

**BUILD. | Centerline Architects | The Housing Initiative &
Highgate Village Master Planning Steering Committee**

**Business Forum 6/12/18, Highgate Elementary
School Library:**

Minutes:

Attending:

Town: Heidi B-V, Sharon Bousquet, Steve Lafar, Woody Rouse, Richard Noel, Clarence Miller, David Roddy

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Members of the Public: (21)

Claude Chevalier, Barbara Chevalier, Guy Choiniere, Cathy Chugkowski, David Danyow, Beverly Danyow, David Desorcie, Luc Dupuis, Tom Fiske, Rebecca Howrigan, Mike Lambert, Ray Laroche, Suzette Laroche, Owen McCuin, Corey McCuin, Henry Rainville, Chris Shepard, Lyne Vincent, Ronald Vincent, Sheryl Wilkins, Richard Wilkens

6:05 open

Business Discussion 6/12

- Introductions, BUILD, and Purpose of VCMF
- Group discussions and reporting out to group:
 - Discuss your vision for village core and what this would mean for Highgate's identity.
 - What would it mean for / change for businesses in Highgate?
 - What opportunities does this site offer for business identity, appeal, success?
 - What have you admired in other communities that you wish were part of Highgate's core?
 - What are business needs you are aware of?
 - What concerns do you have about the development of this site?
 - Are there types of customers who you would like to draw to Highgate?
 - What makes businesses successful in Highgate?
 - How might this site make them more successful?
 - What do you think is reasonable to spend to create a clean site?

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- Written responses to this parting question:
 - What ideas did you hear tonight that you really want the Steering Committee to consider?

Written responses included: [notes are in this format: Idea expressed (number of mentions by members of the public) - example: "Increase tourism (3)"]

- General guidance on process:
 - Don't rush into a decision (2)
- Broad statements about goals / outcomes:
 - Increase Tourism (3)
- Practical concerns and "how to":
 - Align zoning to desires of community (4)
 - Traffic flow & parking (3)
 - Consider water/sewer realities(3)
- Town Finances:
 - Sell the property (7)
 - Increase tax base (4)
 - Not demanding of town funds (2)
 - Sell to neighboring businesses (2)
 - Sell with specific parameters about use (1)
 - Add housing, then sell (1)
- Aesthetics (how it will look):
 - Building style (2)
 - Building size of existing footprint (1)
 - Landscaping (1)
 - Fit into current character of town (1)
- Public Space:
 - Library and Community Center (combined) (3)
 - General (1)
 - Leave the land open (1)
- Specific ideas about commercial end use:
 - Country store w. coffee & deli (2)
 - Snack bar or pub (2)
 - Restaurant or diner (2)
 - Type/size that can survive in this town (2)
 - Private housing (2)
 - General (2)
 - Affordable for locals AND attractive to tourists (1)
 - Not competing with existing businesses (1)
 - B&B (1)
 - Private elderly housing (1)
 - Post office (1)

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