

1 **Better Connections**
2 **MEETING MINUTES**
3 **April 12, 2018**

4 *All minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard; please check future minutes for approval of these minutes.*
5 *Meetings may be videotaped; recordings are held by Green Mountain Access Television. GMATV info: PO Box 581,*
6 *Hyde Park, 05655; info@greenmountainaccess.tv or 802-851-1592*

7 **Members Present:** Susan Bartlett; Jim Fontaine; Ken McPherson; Tim Yarrow; Dan Young (by phone); Paul
8 Trudell (9:40 a.m.)

9 **Members Absent:** None

10 **Others Present:** Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Hyde Park Road Foreman Mark French; Teresa
11 Farquharson, Hyde Park Community Circle; Anna Kern, Lamoille County Sheriff's
12 Department, Seth Jensen, LCPC; Diane Reilly, Principal Hyde Park Elementary School
13 (HPES); Jackie Cassino, VT Agency of Transportation (VTrans); Richard Amore,
14 Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD); Amy O'Toole, Lamoille
15 Union High School (LUHS) teacher & village resident; Andres Torrizo, Watershed
16 Consulting; Kateri Bisceglia, Watershed Consulting; GMAVT did not videotape this
17 meeting.

18 Susan opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone with introductions.

- 19 1. **Agenda Review** ~ Ron handed out an agenda packet with a template Request for Proposals (RFP)
20 from the Better Connections website, a grant close out report template which is required at the
21 conclusion of this project, and then briefly discussed the parties involved; the challenges of capturing
22 public comments at this early stage; the need for consultants to develop a communications
23 management method for public comments; and a new element to possibly expand the impact of
24 stormwater management on village revitalization.
- 25 2. **Jackie Cassino** – Jackie provided an overview of the Better Connections program and the need to
26 coordinate with and seek involvement with the community. Staff from VTrans and ACCD will be
27 engaged with the community during the life of the project and will assist in whatever way they can.
- 28 3. **Richard Amore** – Community driven tasks are expected to help meet project goals and to determine
29 public and private investment strategies for economic redevelopment projects. Richard noted that he
30 and Jackie will be hands-on during the work to help move the project forward, including reviewing the
31 RFP and being available to the steering committee members directly or through Ron as the Local
32 Project Manager.
- 33 4. **Seth Jensen** – Seth stated that he's looking forward to working with the town and it is important to get
34 the right consultant team to work with the committee. LCPC will also help with the RFP development
35 and selection process.
- 36 5. **Andres and Kateri** – Watershed Consulting – Andres stated that he is currently working in Hyde Park
37 and Morristown under a separate contract with the Lamoille County Conservation District (LCCD) to
38 complete a stormwater master plan for Main Street in Hyde Park. The scope for Hyde Park included
39 developing three projects and bringing those projects to 30% conceptual design. Project cost
40 estimates will be completed as well as a projection of the amount of mitigation achieved (sediment
41 and phosphorus removal). The Watershed work will focus on Main Street in the Village of Hyde Park
42 with green infrastructure design and plans to integrate 'Green Streets' objectives; ex. dry wells,
43 planters and other structures that add to aesthetics as a part of the proposed transportation
44 improvements. Richard offered that coordination between Watershed Consulting and the selected
45 contractor for the BC work will be important. LCCD grant work plan may need to be extended a bit
46 through a grant amendment to allow the BC consultants to best sync with stormwater improvements.
47 LCPC and VTrans will assist with coordination on the amendment. Susan noted that the Village
48 Trustees are working on a water system upgrade and the planning for the surface improvements need
49 to be done with coordination of the water system work. Susan suggested that subgroups be assigned
50 to focus on specific grant work plan tasks.

