

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
Thursday, October 27th, 2022 at 7:00 PM
Minutes

Meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Christine Robidoux, Jessica Hipp, Vivian Wills, Dana Nowell, Keith Charlton (and Bill Torphy via remote call in).

Four members of the public were in attendance.

1. Review Minutes

a. September 15, 2022

Dana Motioned to approve, Jess seconded, roll call unanimous approval vote.

2. Committee Membership: Lilliane Lebel requested information for becoming part of the CAC committee. Christine informed Lilliane of the procedure to send a formal letter to the Select Board for consideration/approval.

3. ARPA Projects Update

- a. A/V Equipment: Keith: - The Charette proved the effectiveness of the Audio Video equipment purchased by the town and installed by EastWest, one comment that came in is to remind a presenter that the zoom audience cannot see when a laser pointer is used.
- b. Zoom configuration options: Keith:- In light of the comment above, an email was sent to the Charette group to notify them of the issue, for which they were thankful and plan to take this into account on future Charette's that utilize zoom for streaming an event. Ken Caisse suggested to request an appropriate combination remote mouse/laser pointer to be approved for purchase by the Select Board to help alleviate this issue in the future.

4. Broadband Update: Jess: - There is progress! New poles are being added on the north side of town, holes are dug, now waiting for notification of completion of work by both Eversource and Consolidated Communications/Fidium.

5. Harvest Festival Debrief:- Dana, Bill, Keith: General questions from people about the spending money on the items in the Charette, also questions about what is happening on the day of the Charette, people were a little unclear on how the public events would work. Unfortunately no new volunteers for any committees. The maps on display were very helpful.

6. Plan NH Charrette Debrief and Next Steps: -

Lilliane, Vivian & Jess, discussed how the word Charrette was a hang up.

Some residents came in with an agenda which was expected.

Jess mentioned there was a pretty cold reaction and misinformation following the Charrette concerning the building of new homes on the Skladany land.

Ken Caisse mentioned that the word "stakeholder" was miss-interpreted and suggest we rephrase when sending any updates in the future.

Lilliane mentioned there were some people disappointed that some items were skimmed over at the presentation on Saturday, like the highway garage, and there was more focus on parking and the housing. Some people thought there was a "hidden agenda" because of the perceived concentration on housing by the Charrette group, particularly because

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of the sketches that were presented for each of the parcels of land and the “big house little house, back house, barn” sketch. Christine shared that the Charrette team was aware of the lack of consensus on the highway move, and that it was a “hot button” issue, and determined it was not appropriate for them to take a position. As far as the other requests for recommendations, they delivered options, which is what we asked for in our Charrette application.

The next phase should be initially talking with the select board and the planning board as well as the other boards and committees in town to get feedback and support any ideas that the community would like to move forward, possibly sending out a brief reminder to residents that the Charrette team is only making suggestions and a full report is forth coming in a few months that will lead to further discussions.

Lilliane suggested a survey after the main presentation is released to the town. Discussion of hosting three forums for each main topic. Ken Caisse suggested the first forum to discuss all areas, but general opinion was to have each forum focus on a particular topic to avoid having one area dominate and not have time to discuss the other recommendations. Some people felt the Charrette was “rushed”, so we want to be sure there is adequate time for public comments on each topic.

Some comments made during the Charrette suggested there is interest in keeping the TES building for community use. Jess suggested this should be part of the community conversation.

Christine noted the Planning Board submitted an application for help and a grant to update some sections of the Master Plan and to review our zoning regulations. This will include public forums and surveys.

Any notice that goes out needs to be aware of the rumor mill issues, so as not to further the misinformation that is being spread by a small group of residents. Lilliane volunteered to draft an initial response of results of the Charette.

7. Other Business: Christine shared a flyer about the “Complete Streets” program referenced in the charrette presentation, for review and discussion at a future meeting.

Upcoming meetings & events:

- Oct 30 - Trunk or Treat
- Nov 7, 6:30 p.m. - Select Board Meeting
- Thursday, Nov 10 - 6:30 p.m. - ConVal Community Forum
- Thursday, Nov 17, 7 p.m. - CAC
- TBD - Housing Forum

Dana motioned to adjourn, Jess seconded, meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:31 p.m.

Motion to approve: Dana & Bill seconded