



**TOWN OF CHELMSFORD
VINAL SQUARE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN
COMMITTEE**

Approved 9/16/19

MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2019

7:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Joe Tierney, Bill Vines, Janet Murphy, Bill Gilet, Mike Walsh, Laura Lee

Others Present: Evan Belansky, Community Development Director
Steve Callaghan, Dept. of Public Works
Deb Taverna, Historical Commission

Chairman Tierney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Updates

Varney Park. Mr. Tierney announced that funding will be available for Varney Park for tennis and pickle ball courts.

Mr. Callaghan, Parks and Playground Supervisor, showed the configuration for the proposed tennis and pickle ball courts. This is part of the 2014 Master Plan. The project will require measuring and filling of the property. He said if the parking area were to be paved, there would be fewer spots. The neighbors do not want a large parking lot. The street itself needs repair but Mr. Callaghan said this would be a DPW decision. Mary Hoyt of 5 Varney Avenue said she feels the parking is very close to her property and is encroaching even closer.

The playground needs replacement as discussed at previous meetings. A committee to initiate some fund raising for this would be very helpful. Mr. Callaghan is hoping for a lot of neighbor input as to what type of playground is wanted, so that this is what gets built. We are continuing to work with Colin Spence of the Police and residents should call him with their safety concerns. Mr. Callaghan said he would like residents to contact him directly with questions, etc., and distributed his business card. He will return to a future meeting when a layout is finalized for the courts.

Wayfinding & Signage. The wayfinding program next step is for Mr. Favermann to attend the next Selectmen meeting to present the committee's choices for sign designs, and obtain their

approval to proceed with the concept. Upon approval, this will require a Town Meeting warrant article requesting funding.

New Master Plan Committee. Two residents have been appointed: Scott Rummel and Joe Ready. Mr. Tierney will try to attend these meetings.

Route 40 Update. The study committee has completed its work and is ready to present it to the Planning Board in June. Preliminary findings were to leave the left side of Groton Road as it is now, and rezone the right to IA, allowing housing and some commercial. This comprises about 20 acres. The Planning Board will review the report, and make its recommendations to Fall Town Meeting.

Small Business Grants. The OM Studio in the Mill received a grant to expand its yoga operation there. The Town would like to extend the program, hoping to be able to award \$100,000 to local businesses.

Façade Program. Mr. Belansky is working with the Historical Commission to learn the community's desires for this program. Ms. Taverna said she is looking forward to hearing from the businesses and offering guidance from the Commission. It was noted that if using Community Preservation funds, projects must be historic-driven, that is such as historic restoration with a focus on restoring historical integrity. Modern elements cannot be used to replace historic elements. We will consider inviting the Historical Commission to the June meeting.

Asphalt Plant. There is no new information. Mr. McCall continues to watch the situation.

Princeton Court. Neighbors were updated on the revised plans for the property.

Tobin Avenue. The Selectmen will be signing an easement for access to the parcel.

Vinal Square Survey. This has not yet been awarded, per Mr. Belansky.

Liaison to Board of Selectmen. Virginia Timmons will be our new liaison.

Next meeting scheduled for June 10.

There being no further business, Mr. Gilet moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vines. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Murphy