- 1 6. **Diane Reilly** – HPES has a Fall environmental program that would be great to bring in the BC /
2 stormwater tasks to her students. Andres noted that their current work ends in October, but possibly
3 that timeline can be extended through LCCD to provide for coordination with the school.
- 4 7. **Hyde Park Trailhead on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail** – Susan noted that the brownfield site will be
5 capped later this Spring and discussions are just starting to incorporate art into the site improvements
6 along the LVRT.
- 7 8. **Stormwater** – Dan Young stated that the town and village could require incorporation of green ways
8 into new land development plans as policy, or permit requirements, to better achieve comprehensive
9 redevelopment goals.
- 10 9. **Lamoille Economic Development Corporation (LEDC)** – John Mandeville stated that a full-blown
11 market analysis is very important due to the number of moving parts and funding sources. It is harder
12 to attract other resources and partners to achieve the community's goals without a well-researched
13 and valid market study. LEDC funded a similar project in Johnson for \$25,000 to develop their
14 industrial park, and if the project gets built, then the \$25,000 would be repaid over time as lots are
15 sold. Ken asked if there are competitive advantages to explore in Hyde Park, such as exploring the
16 objective to transition to a retirement community. John suggested that properties such as the PH
17 Edwards building could be converted to senior housing with New Market Tax Credit Program. Richard
18 stated that it was great to see the possibility of diving deeper into a feasibility study and Jackie noted
19 that having the LEDC involved is great to see. John stated that the work needs to be done well and
20 can't look at things in a partial way. Jackie noted that having a larger market analysis budget has
21 proven to attract high quality consultant teams. John would like someone to attend the next LEDC
22 Board of Directors meeting on the 3rd Friday of April at 8:00 a.m. at the main office of Union Bank in
23 Morristown. Richard stated that it's important that the RFP for the market analysis specify that local
24 data and personal conversations be used rather than basing results on summaries of Census data.
- 25 10. **Draft RFP Discussion** – John suggested working with Lea at LCPC on the draft RFP. Tim stated that
26 he appreciated the assistance being offered to the committee. Ron asked for specific topics to include
27 in the RFP and those present offered the following:
- 28 ○ Consultant must engage the HPES and LUHS student population and propose specific tasks to
29 be pursued with the schools either this summer or during the Fall session.
 - 30 ○ Selecting the method to cross Route 15 is a key outcome
 - 31 ○ Stormwater workshop with HPES students
 - 32 ○ HPES connections to the LVRT trail are happening now and could be improved to LUHS
 - 33 ○ A recent community planning project in another town included an artist contest displayed in the
34 downtown with parents invited to a presentation event
 - 35 ○ Wolcott did a parent survey through the school to hear the needs of parents and Diane Reilly
36 said that could be an option at HPES; adding a Home Day component on the BC grant
 - 37 ○ Diane wants to see economic development pursued and knows someone working on a
38 restaurant in Hyde Park that she will connect with John at LEDC
 - 39 ○ Morning traffic flow on Depot Street is an issue due to traffic back-ups on RT East
 - 40 ○ Stormwater Master Plan and Watershed Consulting should be integrated into BC effort
 - 41 ○ LEDC and Ken McPherson agreed to develop a draft RFP for an expanded Market Study
 - 42 ○ The Village has several springs which generate small brooks that need be considered with the
43 redevelopment plans.
 - 44 ○ Moss Woods should be incorporated as a valuable component to make this a possible
45 community draw as developed park; or preserve as natural area with no improvements
 - 46 ○ Need to look at all prior planning studies that have been completed as a first step
 - 47 ○ Structured community involvement program is important – one method is to create 10 focus
48 panels of a select group of residents (5 or so), each working on one issue and ready to comment
49 as issues arise. The panel members do not need to attend every meeting but can be engaged
50 via email as needed – via survey with expectations for a quick turnaround on their feedback.
 - 51 ○ Ron will collect and park/hold public comment until the consultant team is on board.
 - 52 ○ The Hyde Park Electric bill can be used to distribute information throughout the project and
53 relying on digital requests alone is not sufficient as they will not be reach all residents.

- 1 ○ Rail trail and municipal office connection with LUHS should be an objective
- 2 ○ Managing village traffic versus prohibiting traffic or limiting routes should be evaluated; add
- 3 speed via radar signs, increase enforcement while encouraging travelers to visit Main St.
- 4 ○ Town highway has a concern for bump outs and other roadway improvements, such as the new
- 5 installations on Route 15 in Johnson, that increase maintenance time & costs and could result
- 6 in new capital equipment to effectively maintain the roadway. Ken noted that it was important
- 7 to recognize that new roadway improvements have related maintenance costs that need to be
- 8 addressed in the long-term capital plan and annual maintenance plans.
- 9 ○ Suggestion that some roads into the village might not be necessary. Mark French stated that
- 10 everyone has their own opinion of what is a Gateway into the Village and what are needed
- 11 routes in & out of Main St.
- 12 ○ The Morristown Cady's Fall's bridge is weight restricted and currently helping reduce truck traffic
- 13 in Hyde Park Village. Jackie said she could get an update on the timing of the bridge repair
- 14 project. John stated that the current weight limit will remain until the structure becomes a safety
- 15 issue and it is not on any plan to look at for the next couple of years at least.
- 16 ○ Waze and other apps that are directing cars to Depot Street to avoid the Morrisville bypass.
- 17 ○ Can the direction of the road change, such as one-way to prevent traffic from using Depot St
- 18 as a bypass.
- 19 ○ Consultants should include maintenance costs and replacement costs to repair bump outs and
- 20 long-term replacement.
- 21 ○ The roundabout issue in the morning in Morristown is related to drivers not knowing how to use
- 22 the roundabout.
- 23 ○ The current village entrances do not include signs or roadway distractions to inform drivers they
- 24 are entering a developed area, and some don't slow down until they are at the 3-way stop.
- 25 ○ Improvements to communicate to motorists they need to slow down can be done by signs and
- 26 road design/structures, including narrowing the painted lanes while not physically reducing the
- 27 width of the road surface.
- 28 ○ The state highway system is not communicating the approach of village centers well along the
- 29 state highways and that needs improvements.

30 11. **Public engagement** – The steering committee will keep the community informed via FPF and keep
31 public comments submitted ahead of the consultant team. Richard said to add all documents to the
32 web – and store paper copies of all docs at the Library with Amy. Richard said to use VT Business
33 website for the distribution of the RFP and Jackie and Richard stated they can assist in getting the
34 RFP out.

35 12. **TO DO**

- 36 a) Jackie to send RFP consultant list to the Town
- 37 b) Ron to draft RFP with Tim and Susan to edit before sending a 1st draft to Jackie/Richard
- 38 c) John and Ken to work on updating the market analysis portion of the RFP

39 13. **Meeting Schedule** – Susan explained that the six members appointed by the Selectboard could be
40 expanded. Susan suggested meeting every two weeks or so for an hour or so, then revisit the schedule
41 to best fit the needs of the groups or sub-groups that work on the project with the consultant. **NEXT**
42 **MEETING: Tuesday, May 1st at 8:00 a.m.** to work on the RFP draft.

43 14. **Adjourn** – Susan asked if there were any additional comments, hearing none, the committee
44 adjourned at 10:45 a.m.