

# TOWN OF HIGHGATE

## Village Core Master Plan Mtg.

### October 29, 2019 @ 6:00

Present were: Steve LaFar; Woody Rouse, Clarence Miller, Sue Cota, David Roddy, Richard Noel, Greta Brunswick, Mary Laroche, Evangeline Larocque, Richard Flint, Amy Bouchard, Michelle Beaulieu and Heidi Britch-Valenta.

**CALL TO ORDER-** Steve called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

MINUTES- Woody made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from October 1, 2019. Richard Noel seconded the motion. APPROVED.

BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM- Greta provided an update on the status of the assessment funding. She explained that we had scheduled a site visit with Lisa Ryan of Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) for that day but Lisa had to reschedule at the last minute to November 5 at 11:30am. Lisa had offered to do a site visit because they have a grant for \$500 requiring a \$500 match to perform the assessment on the building. PTV has several programs and they may be able to help our project in more than one way. Steve made a motion to approve the \$500 match for the assessment. Mary seconded the motion. APPROVED.

Greta noted that there will be two separate components to an assessment of the historical building. One to speak to the historical value of the property as required for Brownfield Funding and the other is to provide estimates to replace or repair the property. This will be valuable information for future decisions on the property.

DAVID DESORCIE, DESORCIE'S MARKET- the Committee had invited David to the meeting to understand his vision for the future for his business and if he had interest in relocating his business to the property. David shared that he had hoped to purchase the property prior to the Town purchasing it.

He expressed reservation to getting involved in the project at this point and felt that the Town should not have been involved in the redevelopment of the property. The potential tax credits for any repairs and the tax stabilization policy were discussed as possible benefits for improvements for the store.

LIBRARY UPGRADE DISCUSSION- Michelle Beaulieu, Highgate Librarian, presented photos on libraries that were similar in scope to what the library would need. She explained that the previous study called for greater space than was needed for the Highgate Library. They are working with Fairfield to get the total expenses for their Library because it has all of the components that they would desire in a new space and was 4,100 sq feet which seems like a reasonable size for our needs. They will present information to voters at Town Meeting Day and will be requesting another allocation toward their capital campaign for the new Library space.

Michelle also mentioned that they were working with Heidi on a Community Memory Grant to fund further historically focused gatherings similar to the historical panel at the Community Celebration. This will help the Library's capital campaign by calling attention to the library.

FACT SHEET- a final draft of the VCMP fact sheet was circulated for final edits. David Roddy motioned to accept as written. Evangeline Larocque seconded that motion. APPROVED. Copies will be printed for distribution.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION BUDGET RECAP- Heid reported that the final bill for the video preparation was \$250 which was less than expected so we had more funds in the celebration account than previously thought. And we sold a Tshirt and received a \$10 donation.

We also can sell videos of the community celebration historical panels. Channel 16 will make them for us for \$15. They asked us to take orders and then let them know how many they needed. The group agreed to sell the videos for \$18 each

ANR PLANNING ADVANCE - Otter Creek is working on the scope of work and budget for the project. We hope to have them at the next meeting to go over the details.

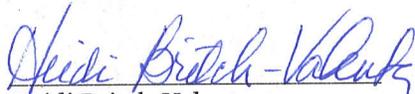
OTHER BUSINESS

MEETINGS-Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 3 rd at 6:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Richard made a motion to adjourn at 7:30pm, seconded by Woody. APPROVED.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

  
Heidi Britch-Valenta

  
Date