

Ferrisburgh Town Center Committee
Minutes, September 14th, 2022
Draft

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

Members present: Bonnie Barnes, Christine Gingras, Paul Hoffman, Guy Miller

Members absent: Richard Kerschner, Keith Wagner

Other participants at various points in the meeting: Connie Houston (dog park), Gail Blaisus (dog park), Jeanne Comouche (trails), Anne Cohn (trails), Courtney Kanetzky (trails)

1. We reviewed and approved the minutes for August 10th, 2022
2. Connie presented a vision for a one-acre dog park on the property behind the Town Hall. Initial social media surveys support the idea. She is looking to see if the community and Selectmen will also support the idea. Initial estimate is \$32,000 for fence, to be paid for by sponsors and donors. The idea for a dog park is geographically and philosophically connected with the Trail Committee because of the shared space they want to use. TCC member Guy Miller was assigned to follow-up with this project and report back at next month's meeting.
3. Courtney, Jeanne, and Anne made a presentation for their vision of having safe, clearly marked trails throughout Ferrisburgh. Perhaps these trails would connect to Charlotte trails? The Trails Committee is doing their own research and development for the Select Board but the idea of having trails, and a dog park, overlap with the TCC so we will make every effort to stay in touch with each other in the future. TCC member Guy Miller was assigned to follow up with the Trails Committee and report back next month.
4. Paul Hoffman reviewed the idea of having the Town of Ferrisburgh purchase the United Methodist building and property. He reminded us that there are time constraints on this proposed purchase. The idea is going to go before the Select Board at some point in 2022. The idea right now is to

turn the church into a Senior Center. TCC member Paul Hoffman was assigned to follow up with this project and report back next month.

5. There was random discussion about a bunch of ideas for the use the church (should the Town purchase it), the use of Town Center land, and other needs of Ferrisburgh. We also talked about how all these ideas, plus infrastructure, traffic, safety, and the revitalization of the Union Meeting Hall are all connected. There's much work to be done, but a good amount of enthusiasm for projects to get completed.
6. Bonnie assigned projects to various TCC members as already noted. Here is a complete list:
 - a. Methodist Church sale & use for Senior Center – Paul Hoffman and Bonnie Barnes
 - b. Route 7/Little Chicago Rd/Middlebrook Road intersection – Bonnie Barnes
 - c. Dog Park – Guy Miller
 - d. Trails – Guy Miller
 - e. Town Center Infrastructure, water, septic – Christine & Bonnie
7. Bonnie asked about changing the meeting time of our committee and we agreed to survey the group via email to figure it out. Next meeting date is therefore TBA. (Edit – the meetings are now the third Monday of the month with the next meeting on October 17th, 6:30 PM)
8. We might have two new committee members: Jeanne Comouche and Anne Cohn.

The meeting concluded at 8:00 PM