

Connect Hyde Park Project

8/1/18 Working Group Meeting

Meeting Notes

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Present:

Charlie Aronovici
Ken McPherson
Jim Fontaine
Susan Bartlett
Ron Rodjenski
Paul Trudell
Amy O'toole
Tom O'toole
Jackie Cassino, VTrans
Rachel Selskey, Camoin
Rob Moore, LCPC
Chris Sargent, D&K

Economic Discussion (Camoin)

Rachel provided a brief overview of Camoin's role as the economic development. Ron noted that a proposal for the \$15,000 (which are part of the original project budget) that LEDC will consider contributing to the project, needs to go to LEDC the second week of August. These funds apply toward Camoin's economic components including intercept surveys and business roundtable, etc.

TO DO

Camoin/D&K – Chris and Rachel will coordinate with Ron and John Mandeville to determine what needs to be submitted for the LEDC's \$15,000 grant toward this project. Material will be given to Ron to submit.

- **Roundtable** - Rachel described the roundtable. It should consist of 10 to 15 people and include regional partners like chamber, LEDC, Key business owners (like Lamoille Valley Tours), etc. Ken noted that the town has a list of 143 business in town, plus an additional 80 LLCs, etc. Susan agreed that it was up to the Working Group to pare down the list so that Chris and Rachel can invite them and organize the event.

Rachel indicated that the roundtables should focus on the questions “what brought you to Hyde Park in the first place, what policies/programs will support you, how can we help you expand your business”

TO DO

Camoin - Rachel will follow up with a written description of the Roundtable and what questions should be asked.

Working Group - The WG will pare down their list of potential invitees for the roundtable to 10-15 people and give it to Chris with contact information so a good date for the Roundtable can be identified and organized.

- **Interviews** - Rachel outlined the interview process. The WG discussed potential folks to call:

John Mandeville

Chamber of Commerce

Crossfit Training Center (new business) - Green Mountain Crossfit

Railroad Station Restaurant in Morrisville - Jim & Kim [need exact names]

Real Estate developers

Residents who have been here a long time

Property owners

Lamoille Bike Tours (Jim & Eva) - Have a mobile bike

VAST

Roger Marcoup - Sheriff (local investor)

TO DO

Working Group - It was agreed that the Working Group would direct their ideas for who Rachel should interview to Ron. He will compile it and then send it to Chris and Rachel. Rachel needs this list by mid-August.

- **Intercept Survey** - Rachel indicated that valuable information can be gotten from trail users. The WG agreed that their goal is to attract more users to the trail and provide more things for them to do in Hyde Park. Some survey days should happen in Hyde Park, others may be optimal at trailheads outside of the community.
- **Town/Village Survey** - Rachel felt that there would be value in conducting a small survey that is aimed at people who use the local economy and local services (visitors and/or community members). It could be conducted by volunteers at locations like the courthouse, opera house, library and post office.

TO DO

Camoin – Rachel will draft surveys and a survey methodology for the Working Group to review by the end of August.

Working Group – The working group will be responsible for conducting the survey based on the methodology provided.

The primary question would be “what quality of life improvements would you like, what would you like to be able to do or buy here?” Ken thought that the mailing list from the Darn Tough race might give us access to road riders.

General Discussion

- Charlie said that Smugglers Notch resorts give their guests a touring map. Also noted that Canadians are often in need of food options in Hyde Park.
- Stowe reporter just did an article on the challenge of getting restaurant help during peak season. How does this relate to housing availability, etc. Susan’s looking for year round businesses.
- Brief discussion about gas stations. Rob suggested something in the model of Black Bear Biodiesel. There is a zone on Route 15 in the Village where a gas station might be allowed.
- The Sheriff has indicated that he would donate triangle of land for the town to do something with.

- What about food trucks or something of the like in town? Could be on jury day or something like that. Food trucks are allowed in town. "First Friday's" or like Johnson with Tuesday night live, etc.
- Catholic Church parish house has been available as a possible commercial building. The building is for sale. Could be a unique location for church parish.
- National Guard is also a potential village user. Hyde Park is New Market Tax Credit eligible. PH Edwards building might be a good candidate Susan Ekheart?
- Mountain biking has grown in the area. Hank at Chuck's Bikes in Morrisville would know a lot about it.

Draft Engagement Plan

Dates for Events

- Street Walk & Booth (9/15)
- Intercept surveys (Fall)
- Local survey (fall)
- Roundtable (October/November)
- Interviews (Now)
- **Discussion about Street Walk** – Chris provided a brief intro to the Street Walk idea. This event will take place during Home Days on Saturday, September 15. This is an opportunity to get people to gather and walk around the Village for 45 minutes or an hour to discuss their thoughts on walking and biking safety, where they go most and where they feel there is need for investment in bike/ped safety improvements. During the Home Days event, we will host the walk several times,

TO DO

D&K – Chris will confirm with the Working Group that August 14th @ 1:00 is a good meeting time for Community Workshop. We will meet to discuss the Street Walk in more detail.

which will be advertised. We will prepare some basic questions for participants.

D&K will have a booth set up to interact with the public. This will provide an opportunity to survey visitors. D&K will identify some good interactivity for the booth to get people excited about the project.

- **Focus Groups** - Focus groups are more targeted than the Roundtable, consisting of 5-7 people to collect information around a specific topic. The Working Group decided that there should be three focus groups, including one with Town Residents (what would make them come into the village), one with village residents and another with nearby bike/trail related businesses.

General Discussion

- **Route 15 Crossing** - Jackie mentioned that VTrans only has several records of speed reduction requisitions. Did not find any record of the road segment from

TO DO

D&K – Identify where the preferred crossing will be and possibly request a new traffic/speed study if warranted.

the traffic circle through the high school being studied for traffic. There is the possibility of having a traffic crossing at Johnson St. D&K needs to identify where preferred crossing will be and possibly request a new study. It was acknowledged that the roundabout is the best location from a purely technical standpoint.

- **Education** – There was some discussion about integrating educational issues into the project. Chris indicated that was moving away from the scope, but did acknowledge that perceptions of the quality of the local school system can connect to economic and housing concerns.