

Ferrisburgh Town Center Committee Jan. 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Present: Bonnie Barnes, chair, Christine Gingras, Rick Kerschner, and Paul Hoffman

Bonnie called the meeting to order at 6:35. Minutes of the last meeting were discussed but not approved. Guy Miller has resigned from the committee.

Paul Hoffman gave a report on current church news. The Town Building Committee has \$10,000 to spend on various inspections of the building. The church must be brought up to code before it can be used, and different uses or potential uses will have different requirements. Committee members acknowledged that there are several good suggestions, from elderly services, to after school services to professional offices to shared workspace. The committee discussed developing a questionnaire asking about ideas for the church building to be distributed at Town Meeting. Rick volunteered to draft a short survey to review at the next FTCC meeting.

Bonnie discussed several grant options re: Ferrisburgh. Bonnie said that a \$2 million Transit Oriented Development (TOD) grant was being awarded to the state, which would be doled out to 12-15 municipalities in \$100,000 grants. Bonnie, with help from Jean Richardson, will submit a letter of interest by Friday, Jan. 20. The letter will propose three sub-planning areas—North Ferrisburgh, Ferrisburgh Center, and Ferrisburgh near Vergennes—where these grants could be used to plan for or enhance compact and walkable communities. If Ferrisburgh gets included in this large grant, it could lead to changes in our land use regulations and potentially in the Town Plan.

Concerning the \$25,000 grant the town was awarded for a planning study for sidewalks at Rt. 7 and Middlebrook road. We sent out an RFP (request for proposals) to study the intersection but received no response. So, we talked about revising the RFP to see if we could generate interest. Perhaps our project is too small. If this doesn't work, we ask V-Trans what to do now. 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.

We discussed what we, as a committee, should be doing now. We acknowledged that now we are a clearing house for the church, sidewalks, Union Meeting Hall, paths, and trails, etc.

Bonnie will write a report from our committee for the Town Report.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm

Respectfully submitted, Paul Hoffman, acting secretary for ONE NITE