

TOWN OF HIGHGATE
Village Core Master Plan Committee
May 10, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Village Core Master Plan Committee Members: Woody Rouse, Chair, Chris Shepard, Virginia Holiman, Clarence Miller, Adah DeRosier, Mary Laroche, and Heidi Britch-Valenta, Town Administrator

Absent: Rebecca Manning, Vice Chair, Lura Jacques, Secretary, Alice (Sue) Cota, Dan Swainbank

Public/Other: Sharon Bousquet, Selectboard Chair, Evangeline LaRocque, Brian Rainville, Richard Flint, Selectboard Member, Gregg Gossens and Diantha Korzun, gbA Architecture & Planning and Dominic Cloud, St. Albans City Manager

Woody Rouse, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Chris Shepard made a motion to leave the present board members as is and elect accordingly. Woody Rouse, Chair, Rebecca Manning, Vice Chair and Lura Jacques, Secretary. Virginia Holiman seconded the motion. APPROVED

DOMINIC CLOUD, ST. ALBANS CITY MANAGER

Dominic Cloud shared some catalyst strategies for Economic Development and the successes of St. Albans City. He highly suggested the Local Option tax which raises \$750,000 for St. Albans City and \$1million for St. Albans annually. Highgate is smaller, but as the commercial sector grows, it could become a sizeable amount. Heidi Britch-Valenta will bring this to the Planning Commission to see if we could get some funding to have a consultant evaluate the potential benefit.

MASTER PLAN PHASE II

Diantha Korzun and Greg Gossens from gbA presented updated designs for the Village Core Master Plan. These designs will be presented at the May 17 community meeting. People will have the opportunity to rank the attributes of the 5 different concept plans.

WASTEWATER UPDATE

Heidi Britch-Valenta reported that the town has executed a Purchase & Sale Agreement for the land purchase. Sharon Bousquet discussed the details with the committee. July 20, 2023 at 6:00pm will be the floor vote. The total cost \$300,000 will be covered by a \$200,000 grant along with \$100,000 of ARPA funds. In addition, construction funding is in place. There will be NO tax burden for taxpayers!

LIBRARY & COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

Adah DeRosier gave an update and indicated that Christine Graham, who will work with the trustees on a capital campaign, has not been able to attend a meeting to date. The Library Trustees are looking over information that she has sent along for review and

hope to have her attend the June meeting in person. They are considering a combined donation/pledge campaign. The Trustees recently visited the Charlotte Library. It was a great visit, similar size to what Highgate desires to construct. They learned lots of different attributes that could be considered. It was a very informative visit as the library staff shared what worked for them and what didn't work for them.

OTHER BUSINESS

Brian Rainville attended the meeting. Brian visited the Steinhour building and gave his thoughts regarding the history of the building and the attributes of what can be saved/shared for the future. He discussed pros and cons of the project and shared some historical information. He did recognize that the ell of the building was would be a significant renovation challenge and that a restoration effort should focus on the primary building and not the entire structure.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Clarence Miller made a motion to accept the minutes dated April 12, 2023. Mary Laroche seconded the motion. APPROVED

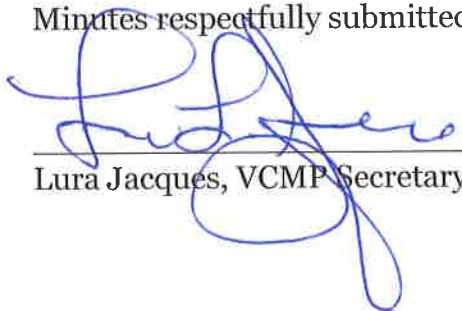
NEXT MEETING DATE June 14th

David Burke, White and Burke Consultants, will be presenting. In addition, the committee needs to do some additional work regarding the information needed which was approved through the smaller planning grant, water supply, soil analysis and RFP, marketing Steinhour.

ADJOURN

Clarence Miller made a motion to adjourn. Virginia Holiman seconded the motion. APPROVED

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

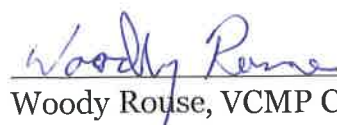


Lura Jacques, VCMP Secretary

6/23/2023

Date

Minutes approved by:



Woody Rouse, VCMP Chair

6-14-23

Date