

**TOWN OF GRANBY
GRANBY CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 25, 2023**

PRESENT: Mark Fiorentino, Meg Jabaily, Abby Kenyon, Eric Myers, John Oates, Martin Schwager

1. CALL TO ORDER

M. Fiorentino called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. ACTION ON THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

M. Fiorentino noted under 'Review Committee Charge and Scope' the fourth sentence should read 'work should focus on development of a vision' not development and vision.

ON A MOTION BY J. Oates, seconded by M. Jabaily, the committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes as corrected.

3. REVIEW STRATEGIC PLAN

The Town's Strategic Plan was reviewed in relation to this project.

- M. Jabaily noted she would like to know more about 'safe streets' in terms of making it bicycle, traffic and pedestrian friendly.
- J. Oates noted terminology is important in order to get everyone on the same page.
- M. Fiorentino explained he viewed the document differently as it wasn't geared toward the town center but felt it should be reviewed throughout the process.
- M. Schwager would like to see how the strategic plan fits into the Plan of Conservation and Development and how this will guide the study process.
- E. Myers would like to examine sustainable growth and how to improve and make changes to the center.
- M. Fiorentino would like the initial focus to be on development of a mission statement/vision to guide the work of the committee. M. Schwager felt the scope should be reviewed first, i.e., why is this being done, what are the motivating factors, what is the end game going to be?

4. DISCUSS INPUT PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING A VISION

a. Resident process

- M. Jabaily provided a brief presentation and noted a process should be designed to identify groups/stakeholders, including residents adjacent to the center. She noted there should be an "anchoring question" and discussed ways to gather information. Some things to look at include what is already working well and how do we provide access to town for more people.
- A. Kenyon noted outreach to business owners and people in the center is important and their buy-in is critical.

b. Business/property owner process

- M. Schwager provided an overview of outreach to business owners, which will include identifying commercial property, business owners and then other groups, i.e., Chamber of Commerce, etc. Determine what we will talk about and who is going to do it.
- Need to have something to present to business owners (simple things such as mapping, why we're doing this, charge of group) and then get into a discussion.
- Some suggestions included outreach at a Chamber meeting to ask their input and hold an event at a business.
- E. Myers noted the biggest hurdle is the small size of the town center and limited area that is town owned.
- Need to identify commercial/property business owners and then other groups to talk with.

5. DISCUSS PRELIMINARY GRANBY CENTER BOUNDARY AND MAPS

A. Kenyon shared the zoning map of the center which showed the historic overlay and the location of water lines and sewer locations. M. Fiorentino felt the discussion on the border of the proposed study area should be delayed until the committee agrees on what the end product should be.

6. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting should include discussions on the boundary and what the end product should be.

Each committee member should come to the next meeting with a maximum of two 'whys' regarding why the study is being done and a maximum of three end products.

The fourth Wednesday of November is the day before Thanksgiving. The next meeting will be held the following Thursday, November 29th at 7:00 p.m.

7. PUBLIC SESSION

Glenn Ballard brought up his concerns from the previous meeting. He felt the committee was not clear regarding outcomes and goals but noted that was discussed in tonight's meeting. He believes the process and timeline need definition and the scope/boundaries should be open ended. He noted transparency is important and the work document should be available to the public at any time.

8. ADJOURN

On a Motion by E. Myers, seconded by M. Schwager, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kane
Recording Secretary