

FINAL Notes of the meeting:

Shutesbury Master Plan Working Group. 30 November 2016.

Present: Meryl Mandell, Nan Dill, Maryann Antonellis, Jeff Lacy, Bob Groves, Alan Hanson, Brad Spry, Dave Kittredge, Jeanne Brown

Meeting opened at 7:07 pm

Meryl asks us for suggestions or changes about meeting minutes of the previous meeting (15 November 2016).

Bob Groves mentions he was not present for the entire meeting and Meryl suggests we identify when he left to attend another mtg. He apparently left at 7:17 pm, shortly after the meeting opened.

Allen says his name was misspelled and should be Hanson.

Meryl identifies several suggested changes that are underlined.

Motion to approve minutes of the 15 November meeting. Allen. Second Brad. Minutes accepted with changes unanimously.

Jeff asks: did we discuss Michael DeChiara's email?

7:12 pm- Howard calls in on his vacation.

Meryl finds her hardcopy of Michael DeChiara email and reads some of his comments. The issue of facts vs statements of opinions.

Michelle Cunningham joins us at 7:14 pm.

Meryl asks us what our priorities are. How much time do we want to spend on the last meeting, vs how much time to be spent on next meeting?

Allen is doing a super job on the web site. Thank you Allen.

Bob asks: Who is making sense of data collected at meeting?

Meryl: let's put all materials from the process on the website. Pictures of the boards, summaries. Brad: that would improve transparency.

Nan Dill's concern: questions really zero in on a space planning and usage area, but seeming to miss topics like taxes and expenses in town and didn't see follow up questions on those areas. Would like them to come forward.

Howard: respondents are asking for a "gathering space", but there are diverse opinions of what that might be.

Howard: visual preference survey. Topics that are turned to visual imagery can be used at the next mtg. People can relate to common image.

Alan: issue is taxation in general, AND diminishing resources.

Discussion of the questions to be posed at the next meeting on December 5.

Community gathering space and high cost of living are the two prevalent themes that seem to surface so far.

Environmental quality, too?

We discuss wording of questions.

Meryl: How would you use a community gathering space to enhance your life in Shutesbury?

We need 4 – 6 categories to do the second round of public visioning. What are the categories first?

1. Apparent consensus that community gathering space is a category

Second. Should there be a question/category regarding potential services. But what are services? Trash? Meals on wheels?

Apparent consensus to have a topic on services.

Another category regarding the town's finances.

Discussion of character of the town. Is that a category or question?

A question about tradeoffs and what people are willing to give up?

Jeff: can we talk about opportunities? As part of a vision.

Jeanne: can we apply the SWOT to each of the broader categories?

Jeanne: should we first address the finance side of this question, to thereafter frame the other questions.

Should there be a question about opportunities to expand the proverbial pie?

Meryl's 4:

What opportunities are there for lowering the tax burden and or increase services for residents?

What changes to the physical character to the town do you envision for the future?

What are your priorities for municipal services in town?

How would you use a community gathering space to enhance your life in Shutesbury?

Howard: regarding municipal services. Would removing municipal services e.g., police or fire mean Shutesbury loses its independence?

Nan Dill asks about civil discourse. Is this a category?

Jeff asks about format of December 5 meeting.

Howard wants to present some images related to points that surfaced from the last meeting so everyone is relating to imagery in a common way. 15 minutes of presentations. Sound system will be present. Michelle.

Copies. How many? Meryl says we'll need 200. We ran out of them at the last meeting. Make them a different color.

Howard: instead of what would you give up, how would you envision this is accomplished?

Maryann: we could say: through the previous visioning workshop and online surveys many people indicated concern about taxes.

While people also indicated a desire for more services.

Just ask them to comment on that.

Howard says we can take the 5 questions disseminated tonight and we'll use them at least as topics.

Howard has a clear understanding of the sense of the working group.

Howard will have 4 or 5 people from his firm at the mtg.

Nan Dill: when will we see all the raw comments, instead of this high level summary. Post cards, workshop, online surveys.

"Parking lot" area for topics too broad?

Meryl asks is there anything else people want to know for the meeting?

Committee members will all be able to participate in groups.

We'll be there at 6:15 pm.

It appears the meeting is adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Notes taken by Dave Kittredge.