



City Center Initiative Committee
Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 5:15 p.m.
The Visitor Center, 14 North Street

MINUTES
Approved 5/19/2015

Present: Marty Davis (left at 6:45), Tom Rock, David Putnam, James Feleen, Catherine Lacasce, William Carpenter, David Messier, Roselyn Caplan (arrived at 6:00), Angela Biggs, Melissa Richmond, Timothy Frisch

Motion: Bill Carpenter, seconded by Tom Rock

To approve the agenda as presented. Unanimous.

Motion: Bill Carpenter, seconded by Angela Biggs

To approve the minutes as presented. Approved; Tom Rock abstained.

New Business

Neighborhoods

Ann Duncan Cooley, Executive Director of the Upper Valley Housing Coalition, gave an update on the neighborhood stabilization program. Southwestern, COVER and Habitat for Humanity are all working together for greater impact and Habitat has some volunteers ready. A neighborhood assets map has been done to identify what resources are already close to the neighborhood.

Marty Davis stated that the asset map identifies businesses and building uses and is color coded to give a sense of the types of uses in the vicinity of the Walnut Street neighborhood.

Ann stated that Habitat has been successful in acquiring a full time VISTA volunteer who will be here in Claremont to provide continuity on the project.

Jim Feleen suggested that deliverables for the committee could include a vote on the approach of the project by recognizing the power of neighborhoods, and Catherine Lacasce felt it was important to recognize self-empowering citizens.

Energy

David Putnam reviewed a summary of the energy presentations and recommendations that the committee had made previously. Nancy Merrill asked for the committee to review so that there was a final motion on energy recommendations.

David Putnam would like to add a bullet that focuses on an assessment of the communities energy needs.

Jim Feleen would like a motion that puts into context how the recommendations emerged as an analysis by the CCIC and strongly recommend to the Planning Board and City Council the addition of an energy chapter in the Master Plan and the formation of a new energy committee.

David Messier would also like to emphasize the energy chapter and energy committee, with responsibilities to include the bulleted list.

Angela Biggs suggested that there should be a length to the energy chapter of the Master Plan so that it is precise, unlike some she has viewed.

The committee asked Nancy Merrill to put together a motion for the May meeting.

Business

1. Signs

The committee was given a copy of Laconia's new illumination and electronic message center sign regulations to review and comment on, as well as a proposed chart to include in the new sign ordinance.

David Messier asked to have the regulations address small open signs that are illuminated and move in the Mixed Use (MU) district. He would also like to see regulations for hanging signs in the MU regarding maximum size and content.

Angela would like to define white light in the illumination section.

Bill Carpenter suggested that downward illumination should be included. He also asked that the ordinance address flags in the ground that appear permanent, not temporary.

Jim Feleen would like the ordinance to address temporary signs, balloons and similar types of signs.

The committee discussed signs that are stuck in the ground if they are off premises that promote a business. There was discussion for the need of a sign at the corner of North Street at Washington that would inform people that there is a shopping, restaurant district in the City Center.

2. Banners

Nancy Merrill asked the committee for input on banners in the City Center.

David Messier suggested that they stay the current size as Main Street group used the longer ones and they were being hit by vehicles going by. Bill Carpenter felt that with the smaller size it was important for them to be bright. David Messier suggested a series that focused on Shop, Dine, Visit, Enjoy.

Committee Member Topic Lists

Jim Feleen submitted a group of nine items to be included in discussions and recommendations. They were reviewed by the committee and will be incorporated in recommendations for further discussion. David Putnam also asked that safety for the community be considered in their recommendations. Particularly security cameras and lighting in areas where there is suspected criminal activity.

Resignation

Motion: To acknowledge acceptance of resignation from Kelly LeBlanc.

Made by: Ms. Caplan Second: Mr. Carpenter Vote: Rock – abstain; all others in favor

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Made by: Mr. Carpenter Second: Mr. Rock Vote: Unanimous in favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Merrill