



TOWN OF CHELMSFORD
VINAL SQUARE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN
COMMITTEE

Approved May 6, 2019

MEETING MINUTES

April 4, 2019

7:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Joe Tierney, Bill Vines, Janet Murphy, Kenny Pantuso, Bill Gilet

Others Present: Evan Belansky, Community Development Director

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

Updates

The Small Business Award applications have been reviewed and the winning companies are being notified. A beauty establishment in the North Village was awarded \$3,000.

The owner of North Chelmsford Hardware, Louise Tremblay, and the Town have been discussing options for this property. As a member of this committee, Bill Vines said he will stay in touch with Ms. Tremblay as appropriate, and offer any assistance she may need in moving forward with a decision.

For the wayfinding program, Mr. Belansky distributed additional designs from Mark Favermann for the committee review. The committee had requested highlighting North Town Hall, which these new concepts incorporated. Members offered a few more suggestions regarding the red wheel as well. Hopefully all designs will be approved at the next meeting.

Mr. Belansky reported that the Community Preservation Committee has questioned the historical preservation concept as presented in the proposed North Village Façade Program. It is viewed by some as economic development and as such, is not a proper request to the CPC for funding.

Mr. Jahnle of DPW that bids are out for the North Village Survey recently. The bid should be awarded at the end of April and the survey completed by the end of May. One of the things to be determined in the survey is whether trees can be planted in sidewalks or in planters. Roadway improvements will also be identified.

The Master Plan Committee is being formulated. If anyone from the committee would like to be considered as an at-large member from the community, their application should be submitted as soon as possible. The appointments will be made at an upcoming Selectmen meeting. Mr. Belansky stated that the new Master Plan Committee will reach out to this committee as with the Route 40 Study Committee.

The Varney Park priority is to replace the playground. The estimate for this is \$300,000 according to DPW. The Finance Committee was receptive to rebuilding the tennis court to include a pickle ball court. The neighbors would like formalized parking with defined lines. It is hoped the North Water District would allow some parking on their property or along Grant Street. Mr. Gilet made a motion to support the Varney Park tennis court renovation, including the addition of a pickle ball court, for a warrant article at Spring Town Meeting. Mr. Pantuso seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Gilet met with several Town officials to discuss fund raising for the baseball field. It is hoped that CPC money can be used for site work. Parking and paving are neighborhood proprieties, as well as improving the grassy areas and general clean up.

The Route 40 Study Committee has said it will need several more meetings to draft a report. There will be nothing on the Spring Town Meeting Warrant on this subject.

The developer of the Tobin Avenue project has committed to contributing \$50,000 to North Village for work at Varney Park.

Ledge Road traffic is being monitored on an ongoing basis. The counts have doubled since the asphalt plant began full operations. It was suggested that a telephone pole be moved to allow a left turn out of Ledge Road.

The Board of Selectmen has a new member, Virginia Timmins. We would like to have her as our BOS liaison. Mr. Tierney moved to request Ms. Timmins as BOS Liaison to the Vinal Square Committee, seconded by Mr. Pantuso. Unanimous.

Colin Spence from the Police has reached out to the neighbors as to the Varney Safety Committee on spring and summer initiatives.

Next Meeting Date. The next meeting will be Monday, May 6, 7 p.m. Location to be confirmed.

Mr. Tierney moved to approve the draft meeting minutes of March 4, 2019. Mr. Pantuso seconded. Unanimous.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Murphy

