

TOWN OF HIGHGATE
Village Core Master Plan Committee
January 11, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Village Core Master Plan Committee Members: Woody Rouse, Chair, Rebecca Manning, Vice Chair, Lura Jacques, Secretary, Alice (Sue) Cota, Dan Swainbank, Chris Shepard, Clarence Miller, Adah DeRosier and Heidi Britch-Valenta, Town Administrator

Absent: Mary Laroche, Virginia Holiman

Public/Other: Luc Dupuis, Evangeline LaRocque, Hugo Martinez, ANR, Emily Hackett, State of Vermont Environmental Engineer, Robert Clark, Otter Creek Engineering, Gregg Gossens, Bob Neeld and Diantha Korzun, gbA Architecture & Planning

Woody Rouse, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

WASTEWATER UPDATE

Robert Clark from Otter Creek Engineering discussed with the committee other potential options for a wastewater system since all previous communications with the current landowner have stopped. Robert reviewed the other alternatives identified and suggested each landowner be contacted to see if they would be interested in selling.

Robert also mentioned a pre-treatment system that could be considered which would allow for more water to be consumed if a smaller parcel of land was available. He did indicate the cost was more expensive and that the committee should reach out to other landowners first before considering that option. If a landowner was interested in pursuing, Robert suggested having test pits done sooner than later before the frost limits the accessibility. Some land parcels were identified, and various members will reach out to individuals as they see fit.

MASTER PLAN PHASE II

Bob Neeld, structural engineer from gbA, presented his structural assessment of the Stinehour Hotel. He identified numerous pros and cons of restoration. There was much discussion by the committee members regarding the Stinehour Hotel and it was determined that the first priority is to make a decision on whether the property should be rehabbed. Consequently, gbA will present a cost analysis to the VCMPC at the March meeting.

Emily Hackett from the State of Vermont discussed the various application deadlines along with the ARPA Grant allocation options.

LIBRARY & COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

Diantha Korzun from gbA indicated she had attended the Library committee meeting and reviewed with the trustees the overall ideas of the library concept. She indicated that she will be attending the February Library meeting to discuss previous visions for the library and confirm those visions are still accurate before moving forward with a design.

OTHER BUSINESS

The draft Village Core Master Plan (VCMP) Update for the town report was reviewed with some additional changes being noted. Heidi Britch-Valenta will get those changes made and submit for publication.


APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from December 14 were discussed. Dan Swainbank made a motion to accept the minutes, Rebecca Manning seconded the motion. APPROVED

NEXT MEETING DATE ~~February 15, 2023~~ Feb. 8, 2023

Woody Rouse adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:



Lura Jacques, Board Secretary

2-8-2023

Date

Minutes approved by:



Woody Rouse, VCMP Chair

2-8-23

Date