

## Ferrisburgh Town Center Committee March 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Bonnie Barnes, chair, Christine Gingras, Rick Kershner, Anne Cohn.

Additional participants: Jean Richardson

Bonnie called the meeting to order at 6:35. Minutes of the last meeting were discussed and approved.

Ferrisburgh Center “Brown” church. Members of the committee will meet with Didi Harris of Let’s Grow Kids on March 23 at the former church, to get feedback and advice on the feasibility of establishing a childcare center at this location. The Building Committee has received good reports from the environmental inspections of the building: almost no lead paint, a modest amount of asbestos in some tiles, mold that can be remediated. In summary, no red flags that would limit the repurposing of the building. Jean Richardson will be placing radon detectors in the building this week, which will remain in place for several weeks.

Anne and Rick reported on the robust survey results, upwards of 450 responses, from Front Porch Forum and Town Meeting. Generally, those who responded favorably to repurposing the building strongly favored a childcare center, with senior center a solid second. Other noteworthy responses included opposition to spending tax dollars, and support for multiple uses for the building. Rick will report on the survey results to the Selectboard and on Front Porch Forum when the survey period concludes. The survey results will be posted on the town website. The survey also generated more than 40 names and contact information of residents interested in the Brown church project. Rick and Bonnie will follow up on this.

Bonnie reported that the town had accepted a bid from DuBois and King, Inc. for the contract to do the scoping study for the pedestrian safety/sidewalk for the Route 7/Little Chicago intersection. This will use grant money awarded by Addison County Regional Planning Commission.

Jean Richardson reported that the septic feasibility study for the town center area was moving along, slowly. She expects that we will see progress on this once the weather warms up.

The application for village center designation was timely submitted to the state in early March, and a decision should issue in early April.

The next meeting of the committee will be April 17, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Barnes