

Village Core Meeting
July 22, 2008
5:00 pm

Attendees: Chairman John Hettinger, Town Manager Peter Joseph, Paul Kasianchuk, Marilyn Sanderson, Rick Russack, Dennis Ducharme, Rick Kelley, Stan Duda, Joel Bourassa, Ed Brisson, Peter Moore, Susan Chenard

Chairman Hettinger reported that we are at a near-stand still. We have been held up with the Shore Land Protection Act as of July 1st. The Town Manager is trying to get an Urban Exemption from the Loon Bridge to Route 93, and also from Harvard Brook to the Woodstock town line. The Chairman distributed a list of 4th order streams from DES, and the Town Manager distributed information on the exemption of the Comprehensive Shore Land Protection Act. He hopes to have the Urban Exemption request ready for the July 28th Selectmen's meeting. Chairman Hettinger explained that Clark's is interested in the exemption too, as they want to expand their show ring and bear habitat near the river. The Town Manager Joseph explained that there are about 350 units in the 78 acre stretch along the East Branch of the Pemigewasset River, or about 5 units per acre. He wants to get the request in to OEP by August 1st, who then has 30 days to look it over, and then make a recommendation to DES.

Chairman Hettinger said that even if we get an exemption, then each property owner would have to file for a permit. A discussion followed regarding if the owner of the easement could do the application, versus the landowners. He also described a needed shoreline application worksheet, which shows accessory structures, including the number of picnic tables, etc. proposed.

We have also received a response from the Natural Heritage Bureau, who says that we may have a problem with Pickering Bluejoint (a grassy plant) and a high-gradient rocky riverbank system. Melissa Coppola of the NHB will most likely want to do a site visit.

On the DRED property, Jennifer Codispoti is still waiting on the GPS plot on the property map from Steve LaFrance of Horizons Engineering. Mr. LaFrance has been very busy and promises to get that to Chairman Hettinger soon.

The route of the eastern section of the Riverfront Trail, between the Lodge at Lincoln Station and the Rapids property, is still in question. Chairman Hettinger plans to talk to Steve Akers about the monument locations.

Marilyn Sanderson reported that the application for the NHEC grant is almost complete. We need to be sponsored by a non-profit, like the local Rotary, which is how Plymouth did this. Joel Bourassa felt that as he, Mike Sabourin, Brian Baker and others from this committee are on Rotary, there should not be any problems with that.

Town Manager Joseph reported on his and Tara Tower's meeting with Mark Scarano of GCEDC. He is interested in helping us with the tax credit plan, and using the economic

development council as a sponsoring entity. Mr. Scarano also mentioned the North Country Center for the Arts being involved as well. The economic development councils can access both federal and state funds, and Mr. Scarano has many ideas for us.

Chairman Hettinger reminded the group that we also have someone wanting to put in a Faneuil Hall type structure on the edge of park. We do need to make sure the project stays open, and have competitive bids, etc. Mr. Ducharme asked to speak to this person, but Chairman Hettinger said that that person wants to talk to the “town fathers” first. Town Manager Joseph said that person could contact him at any time.

The Town Manager asked about the public approvals process for the park itself. It would need to go before the Planning Board at some point, and probably town meeting as well.

Selectman Peter Moore wanted to know when the Town Manager would have an answer from the state regarding the exemption request. Town Manager Joseph said that it should be between 30-60 days after August 1st. He would send the application to OEP and DES, and then OEP sends a recommendation to DES after 30 days, but no more than 60. Rick Kelley said that if it should be rejected for some reason, we should speak with the director directly. He is a straightforward gentleman that Mr. Kelley, Mr. Ducharme and others have worked with. He is very pro-downtown Lincoln and revitalization, etc usually providing pretty quick answers. Mr. Kelley felt that meeting with them before the submittal would be a good idea. Town Manager Joseph replied that he spoke with Jennifer Czysz at OEP several times already, over the phone. Mr. Ducharme said he would meet with him, and he said he would send a letter to the director as a member of this committee. The Town Manager felt that support from the business community would be helpful. Ed Brisson said he could write a letter too, but he felt that the Chamber and local businesses, not just developers, should write, and Joel Bourassa felt the Chamber could write such a letter.

Town Manager Joseph will get in touch with Mark LaClair of the Chamber and Paul Kasianchuk of InnSeasons to draft the letters. Mr. Bourassa asked if Woodstock should write one too, which the group was in favor of. The Lincoln Board of Selectmen will talk about this next Monday evening (7/28). The strategy would be to send letters individually to DES directly, but we should coordinate what is said. Secretary Chenard can email the draft out to the group. The Town Manager decided that he may meet with the DES director after all, and bring the application down in person, as DES is, of course, swamped with exemption applications.

The next meeting was scheduled for 4 weeks from this one; August 19, 2008.