

**Joint Meeting
Town Working Group
& Village Working Group**

Members Present: Tim Yarrow, Co-Chair; Susan Bartlett, Co-Chair (8:55 a.m.); Dan Young; Jim Fontaine; and Richard Grogan

Members Absent: Ken McPherson

Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator

1. Welcome & Agenda Changes: Tim opened the meeting at 8:28 a.m. No agenda changes.
 2. Review & Approve Minutes: Motion by Jim to approve the June 28, 2017 minutes. Seconded by Dan. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
 3. Open Public Comments: No public comment received.
 4. Discussion:

- Tim reported that the Main Street stormwater / sewer connection issue from prior discussions is a town matter. Regarding the re-presentation of the recent water asset report, Tim recommended that this group decide if Dufresne Group should be asked to attend a future meeting due to the related costs that would need to be paid for Dufresne to visit and share that information.

5. Rob Moore, Lamoille County Regional Commission Staff Planner

- Rob explained that one of his tasks at regional planning is to connect towns to VTrans resources. Bike-Ped funding and Strong Communities/Better Connections Program (SCBC is a joint program operating under both the Agency of Commerce and Agency of Transportation) are good to pursue. Federal Highway funds are primarily for larger projects, such as the TA Program, and require compliance with many grant conditions that drive the project costs and are not worth pursuing for projects under \$250,000. Homeland Security Emergency Management has funds for big ticket items as well, but with the same additional conditions compared to projects using only state funds. (Susan arrived at this point) Once a large project is identified, the grant funds must be used to carry a project from design to construction or grant funds may be asked to be repaid. State funding conditions are a little more relaxed for smaller projects. Regional planners can help navigate the grant programs and raise application competitiveness. Kim suggested inviting Better Connections program representatives to the next working group meeting. Rob felt that the not-approved SCBC grant might have been too specific and not reaching out enough to engage the adjoining municipalities.

- Rob noted that the town-village work group will show outside agencies that the community is working together and would raise the competitiveness over towns without resident involvement in the planning process. Tim asked about how the town and village could show more public interest and Rob said holding public forums is important so there is an opportunity to participate, including web based information sharing. Rob explained that holding a mixer on the proposed expansion of the Green Mountain Byway, with food, is an example to encourage residents to attend. Susan suggested radio interviews with Roland Lajoie is a good avenue.
 - Kim explained that she did not get an award for a recent grant application which would have provided funds to hold public forums on these types of topics.

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- Rob noted that after planning, the next step is engineering and design to develop “construction ready” projects. The funding of this stage is difficult. For Hyde Park, Rob felt that some state agency planning funds are available to help noting that grant matching requirements are being increased for towns. Rob said he is ready to assist move forward and connect the group with funding agencies.
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- Dick noted that infrastructure upgrade plans can have a long-life as “shovel ready” but new rules, especially for stormwater and stormwater treatment, are evolving so shelf-life could be reduced. Jim noted that shovel-ready plans, even if there is a need to update them, are better than no plans. Dick noted that new standards for flood capacity and fish passage do result in redesigns above prior standards.
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- Rob noted that the new Municipal Roads General Permit - MRGP (contact is Jim Ryan) is requiring stabilized outfalls (rock area at culvert outlet), however, some projects could require state stream alteration or state stormwater permits, resulting in additional treatment options above the minimums in the MRGP.
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- Kim stated that the upcoming stormwater master plan work for the village will help plan capital improvement projects; such as past projects for AOP culvert replacement on Rodman Brook and the new Morey Road bioretention system. Kim’s agency works on water quality improvements with US Fish and Wildlife Service (habitat restoration – new culverts) as well as stormwater planning. Projects are done with local schools, colleges, municipalities and private landowners. Kim noted that funding is available for ecosystem restoration, public outreach and hiring engineers to assist the town but with more interest, some grants are now harder to acquire.
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- Kim noted that stormwater master plan (SMP) and green infrastructure planning, in conjunction with Jim Pease from State Stormwater Management Division on Indirect Discharges (IDDE Study) will allow the town to be competitive when pursuing construction grants. The Village stormwater plan work is pending a State grant agreement. The SMP will look at all culverts and erosion areas and plan for long-term grant projects, including block grants for water quality improvements. Kim agreed that “shovel-ready” plans can sit for a while, unless storms change the environment, but she felt the new state rules won’t change for 10 to 15 years. Kim explained that her office (which operates on grants only) is unique and is not under the regional planning commission or State, and has a goal of helping landowners and towns with implementing best management practices to improve water quality.
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- Kim and Rob have agreed to work together on a Spring 2018 Hyde Park public forum on the new road permit (MRGP). Kim noted that town and village residents working together on prioritization is important to continue, then selection of specific projects may be launched from there. Rob noted that a town-wide erosion assessment will be forthcoming soon from LCPC to identify priorities for MRGP compliance then mixed in with water, sewer, roadways and sidewalks priorities. Ron explained that the current engineering for a sink hole repair on Johnson St Extension has led to additional concerns for stormwater treatment and control and that work is in the same area as a planned reconfiguration of West Main Street at Main Street. Jim noted that the multiple layers need to be evaluated together to get a fundable plan that avoids going at things piecemeal. Kim noted that it is important to have the ongoing IDDE work and stormwater planning projects mentioned in grant applications. Rob felt that the holistic approach being taken by this group, and possibly to be supported by a Better Connections grant, is great approach and more pieces are needed.

- 97 • Susan noted the Hyde Park trailhead is being redesigned by Greg Paus and
98 brownfields mitigation planning is on-going. Dan noted that the Community Circle
99 group has offered to fund a bench at the trailhead.

100 6. Next Steps:

- 101 • Dan suggested that all local planning consider the positive impacts of the rail trail.

102 7. Next Meeting: Rob Moore will contact the Better Connections Planning Coordinator, Jackie
103 Cassino and see if she is available to attend a future meeting, possibly Aug 23rd or after Labor
104 Day.

105 8. Adjourn: Motion by Jim to adjourn, seconded by Tim. Meeting Adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

106 Submitted by Ron Rodjenski