

**Joint Meeting
Town Working Group
& Village Working Group**
September 27, 2017, 2017 – 8:15 a.m.
344 VT15 West

Members Present: Tim Yarrow, Co-Chair; Susan Bartlett, Co-Chair; Dan Young; Ken McPherson; and Jim Fontaine
Members Absent: Richard Grogan
Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator

1. Welcome & Agenda Changes: Susan opened the meeting at 8:17 a.m. Tim asked that Paul Trudell & roadside clearing be added to the agenda.
2. Open Public Comments: No public comment received.
3. Review & Approve Minutes: Motion to approve the 08/02/2017 minutes with changes for clarification on first page. Seconded by Jim. Voting: 6 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
4. Roadside Clearing: Tim noted that electric department tree clearing is ongoing which follows this past summer's town highway roadside lily clearing; noting that the Trudells on West Main Street have expressed their strong concern for any right-of-way clearing on their property. The group agreed that there is a need to communicate public rights & public needs to private landowners in a more thoughtful manner, especially when new ditching is likely to occur in response to the new town highway state permit (MRGP) being issued in 2018.
5. Reports, Updates & Comments from Chairs –
 - a. **Johnson St Extension Stormwater Mitigation Grant**; This grant was recently awarded and Susan stated she has nicknamed this the "Sink Hole Project" due to how the project started earlier this year. Susan stated that this project would be large, addressing the sink hole, ravine restoration and the West Main Street erosion control improvements, and including the West Main Street realignment under a prior Village grant (EH05). Community engagement is important as this project is developed. Dan noted that the Sylvan Road should be included in the project to complete the stormwater upgrades in this area of the Village, noting that he is a homeowner on Sylvan Road. Dan stated that the recent stone and culvert work by the State at the base of Sylvan Road & Johnson St Extension should be looked in to as well, even though there is no immediate erosion occurring. Dan stated that the Route 15 culvert discharges into the ravine on the south side of Route 15 and creates a potential risk to Sylvan Road. Susan advised that the area could be added through a grant amendment. Ron will ask for a set of plans that may exist for replacement of the Route 15 culvert. Dan suggested that if the culvert outlet was extended, then that area could be filled and used a welcome sign area.
 - b. **Better Connections Grant Due in January**; Susan noted that some public outreach, possibly using the Oct 23rd planning commission municipal plan hearing date, could be organized this fall, with food provided, to discuss village transportation improvements and village revitalization. Susan reviewed the recent Town of Johnson work on public engagement for community input, where they used photographs and a "could look like this" presentation to seek input. Susan noted that the town library has a public event coming up. Ken noted that this working group can be responsible for finding out what town and village residents want, and for sharing ideas to generate more thoughts and ideas. Brief discussion on how the Trustees and Selectboard can better prepare the community for business development; such as zoning amendments, pre-permitting and infrastructure

49 investments, but there is a need to first asking town and village residents for their
50 suggestions. Ken advised that details of future investments, such as brick sidewalks
51 and beatification, could accelerate gentrification of the Village. Ken stated that
52 following some movement toward revitalization, real estate brokers are likely to be
53 key to advocates to get investors to look at Hyde Park. Susan stated that the short-
54 term need until December is to begin to alert residents that we are looking at
55 revitalization through transportation improvements and bring them into the
56 discussion. Jim stated that Front Porch Forum is a good avenue for reaching out,
57 with resource documents posted on the website. Susan asked about hiring
58 someone to develop poster boards, with photos, to seek public comment on the
59 direction for capital improvements and investments. Tim noted that when he has
60 visited with village residents, one concern was how to cross Route 15 to connect
61 the north and south side of the Village. The group felt that a short-term effort for at
62 least two public meetings this Fall, with someone like Kate Lalley supporting the
63 effort, would be good. Ron advised that some town funding is available. Susan
64 stated that current village residents go to the library, post office, opera house and
65 hopefully not to the courthouse, and more services and village destinations are
66 needed. After the poster boards are developed and used for the possible public
67 outreach meetings, then the library may be willing to set up a permanent display
68 location for the next several years. Susan noted that one important element is to
69 tell residents that we are pursuing a large grant, Better Connections, and
70 developing the goals of that grant this fall. Need to find dates for public events. Ken
71 felt that one way to get information is through informal focus groups at public events,
72 the senior mobile home park, or at the North Hyde Park fire department, etc. and
73 welcome kids and parents. Ken stated that the second way is a structured event to
74 select participants then seek suggestions for specific action items for the town and
75 village to pursue. The grant deadline for Better Connections is Jan 31st.

76 6. Next Steps:

- 77 • Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 8:15 p.m. – Possible LCPC/Kate
78 Lalley presentation with ideas for Better Connections project information boards.

79 7. Adjourn: Motion by Jim to adjourn, seconded by Ken. Meeting Adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

80 Submitted by Ron Rodjenski