

Livable Communities Committee
December 11, 2014, 7:00 pm

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 12/16/14
TIME: 12:15pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Present: Bonnie Wilkes, Karen Baker, Gerry Eckhardt (7:20), Sandra Gesek (7:20), Betty Musto, Suzanne Reilly and Ex officio member First Selectman Kurt Miller.

Absent: Lucy McConologue

Called to order at 7:03pm

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment: there was no public comment.

First Selectman Kurt Miller was asked to attend the meeting to give the Commission feedback on what our next course of action was as a committee. Kurt stated that Dee Caruso was unable to attend the meeting, he did however, share some info from Dee. He suggested that the Committee submit a formal letter of correspondence, rather than notes, as to our findings, recommendations and questions. He then will share the information with the other First Selectmen and will respond and perhaps be included on a "to do list." Kurt also asked that beginning the first of the year that we submit our recommendations once per quarter; the first would be due in early April (a template will be provided). Kurt highlighted the following items; some items have already been addressed with our earlier recommendations:

- The Curb cuts upgrades, fixing trees, sidewalks - cost \$200,000.
- The Town will receive a \$375,000 Main Street Development grant and some of our suggestions will be addressed with this grant, projected work completion, Summer of 2015 (stamped concrete, part of the plan to be repaired not most ADA friendly, useable, but bumpy).
- It was noted that some of the areas that we had listed on our report are on State Highway, i.e. under the bridge and River road curb cuts in those areas are the state's responsibility and requires a traffic study.
- Kurt also shared the Fish By Pass plans will be completed in four Phases and the plan to make downtown more accessible. River St. Recommendations will be addressed when final plan for walkway and fish ladder are made.
- The Downtown committee has also been working on the curb appeal not so much the accessibility issues.
- We can make more formal requests to the First Selectmen; funding mechanisms are in place.
- Transportation – Mark Pandolfi is a good contact for Valley Transit and they would like to expand their services to Seymour residents. Perhaps Patrick Charnel at Griffin Hospital ought to be approached to see if the hospital could assist in any way with transportation barriers for 'patients' receiving treatments at the hospital.
- Kurt announced the position of The Director of Community Services has been posted and the Director will oversee all activities of the Seymour Community

Center including Recreation and Elderly Services. It is expected that the position be filled by the middle of January.

- It was suggested that we revisit the walking tour and identify areas that have been rectified and those that are still of concern and reissue the updated report to Kurt.
- The Livable Community recommendations and information will fit in to the 10 year Strategic Plan, the overall goal is to increase Communication to the other Boards and First Selectmen. We are welcome to work with Rory, he can be supportive.
- Re: expanding Transportation services, there are 2 retired police cars that we can possibly use; we could use the bus for voting, parades, caroling, traveling library, etc. These services would possibly benefit those living nearby in Seymour Housing facilities.
- We concurred that we should run a transportation program through TEAM, Inc. Volunteer Caregivers program since they already have a plan in place and start small – experiment with transportation for elderly and disabled. Our report to Kurt should say that we want to initially go with TEAM. Inc.
- Kurt asked that we share our budget needs prior to when budget is finalized (49 days)
- Other news, the Seymour/Oxford Food Bank will be moving to the Community Center.
- Kurt thanked the commission for the work and suggested that we continue to focus on one area at a time and not take on too much at once.

Motion to approve 11-13-14 minutes with one correction – Suzanne's arrival time was not 7:15 but was closer to 8:15 pm on 11/13/14 by Betty, 2nd by Sandra (uncertain who made this motion). The motion was unanimously approved.

Old Business. None.

Next agenda

- Revisit the walking tour to note what has been accomplished and include this in our formal report
- Finalize the formal recommendations in a letter to the First Selectman. (Drafts will be shared electronically prior to the meeting.)
- Suzanne will invite Mark Pandolfi from the Valley Transit District to attend the meeting.
- Obtain the template from Rory for the report to the due to Selectmen once a quarter (1st Tuesday in April) of our progress, plans and recommendations. Get clarification if attendance at the First Selectmen meeting is warranted.

Motion to adjourn by Karen, 2nd by Gerry. Approved by all.

Adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sandra Gesek (with assistance by Suzanne Reilly for earlier part of the meeting).