



Town Center Committee

Meeting Minutes

Slade Building

May 26th, 2016

7:00 PM

Attendees: Dan Galante, Alicia Muck, Bill Hansen, Bill Homans, Brett Duncan, Ann Gushue, Nir Cohen, Brion Keagle, Phil Churchill. Two members from Westminster Downtown Committee, Stephen Wallace and Mike Fortin, were present to explain their process for downtown Westminster.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:27 PM. Motion to approve minutes from 4/21/16 without discussion made by Bill Holman and seconded by Bill Hansen. Motion approved.
2. Ann volunteered to take the meeting minutes. As per previous meetings, this is a rolling responsibility and will be performed by different Committee members each meeting.
3. Stephen began by asking if we knew whether the town wanted this process at all. Dan said no but that the survey gave us an idea and made them aware of the process. Stephen asked if we'd established what the process would fix. Dan responded yes – traffic and there was discussion on the point. Stephen's suggestions were. a) update master plan. b) send out questions such as "Would you like to see the sidewalks fixed?" and to send them out in conjunction with the town census. c) Hold many Public Informational Meetings (PIM) – for this purpose, make database of residences and businesses affected/attached to Main St renovation and to invite them to all PIM Mike stressed importance of PIM at each stage of the process. He told us that they brought in a consultant to help with the bylaws aka Master Plan which added a neutral party to the discussion. Mike and Stephen discussed their approach by talking to residents about the problems Main St. faces and to get as much support as possible as the process occurs. Also to respect opponents and talk to everyone. Mike discussed that it would take 10-15 years for anything concrete to be done but having the bylaws done gives them a standard and guidelines that the residents helped create and then approved to order to push results. Bill Holman asked how Westminster was paying for this. A discussion was had about whether or not Hubbardston was eligible for financial funds for the road improvements. Dan said he would look into it. There was more discussion on PIM methods used such as breaking

into groups for discussion and a walk down Main St. to see where improvements are needed. At 8:12 Stephen Wallace and Mike Fortin left. It was agreed that the students should be present at first PIM before pen is put to paper.

4. Dan suggests that at Town Meeting Warrant item is brought up that committee members should feel free to speak in support especially if there are questions by the residents. Bill Holman motioned to make a space at the school to give out information and handouts as residents arrive for the Town Meeting. Alicia seconds. Motion passes. Brian asks if we need to reserve a spot in the hall. Dan will inquire and find out what time Joyce Green sets up for checkin.
5. Memorial Day. Nir showed us one of the six hats he made for the parade which were great. We will meet at the Recreational Field at 1:30pm. Parade starts at 2:00pm. Volunteers were requested for the parade. Alicia, Bill Hansen, Nir and Ann for the parade and dissemination of info.
6. Motion to adjourn made by Bill Homan, seconded by Bill Hansen. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM