducting reconnaissance-type work. They will be strategic about who they talk to. Because the final product of their work will be the creation of a master plan, they will review Waterbury's prior plans (which will involve Steve Lotspeich). Their work will be based on the Main Street Four Point Approach which is made up Organization, Promotion, Design, and Economic Restructuring. Business owners will be incorporated into their work and Darren Winham will also be involved in initial talks. Their work will be downtown-centric, not community-wide (like the work the Federal Emergency Management Agency has been involved in in Waterbury). The consultants will hold follow-up meetings in August, September, October, and November.

Revitalizing Waterbury (RW) has held the first round of interviews for its Executive Director position. They have a board meeting on Wednesday and the second round of interviews will be the week of the 13th or 20th. They anticipate that the new Executive Director will start in early June. Megan Rivera will be remaining with RW to bring along her institutional knowledge and RW can also expect to use the LTCR Steering Committee group as support.

Regarding the work the Vermont Downtown Program consultants will do, it would also be good to get the Planning Commission involved in in the process. The Development Review Board serves as Design Review Board for downtown purposes. About one-third of our Village is in the floodplain. The consultants will primarily be looking at the Designated Downtown, and looking from a resilience point of view.

Some questions that the Steering Committee raised were, If the floods keep happening and people move out of town, where is the next downtown in Waterbury? Where do we expand to? If we had to move the village, where could we go? Questions like this will not be a part of the plan at this time. They consultants will be focusing on growing our existing downtown and keeping our core development center.

Items 3 and 5 (Darren Winham's update and the update on the Municipal Civic Complex Design Working Group, respectively), were moved to the 6:30 Tri-Board agenda due to time constraints at this meeting.

At 6:24pm, M. Luce made a motion to approve the minutes from 4/15/13. This motion was seconded by N. Howell and passed unanimously.

Barb Farr presented a progress update on the Municipal Civic Complex from April 1, 2013 to May 6, 2013. The Design Working Group has been making progress on the Municipal Civic Complex plans. It is possible to move the bond vote from September to the end of June, with the 20th or the 27th being the potential bond voting date. Early voting and the ballot must be encouraged since they will result in more votes and more positive results.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by M. Callan at 6:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva Loomis, VISTA

Approved on: May 20, 2013

Upcoming meetings:

- LTCR All-Champions meeting: May 20 at 5:30pm, Steele's Block, 2nd floor
- Select Board meeting: May 20 at 6:30pm, Main St. Fire Station, 2nd floor
- Pomegranate Center Steering Committee meeting: May 21 at 7:00pm, 30 Foundry St.