

Historic Village Improvement Committee

Meeting Minutes for Tuesday April 3, 2018

Present: Brian Cooper, Jonathan Edwards, DJ Noyes, Richard Blodgett

Absent: William Douglass

Attending: Selectmen Bob Carlson

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2018 APR -5 A 8:04  
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE  
NORTH STONINGTON CT

Meeting called at 7:08

Richard Blodgett welcomed as new member.

Minutes from 3/6/18 meeting reviewed and approved.

1. Determination to have committee present general ideas and funding sources (grants) at Town Meeting in May. Resident questionnaire to be tabled until after May meeting.
2. Decision made to narrow scope of potential projects.
  - a) Short term goals--safe and historically appropriate walkways through village, signage to designate historic district, appropriate lighting, landscaping including trees, determination of zoning flexibility for village
  - Potential of relieving burden and liability of clearing walkways upon property owners via "village district" cost sharing with residents collectively paying for the service
  - Determination of linear feet of walkways, potential to build walkways in stages, cost of different materials, general budget needed for grant seeking.
  - b) Long term goals--potential to bury utilities, sewer hookup for village
  - c) Tabled for now--speed humps, addressing speeding may be handled alternatively
3. Determination required regarding Ledge Light Health District requirements and their potential negative impact upon potential development (commercial and residential) in the village. Modern zoning vs. non-conforming village district
4. Discussion regarding fire protection for village. --Lack of hydrants. --Location of potential water tower of importance to committee.
5. Review of CCM meeting Make Place Matter attended by J. Edwards as representative from North Stonington--summary attached

Meeting Adjourned 9:12 Next Meeting May 1, 2018 7pm Wheeler Library

Make Place Matter workshop 3/29/18  
Connecticut Conference of Municipalities--West Hartford Town Hall

Meeting led by Courtney Hendricson--VP Municipal Services at CT Economic Resource Center (CERC) attended by many selectmen/women, town planners, Economic Development Coordinators, various committee members

Jonathan Edwards attended as representative from North Stonington on Historic Village Improvement Committee. Goal is to make the village a safe and vibrant space for our community.

Key Takeaways for creating a Place for gathering from a Space--socializing, commerce, strolling etc.

1. Space must be safe or people will not use it. Must be safe from crime in particular. Have good lighting and signage
2. Access to space--safe sidewalks for handicapped / strollers etc., bike lanes. Calm traffic patterns. Must be walkable.
3. Space must have an anchor for activity--schools, churches, town hall, libraries, shops--all anchors
4. Get feed back from the local population about what they want. 2 meetings minimum--one Saturday morning, one weekday evening. Leave comment board in town hall.
5. Find key partners--business, key supporters, others
6. Short term improvements--Do Not Wait to Start...start small and see what happens.
7. Involve Public Works--ex. Planting beds, ask businesses to provide funding for planting / upkeep
8. Mixed use zoning a must--stronger neighborhood character with mix of residence and appropriate businesses and cultural institutions
9. When possible enhance your tax base
10. Know what you want your community to look like before development
11. Hidden Assets--which can be leveraged, don't neglect historic architecture but perhaps add a modern flair or twist, target underperforming / vacant space.
12. Bring in unique businesses when possible that won't be pushed out by Amazon

### **Planning Resources**

Yale Urban Design Workshop--resource to help with planning to create the Place you are envisioning. Helps with master planning. **Old Lyme** just approved funding for their project. Money allocated--Approximately **\$20,000.00** for larger project than North Stonington. Made a good contact with Old Lyme officials.

CTDATA.org -- good information about your community

CERC -- another good resource