



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

Approved 12/10/2020

MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 2020

7:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Joe Tierney, William Gilet, Jr., Janet Murphy, Kenny Pantuso, Bill Vines, Laura Lee

Others Present: Lisa Marrone, Director of Economic Development
Virginia Timmins, Board of Selectmen
Laurie Jones, Village Consignment, Groton Road
Kristin Foti, Resident

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

Mr. Tierney thanked members for submitting their list of priorities for the North Village.

The committee is thinking about having a spring event, perhaps along the lines of the Holiday Stroll, which was held in the Center Village in December, where village businesses were open to welcome customers, and the event would receive advance publicity. Our goal would be to showcase the varied businesses that are located in the North Village, and perhaps promote the area as a consignment/antique center, now that Village Consignment has officially opened and has become popular. Perhaps a pop-up event at the Hardware Store could be organized. Another idea was a scavenger hunt in which businesses would participate in hiding something for the children to find, to be scheduled during the April school vacation week. Details and ideas for such neighborhood ideas were discussed. Ms. Marrone suggested that sponsorship of these types of events might be available from an institution such as the Lowell Five. She is willing to canvas the businesses in person to see what interest there may be for a North Village event, hopefully accompanied by a member of this committee.

Ms. Marrone reported that the prospective new tenants at the North Chelmsford Hardware Store appear to be moving forward in their renovations of the space, having received the specific permits from the Town to do the work. She suggested that this property be referred to as One Dunstable Road going forward.

Mr. Tierney wanted to review the various events that are scheduled to take place in the North Village for the year 2020. They are as follows:

- March 13. Family Irish Night at North Town Hall (NTH).
- April 22. Town Manager Review of Town Meeting Warrant Articles, NTH.
- April (date unknown at this time). North Congregational Church Easter Egg Hunt.
- June/July (Date/time to be announced). Annual party at the American Legion.
- August (Date/time to be announced). Annual outdoor event with family movie.
- October. Annual neighborhood Halloween Parade and Party at NTH. Generally held the Saturday before Halloween.
- December. First Saturday in the month. Annual tree lighting, Santa visit and holiday festivities. North Common.

Ms. Foti of Grant Street asked to address a number of neighborhood concerns which she wanted to bring to the committee's attention. Many of these issues have been identified previously, with the emphasis on non-residents using the beach and creating situations that make residents feel unwelcome. Ms. Foti described in detail some of the activities which she has seen take place, which she characterized as disgusting and highly offensive. She said most neighbors have decided not to use the beach or playground during the months of June, July and August, when this behavior is prevalent. They do not wish to subject themselves or their children to this type of activity. It was suggested that the Police be called when a problem arises, but she stated that the Police would have to maintain a constant presence to adequately address all the problems. Mr. Tierney would like to invite Chief Spinney and Lt. Spence to a meeting to air these concerns once again, and to ask for their assistance as in the past, as well as any new ideas they may have to help provide some neighborhood relief. Mr. Gilet and Mr. Tierney mentioned the neighborhood watchdog group, headed up by Sheila McMenniman and Kerry McNeil who have been working on this for a number of years. Ms. Foti should meet with them before speaking with the Police, to gain an understanding of the history of the neighborhood involvement in this ongoing problem.

The matter of repaving Varney Avenue was brought up. DPW has indicated that Varney Avenue is not currently on the Town repaving list for this year, but they would look into possibly getting it on the list.

Mr. Gilet will send documents to members on the Master Plan.

Ms. Marrone stated that the Vinal Square survey was complete, but is fairly complex and would need interpretation. Mr. Tierney is interested in having Howard Stein Hudson at an upcoming meeting to present the survey.

Draft meeting minutes from November, 2019 were approved by a motion from Mr. Pantuso, seconded by Mr. Vines. Unanimous.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 2 There being no further business, Ms. Murphy moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Lee. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Murphy

