

FERRISBURGH TOWN CENTER COMMITTEE
MINUTES, AUGUST 10, 2022
APPROVED 9/14/2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

Members present: Christine Gingras, Paul Hoffman, Richard Kerschner, Bonnie Barnes.

Members absent: Keith Wagner, Guy Miller.

Other participants: Clark Hinsdale, Jean Richardson.

Review of Committee's charge. Selectboard member Clark Hinsdale reviewed the tasks and issues before the FTC. The current town plan promotes the adaptive use and reuse of buildings that form the core of the town. The Ferrisburgh Center United Methodist Church is currently vacant. A proposal by the union school district a few years ago to close the Ferrisburgh Central School, voted down, is a reminder of the ongoing need to foresee and adapt to the changing needs of the town. Current and future needs for services such as water and sewer are key to the committee's work. The goal of this committee is to acquire insights, identify opportunities and develop recommendations to present to the Selectboard and/or the voters.

Hinsdale identified potential needs: a senior center, senior housing, commercial, local services, and endorsed producing a citizen survey. He also noted the small size of the committee and encouraged members to come up with additional potential members. He mentioned that a parcel of town land is under contract, and that there may be funds available for community initiatives connected to town revitalization projects. ARPA funds may also be available.

Route 7 safety measures. Planning Commission and Town Buildings Maintenance Committee member Jean Richardson reviewed the history of a "Safe Routes to School" planning effort that culminated in a report and recommendation to the Selectboard in 2012. Several of the recommendations from that report have been revived recently in connection with the recent rehab of the Union Meeting Hall. The program is still active, and a school connection would be necessary to pursue this avenue of funding and planning support. VTrans has been approached for improvements to the Route 7 intersection that would enhance safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Addison County Regional Planning members have suggested a transportation planning study, but given the short deadline for grant proposals and the considerable planning effort already undertaken, Bonnie Barnes agreed to respond to ACRPC transportation committee member Mike Winslow with these concerns.

Overview of FTC District land usage. Bonnie Barnes handed out a summary chart of Town Center District parcels by usage and acreage, and discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

Priorities and timeline. Deferred to next meeting.

Next steps. Paul Hoffman reminded the committee that a decision on the Ferrisburgh Center United Methodist Church would be needed soon, and this will be on the next agenda.

Meeting adjourned 8 p.m.

The next meeting will be September 14 at 6:30.