

East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee (VRC)
Meeting
Wednesday, January 24, 2018
Minutes

DRAFT

Committee Members Present: Bill Gerrish (Chairman), Melanie Kolek (Secretary), J.T. Smith (for Will Brady), Bob Casner (arrived 7:42 p.m.), Mark Walters (for Mike Gionta), Randy Dill, Jim Curtin

Others in Attendance: Emmett Lyman, Ed Blaschik, Irene Haines, Rob Smith

Absent: Mike Gionta, Will Brady

Mr. Gerrish called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Approval of agenda MOTION CARRIED
Walters/Curtain

Approval of minutes from July 26, 2017 meeting MOTION CARRIED
Walters/Smith

Approval of minutes from October 25, 2017 meeting MOTION CARRIED
Walters/Smith, Dill & Curtin abstained

New Business

Rob Smith presented his village concept plan, explaining that it eliminates traffic issues, improves flow of traffic over bridge, and provides better access points for turning into property for parking. Mr. Smith recommends moving all utilities underground if this concept or some version thereof is put into place.

There was discussion about the life expectancy of the bridge, cost of repairs, and likelihood of whether the bridge would exist in 25 years.

Mr. Casner questioned increase or decrease of parking for certain bordering properties. He believes this concept will increase the value of the East Haddam Riverhouse as well as accounting for the possibility that the bridge will not be present in 25-30 years. P&Z has already discussed this concept plan and how outlying land would be positively affected by its design.

Mr. Curtin asked how much land would be used for this project or the cost. Since that figure is presently unknown, Mr. Walter suggested having input by the Lower River Valley Counsel of Government (RiverCOG) who would help with a plan and obtaining federal funds if this project is put on their priority list.

Mr. Gerrish believes the concept design addresses parking, safety, and sight lines/turns, which were items the committee discussed years ago.

Motion to refer Smith concept plan to Board of Selectman with intent to have COG analysis and input.

MOTION CARRIED

Casner/Curtain

Mr. Lyman discussed new business prospects for East Haddam existing river properties including a brewery. Mr. Casner recommended discussing the town office area space with the Goodspeed, Mr. Gerrish, Mr. Lyman, and himself.

Old Business

- a. Environmental Assessment Update (town garage)

No movement. Mr. Lyman has been asking for months for this to be done. Phase 1 and 2 are done, waiting on ground to be tested. Bids not requested yet.

Audience of Citizens

Irene Haines stated that 1) brewery concept is great, 2) if the brewery purchased Brownell building they would pay taxes versus leasing the town space, 3) the Smith concept provides ample road frontage and more business development, and 4) brewery has better access and parking at the Brownell property. Mrs. Haines expressed that the Smith concept should be looked at now.

Adjournment

MOTION CARRIED

Curtain/Casner at 9:02 p.m.

Next meeting February 28th at 7:30 at the Grange Hall. P&Z members will be invited to attend at the next meeting.