

Ferrisburgh Town Center Committee Feb. 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Present: Bonnie Barnes, chair, Rick Kerschner, Paul Hoffman, Annie Cohn

Bonnie called the meeting to order at 6:35. Rick suggested three changes to the minutes of the Jan 16 meeting.

(1) His name in the list of attendees was misspelled It should be Kerschner.

(2) add to the end of the second paragraph: “Rick volunteered to draft a short survey to review at the next FTCC meeting.”

(3) change last sentence of 4th paragraph to “We discussed the possibility of the Town installing flashing LED speed feedback signs on Rt 7 to slow traffic to the posted 40 MPH speed limit through the village center.

The minutes were approved as changed.

Brown Church Survey

A draft of Brown Church Repurposing Survey was discussed. Rick proposed adding a response date of April 1st at the bottom of the form. Bonnie agreed to present it to the Selectboard at tomorrow evening’s meeting for approval to distribute hard copies of the survey at Town Meeting on March 4. Rick will send a copy of the final survey to the Town clerk to distribute to the Selectboard at Tuesday’s meeting. Annie Cohn volunteered to contact Courtney Kanetsky who designed the Trails Committee’s Survey Monkey survey and ask her if she could design and post the FTCC survey. Annie will then post the link on Ferrisburgh Front Page Forum each Monday for four weeks. This is how they drove traffic to the Trails Committee’s survey and they got a good response from town residents.

A motion to request permission from the Selectboard to distribute the survey at the March 4 Town Meeting as well as via Survey Monkey was approved unanimously.

Progress on Clearing Out Brown Church

Paul commented on progress clearing out the Brown Church. They are clearing it of dishes and other useful items and donating them to Sweet Charity. He will ask the Selectboard for permission to work in the church until the end of February to clear it out. Paul will send a summary of actions to clear the Brown church to the Town Clerk to present to the select Board. Paul is also gathering church historical papers to send to the United Methodist Church archives. He reported that the heat is still set at 55°F and operating.

Rick updated the committee on the Building Committee’s activities in the Church. The various inspections have taken place and the Building Committee is receiving reports. There is much work required to bring the building up to code for even minimal occupancy. The plumber discovered that there was a frozen pipe in the wall of the large bathroom. The main water was turned off so that the building would not be flooded when the broken pipe thaws. The plumber will blow out the pipes and prepare the toilets so that no water will freeze when the heat is turned off for the rest of the winter. Paul reported that the large bathroom floor was flooded but he did not know the source of the water. Apparently, the frozen pipe thawed as a result of the recent warm weather and water remaining in the pipes drained out through the split in the pipe.

Let's Grow Kids

Bonnie will be checking in with “Lets Grow Kids” to get more information and discuss the possibility and actions required to eventually use the brown church as a child care center.

“Let’s Grow Kids” is a 501(c)3 nonprofit registered with the State of Vermont.

Let’s Grow Kids is a statewide movement to make Vermont the best place to raise a family and our mission is to ensure affordable access to high-quality child care for all Vermont families by 2025. Let’s Grow Kids works with business, education and health care leaders, elected officials and local communities to build a high-quality child care system and a network of over thirty thousand supporters includes dedicated volunteers who advocate for increased public investment in child care to make it affordable for Vermont families.

Founded in 2000 by philanthropists Rick Davis and Carl Ferenbach (then called the Permanent Fund for Vermont’s Children), Let’s Grow Kids is a supporting organization of the Vermont Community Foundation. Visit letsgrowkids.org to learn more.

Village Center Designation

Bonnie reported that she, Jean Richardson and Steven True met virtually with Richard Amore, agency of commerce and community development, concerning obtaining village center designation. He encouraged the town to apply, and felt that an application, which could be submitted as early as March 6, would be favorably received. Village Center Designation would open the door to numerous grant opportunities and also allow the Town to designate areas of growth in or near the village center.

https://outside.vermont.gov/agency/ACCD/ACCD_Web_Docs/CD/CPR/State-Designation-Programs/2022_VCD_App_Guidelines.pdf

A motion to recommend applying for Village Center Designation to the Selectboard passed unanimously.

Pedestrian Safety Scoping Study Proposal

The DuBois & King Inc. proposal for the Pedestrian Safety Scoping Study Proposal sponsored by a \$25,000 grant from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission was reviewed and discussed. This study is required to advance any action on installing a crosswalk at the RT 7/ Little Chicago Road/Middlebrook Road intersection. DuBois & King Inc. was the only firm to bid on this project. Their proposal was well detailed and within the grant budget. The FTCC believes this firm is well qualified to complete this study as proposed.

A motion to recommend to the Selectboard that they award this project to DuBois & King Inc. passed unanimously.

The meeting was closed at 7:25

The next meeting of the FTCC will be on Monday, March 20, at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the Town Hall’s ground floor meeting room and will be conducted in person and on line via Zoom.

