

North Yarmouth Economic Development and Sustainability Committee (EDSC)

July , 2015, 6:30pm Town Office Meeting Room

Attendees: A. Lones (Chair), M. Ahlberg, S. Lee, A. Horstman, A. Graham, K. Murphy, M. Girard, C. Ellison (Secretary)

Absent: S. Morrison, S. Hopkins, P. Gilligan

Guests: Steve Palmer

1. Minutes from June 10th meeting were reviewed and approved.
2. Mark updated us on the Village Center Project. In order to gain as much information as possible the board decided to go through all the steps to get a permit without actually applying for one. 8 test wells will be drilled on the site to determine the properties of the water table. This will affect the capacity of the septic that can go on the site legally. We will also know the future capacity possibility of septic around the property to expand in the future if necessary.

The Wescustogo hall 'project' is developing, and a recommendation has been made by the Wescustogo committee to rebuild the hall with construction starting no later than 2017. Insurance proceeds will go to new construction or the Village Center project if it is decided that this project will serve the function of the hall but no timeframe is in place for this decision. The recommendation states that it will be sized and designed to visually associate and function very similarly to the original hall. The new hall building will be on the same campus as the town facilities, wherever they may be.

There will be a workshop on July 15th to talk about how the Village Center Development referendum question will be worded. There will be a workshop on July 28th to discuss possible items that the board will take on in the future.

We discussed possibilities of how to include the community in the Village Center project, such as possibly holding a charrette or workshop. We need to decide if it would be helpful to run something outside of the board, as an event under our committee, to help people understand the intent and see the possibilities. There are still questions that many people will ask beyond the visuals, such as: when a new sewer district is created what happens? We voted if we, as a committee, should support the 2A proposal for Village Redevelopment. Passed 6-0

Matt is going to research some projects on adaptive re-use which will show some before-and-after situations to assist the public in visualizing the possibilities. He will also draw some sketches that will show what the NYMS property could look like as a municipal campus and community activity area.

3. Action Item Updates:

- a. Susanne updated us on the video project, she presented her creative brief for the video, which includes everything that the production company might include in the video. The timeline is looking very quick and will likely start shooting in a month or so.
 - b. Patrick went to the Business Association Meeting last month to get to know more what they do and what they hope to do in the future. There does appear to be overlap in some of our projects that we should be working on with them.
 - c. Katie looked at other towns similar to ours that have done economic development projects but had trouble finding towns our size that had done anything. Bridgeton (population 5,200) has recently done a new sewer project, renovating the town hall, is working on becoming part of a major bike route, creating a walkable town center, and coordinating their town committees. She will be speaking further with the Economic Development person, Ann Kreig, in Bridgeton.
4. As the vote for the Village Development project approaches we should do something to spread knowledge about the project. Fun Day is an already organized event that is a good opportunity to meet face to face with the community. Matt will aim to have some nice drawings to present at a booth. We should have other information and materials to help communicate the vision of the Village Center project.
5. The next meeting is August 12th in the Town Office.