

Minutes of November 3, 2014 Meeting of the Toy Town Partnership

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In attendance: Linda Daigle, John Deline, Joe LaDeau, Jane LaPointe, Jay Lillie, Elaine Mroz, and Dave Romanowski. Also in attendance were Tracy Murphy and Gerry White of the Planning and Development Office.

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm.

The minutes of the October meeting were read and accepted, with the date of listed of the Ingleside Open House corrected to be September 27.

Distribution Process for Minutes Minutes will be distributed via email in the future. Linda will provide approved WEC minutes, and Elaine will send draft minutes of the previous meeting, along with the agenda of the upcoming meeting.

Resignation – Lee Cloutier has submitted his resignation. Elaine hopes he'll be able to rejoin the group once his other issues are behind him.

Converse Gardens No progress to report. Peter felt there was no point in applying for grant money, but Gerry White felt our chance of success is now much better since the Town finally owns access to the property. Corey Wilson is willing to donate grading services. Gerry intends to get Mabardy to donate gravel. He and Peter will work together to determine what materials or services we'd request in a grant, and whether to apply to Robinson-Broadhurst, the Worcester Community Foundation, or both.

Winchendon Enhancement Committee/Ingleside The news surrounding the Town's finances has discouraged the committee from their original plan to seek funding at fall Town Meeting. The committee is considering a non-binding vote of support instead. The next step is still to proceed with developing the Master Plan. It is not clear how willing the Winchendon School is to wait longer for the Town to find funding. Committee Members and the Town Manager intend to meet with the headmaster and other representatives of the school to discuss possibilities and interests. The \$450K purchase price could conceivably be covered by a number of different grants which would provide reimbursement for 60-70% of the cost, given Winchendon's needs profile. However, the town does not have the required updated Open Space Plan. There is a \$16K expense to develop such a plan. At this point, there is only \$12K available, so there is a \$4K shortfall. Linda asked about reviving the defunct Winchendon Community Enrichment Foundation. Elaine questioned whether this was possible. Linda will research what is required, and if it is possible. If this seems feasible Elaine will fill out the required forms. This could potentially make the project eligible for other funding. Gerry also felt that the Redevelopment Authority may be able to play a role, since they can apply for grants and use funding mechanisms not otherwise available.

Bike Trail Once again, the state has delayed the bidding process for Phase 5, the section between Glenallen St. and North Ashburnham Rd. Gerry reports that neither the Town nor the project manager was aware of this delay until Gerry inquired. The new date is November 27, but Gerry expects that will be put off. The new delay is because the state wanted our engineer Tighe and Bond to be available to answer questions from bidders. The state will provide the money for that, but they have not yet signed the contract. The parcels in the final Gardner section are now being appraised, and hazardous waste studies are also being done. Cindy reports through Elaine that there will be meetings in January with the mayor, City Council, and neighbors to discuss the best way to proceed.

Kiosk Everything is in order. The slots are available and open to the public.

Master Plan/Other Planning - Tracy reported that the first public envisioning forum on the Master Plan will take place on January 14 in the new Murdock High School from 5:30-7:30. Some of the committee will be meeting in advance at MRPC for a planning workshop. The UMass students will present their findings regarding Central Street Revitalization at the Selectman's meeting on December 8. John Deline mentioned his hope that money can be put in the Transportation Improvement Plan to cover a complete makeover of the Central Street streetscape sometime over the next few years.

Next meeting will be Monday December 1, at 4pm in the Town Hall Auditorium.

The meeting adjourned at 4:54pm.