

**Minutes from Downtown 2020 Committee Meeting June 19, 2012
Room # 309 at 8:30 AM**

In Attendance: Lou Gagliano (chair), Gerry Kagan, Valerie Smith-Malin and Craig Rebecca Schaivone

Absent: Robert Jacobs, Jeff Mayer, and Dan Kail

Summary of Minutes

1. Minutes from the meeting of June 14 were approved without any change,
2. Chair updated Committee on documents to form a not for profit for the purpose of raising funds to support the work of the Committee. The Committee moved that the Chair should proceed with the completion and the filing of those documents.
3. Chair informed the Committee of the denial of the Grant request by the Historic District Commission to establish a Village District. Carol Leahy Director of the Historic District Commission (HDC) stated that alternative grant sources were being sought.
4. Discussion began concerning a proposal received from Pat Pinnell a planning consultant who had made a presentation to the Committee. Mr. Pinnell's proposal was previously received and had been distributed to the Committee, copies were provided to members of the public who were in attendance. It was agreed that at this time the Committee through the Chair inform Mr. Pinnell that we are still in process in terms of our search. It was also suggested that his skill sets might also to the HDC effort to establish a Village District.
5. Chair noted that Hiram Peck who presented previously was in process of providing a proposal, which at the time of the meeting was not received. Members of the Committee and members of the public commented on their very positive impressions of Mr. Peck's presentation and skills.

6. Discussions began to define the breadth of the project and issues that we wanted any consulting group or individual that we would retain to respond. One of the most important identified was that of traffic and related safety issues. Members of the Committee commented, as did members of the public in attendance that we had to make sure we clearly defined the traffic and related problems. This definitional process needs to include:

- a. The current or baseline problem,
- b. The impact to the baseline problem brought about by those projects defined and in the planning and implementation stage.
- c. The further impacts on a and b for those other projects that might become identified by our planning efforts.

It is only when a, b and c are taken into account that we can truly provide effective planning for the traffic and related issues.

7. It was agreed that the Committee should draft a proposal outline for further discussions with planning consultants that include the traffic and other improvements and enhancements to the downtown area. Some of those broad concepts and issues that were mentioned were:

- a. Define development opportunities for housing, retail, etc. targeted to the changes that would be consistent with our Charge and leverage them and tie them together with the projects already in the planning approval process,
- b. Help define what seems to be missing from our downtown area based upon a consensus building process within our community.

In building this public consensus the positive aspects of development need to be identified and explained to community members.

8. As in past meetings it was agreed that our search process should include not just individual planners but planning firms. Chair read a list of such firms provided by Gerry Kagan to promote our search.

9. Representative Steinberg noted that Ryan Lynch a member of a tri-state transportation coalition may be visiting our town and he would inform the Chair of the timing of this visit.

10. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM