

Amherst Village Strategic Plan – Steering and Outreach Committee Meeting

DRAFT - MINUTES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Community Room – SAU 39 – Brick School

Attendees: Amily Moore, Bruce Berry, Camille Pattison, Chris Buchanan, Chris Janson, Colleen Mailloux, Elizabeth Larson, Ken Miller, Mark Reams, Mike Akillian, Steve Yurish, Tracy Hutchins, Al Patnaude, Will Ludt, Craig Fraley

Upcoming Meetings: March 11, 2015 at 6:30 – 8:30 pm; (2nd Wednesday of the month)
Community Room – SAU 39 – Brick School

Topic	Notes
<p>Outreach Committee Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report by committee members on their recent outreach events; <i>Miller Residence</i> <i>Heritage Commission</i> Are there any future events? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting notes from: Tracy Hutchins, Ken Miller, Mike Akillian – Miller Residence Meeting: Good mix of long time and newer residents. The general thought is if it's not broken don't fix it. People like the Village and do not want to see major changes or new businesses. Traffic is a significant concern from Mont Vernon and Jones Road. Additional events in the Village would be a good thing and it would be nice to be able to walk to events from Jones Road. People did not want additional gathering places. There have been issues at the Wilkins School Soccer Field parking lot during the tournaments. Jones Road is now in the Historic District and people felt that the HDC is more collaborative, and that the HDC was instrumental in saving Amherst Village. Speed is an issue on Jones Road Meeting notes from Will Ludt who met with the Heritage Commission: People are proud of the Village. Traffic and noise are the most important issues facing the Village. Don't want to destroy the Village with more businesses. Suggestions included develop a noise ordinance and ban through trucks. The Village has a more transient group in town now and more young people and families. Should consider limiting road striping and signs. Safety concerns at Courthouse and Middle Streets at Amherst Street and Mt.Vernon Road taking a left onto Boston Post Road, and Jones Road and New Boston Road. Additional people heading into the village will increase parking problems. The vision is to stay the same and enhance a few activities. Meeting notes from Colleen Mailloux who met with the Conservation Commission: There were concerns with traffic and speeds in the Village. The Conservation Commission has a parcel across from the Wilkins School that they would like to be able to utilize. They are also thought that the tree trimming in the Village may be a bit aggressive. Suggested a planting plan to replace old trees. Additional bike and pedestrian access to town lands would be nice.

<p>Outreach Committee Report <i>(continued)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of future outreach events. Another Public Forum / School Board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future events: Mike has a house meeting planned on Horace Greeley Rd. in the next few weeks. The consensus was not to hold another public outreach forum. Chris Buchanan will reach out to the families he knows that were planning to attend the previously cancelled forum. Should add a statement to the website saying if you have additional comments please contact a specific person. The School Board meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, February 17.
<p>BMA Architectural Group <i>Colleen Mailloux</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of work and Graphic of the Village 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BMA Architectural Group - Rolf Biggers The committee reviewed a schematic for the Village developed by the architects as a way to visualize how some minor allowances for mixed use and businesses could be incorporated into Village with minimal impacts.
<p>Project Schedule – <i>Mike</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the schedule for the remaining tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final report/results will be presented to the BOS at the June 8th, 2015 meeting. A Public Forum will be scheduled for early May to review proposed initiatives. Working groups could share their findings with each other at a Saturday morning work session in April.
<p>Outreach Findings and Categories – <i>Camille Pattison, NRPC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review draft outreach findings. 	<p>Camille distributed the updated findings. There are no substantial changes since the last meeting as most comments have been consistent with the findings to date.</p>

<p>Organize Working Groups – <i>Mike</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish working groups and charter, members, work tasks and project criteria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Traffic and Safety:</u> (Chair – Mark Reams; Highway Safety Committee; Al Patnaude; Tori Burke; Chris Buchanan; Will Ludt; and Chris Janson) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic models to manage shared use Traffic volume (speeds, noise, volume) Walking (sidewalks), Biking Signage (reduce traditional signage?) <u>Historic Character:</u> (Chair – Jaime Ramsay; another HDC representative; Colleen Mailloux; and Amily Moore) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen relationships among HDC and residents Consider creating guidelines for residents to follow when considering upgrades to their homes. Educational effort to convey role and authority of HDC Educational effort on how to be a good steward Outreach, education and non-regulatory incentives for good historic preservation <u>Recreation, Events and Attractions:</u> (Chair – Craig Fraley; Steve Yurish; Marie Grella; Liz Larson; Ken Miller; and Conservation Commission representative) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Envision a system of events, venues, parks and paths that provide residents of all ages easier, multiple modes of access to the Village and surrounding attractions. <u>Community Development:</u> (Chair – Colleen Mailloux; Gordon Leedy; Tracy Hutchins; Amily Moore; Steve Yurish; and Will Ludt) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore whether, and if so, how to invite additional businesses and enhance or support existing businesses. <u>Lighting/Utilities:</u> (Co-Chairs – Bruce Berry & Chris Buchanan; Liz Larson; Sean Gaffney; HDC representative) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess suitability and status of current operational lighting. Explore trial of architectural lighting to showcase the Village at night. Explore the cost and implications of burying utilities underground.
<p>Working Group Framework – <i>Mike Akillian</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working groups will need to meet more frequently than monthly in order to have their work ready for public presentation in May. Mike shared with the group a draft framework for working groups to use when identifying issues and developing recommendations. Need to consider all information that has been obtained via the survey and outreach events and act in the best interest of the Town, not just personal preferences. Another issue people outside of the village do not want to spend money in the village. Groups need to be prepared to provide a progress summary at the next monthly Committee meeting on March 18th .

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Follow Up Items

All Committee Members:

- 1. Begin meeting with the working groups.
- 2. Working Group Chairs will contact the members of their group and set up meeting times. Please keep Mike and Camille notified of meeting dates and times.
- 3. Working Groups need to be prepared to share of summary of their efforts to date at the next meeting.

Camille Pattison, NRPC:

- 1. Camille needs to send out e-mails with the contact information for each working group.

