

1 **Better Connections**  
2 **Steering Committee**  
3 **MEETING MINUTES**  
4 **July 9, 2018**

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

8  
9 Members Present: Susan Bartlett; Jim Fontaine; Ken McPherson; Paul Trudell  
10 Members Absent: Dan Young; Tim Yarrow  
11 Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Jackie Cassino, VTrans; Richard Amore, ACCD,  
12 Tom O'Toole, Church St Resident; Chris Sargent, Dubois-King, Inc. and Lucy Gibson,  
13 Dubois-King, Inc.; GMAVT did not videotape this meeting.

14 Susan opened the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

- 15 1. **Agenda Review and Introductions** ~ Lucy presented a "Meeting Agenda" packet and the group  
16 members introduced themselves.
- 17 2. **Better Connections Request for Proposals (RFP)** – Lucy asked for local officials and volunteers  
18 objectives. Ken McPherson offered that a resident-driven reality-constrained pro-active objectives  
19 with resident groups working on the various goals, i.e. should the village become a retirement  
20 community, maintain the professional community along Main Street. Ken noted that manure trucks  
21 driving through the village impact village life, so comm Susan offered that the goals and objectives  
22 should be Paul Trudell wanted to see examples of how things could be developed, traffic changes  
23 on a temporary basis, and graphic images to show residents opportunities. Jim wanted to have  
24 the action plan be developed and implemented over the long run. Jackie felt action steps with  
25 implementation projects early on would get the project moving. Richard Amore explained that  
26 helping the private and public investments to spark new development will raise the vitality of the  
27 Village and enhance existing assets. Tom O'Toole wanted safe roads and access to the  
28 transportation hubs not dependent on bus or car, noting currently there are no safe ways to access  
29 the rail trail, high school and other community assets, with consideration for town access. Tom  
30 noted that the work should recognize that mental health is part of the physical safety and wellness  
31 objectives for the project. Lucy agreed that the action plans will reflect these objectives.
- 32 3. **Public Meetings and Invitations** – Who is ready to join in the work and develop focus groups (Task  
33 2.2), site walks and later pop-up demonstrations. Late July to have Economic Development Kick-  
34 off and late august for the Steering Committee to plan Fall events with SC meetings during morning  
35 hours.
- 36 4. **Surveys** – Lucy suggested getting into the field sooner than later to acquire public comments during  
37 high use period for state park and rail trail. Intercept surveys are dependent on timing, for example,  
38 today is the once-a-month day for jury selection and the village looks busy but it is only this one  
39 day. Going to the village locations is a place to capture them – on the rail trail you might ask what  
40 would make you come up to Main Street. Chris Sargent offered that asking people that work here  
41 certain questions would differentiate between people working, living and visiting. We focus on the  
42 users of recreation, employers, the brewery visitors, or the people that don't visit Hyde Park. Mailed  
43 surveys can go to the school, brewery, courthouse, on the rail trail, high school and library. Ken  
44 reported that he ran into users on the rail trail that wanted to get to Main Street but didn't know  
45 where the trail was to get there and didn't know what was on Main Street. At Green River  
46 Reservoir, users could be asked what would make them interested in visiting Main St, where are  
47 you coming from and going to after your visit and will most of them only visit Morrisville. The  
48 outfitters for trail and reservoir users may also have suggestions for Hyde Park – electric bike  
49 rentals and refreshments. Chris suggested one survey presented in several ways. Lucy said a list  
50 of individuals for in-depth interviews is needed. Ken noted that the Rail Trail will not be the only  
51 driver to target, and the focus groups would offer the needs of their group, such as how home

1 business can grow. Ken offered that he could come up with names for server focus groups, to help  
2 develop survey questions – recreation community needs and economic development needs. Chris  
3 offered that the committee should come up with a raffle prize to help increase survey responses.  
4 Crossing Route 15 and accessing the Brewery with pedestrian improvements will be part of this  
5 project's action plan. The information from the school populations at HPES and the high school  
6 will be important to present to VTrans when selecting the RT 15 crossing. Tom suggested that the  
7 supervisory school board should be involved as they are a stakeholder in this process. Susan  
8 agreed to reach out to the school board to request time on their next agenda to introduce the  
9 project. Chris stated that the intercept surveys will help identify needs and challenges from local  
10 community members and visitors to Hyde Park, and be a part of the economic development  
11 opportunities. Ken will try to organize the panels of select residents to meet with the consultants  
12 and then the panel members could decide to continue with input at later times of the process or  
13 not. Tom asked about the other towns that might be doing similar planning efforts, and Jackie  
14 offered to reach out to the regional planning office to see if there are any on-going efforts to  
15 coordinate with this project. VAST and cross-country ski users should be contacted as well. Public  
16 engagement in September to coordinate with Home Day. Jackie wanted to make sure that data  
17 collection on school access, school crossing Route 15, etc. is done to help VTrans understand the  
18 situation. Jackie would appreciate seeing photos of specific areas of concern all local roads.

19 5. **Project Title:** The group discussed the best way to represent the project as town and village effort –  
20 Hyde Park Connections, Connect Hyde Park, Hyde Park Connect, etc. with a byline to explain farther.  
21 Lucy will send out some potential title and byline options for the steering committee to consider.

22 6. **Minutes:** Deferred.

23 7. **Next Meeting:** Economic Development piece with Rachel and John Mandeville – to be determined –  
24 sometime in late July or early August. Ken will work on a list of potential focus group members. Ron  
25 will provide Ken with registered businesses and GL in Excel. The committee talked about focus groups  
26 being formed for:

27 a) Education, HPES, LUHS

28 b) Home & Small Business, Restaurateurs

29 c) Transportation & Public Transit

30 d) Agriculture, Farm stands

31 e) Civic, National Guard, Municipal, 501c3

32 f) Public Safety, Fire, Sheriff Ambulance, Regional Emergency Responder

33 g) Courthouse & Lawyers

34 h) Recreation and Seniors / Sterling View Mobile Home Park

35 8. **Adjourn** – Susan asked if there were any additional comments, hearing none, the committee  
36 adjourned at 11:55 a.m.