

Collection of WSVC meeting minutes to date: 7.19.18 to 9.27.22

All collected approved minutes

West Stockbridge Vision Committee First Meeting 7.19.18 Meeting came to order at 6PM

Joe Roy <joeroyjr@gmail.com>

Members present were Joe Roy Jr, Steve Dixon, Randy Thunfors, Kim Hubbard, Lois Ferguson, Karen Carmean, Karden Rabin, Bill Barth, Eddie Sporn, Eric Shimelonis, Steve Graham, and Wayne Cooper who came in late from work. Absent were Peter & Sarah Thorne and Rebecca Sheir.]

Quorum is 8 as we have 15 people. [As per The Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.] Chair is Joe Roy. [As per our Selectboard] Chair will be able to make motions Karen is secretary to take notes on decisions, Defer on vice chairman now

Meeting length- motion to have a soft 60 [minutes] Eric. [Chair will note the one hour mark; and the group will decide how much longer (if at all) to meet - 75 minute max should be the normal extension, if taken.] Public is invited to this meeting. Post it 48 hours before. Motion for a regular Wed. at 6. Karden

Motion to meet next Wed. Eric [7.25.18 6PM] Next Wed. we decide which Wed. of the month and ask those not here which Wed. they can not ever make it Adopting [Vision Committee] by laws: [From Sheir & Shim suggestion:] change highlighting to recognizing. "The mission of the Vision Committee is to nurture the development of West Stockbridge by recognizing our history, celebrating our present, and building toward our future, through a program of collaborative dialogue, innovative planning and creative public relations." A simple majority of those present including people on the phone will determine the vote. Joe Rules of order. Anybody can make a motion. The chair will ask for a second and at that point we will discuss, then we

will vote and record the vote. Joe shared the definition of deliberation in the open meeting law. Mark Webber will send us all the open meeting law by email.

[The definition of "deliberation" as per The Open Meeting Law: "Deliberation", an oral or written communication through any medium, including electronic mail, between or among a quorum of a public body on any public business within its jurisdiction; provided, however, that "deliberation" shall not include the distribution of a meeting agenda, scheduling information or distribution of other procedural meeting or the distribution of reports or documents that may be discussed at a meeting, provided that no opinion of a member is expressed.]

[Note: Our committee is considered a "public body" as referenced above.]

[Members of this committee shall NOT "deliberate" on matters of this board outside of the posted meetings.] Next time we will talk about the process. Motion to adjourn.

[Meeting adjourned at 7:03PM]

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July 25, 2018 6 PM Town Hall

Submitted by Karen Carmean

Called meeting to order; all but Rebecca

Elect Officer[s]? [Vice Chairman, others?]

Regarding "minutes:" Record members present, whether or not motions are "passed," time meeting adjourned. OK? Anything else? Karen will email notes to Joe - Joe will forward to members - Review & finalize at next meeting. Is that process OK with everyone? All approve

Peter Thorne vice chair. Karden , Eric seconded and all approve.

Determine frequency of meetings from this point on. Next two Wednesdays we meet and then we will decide how frequently. Joe. Karden. All approve. Steve Dixon will take notes on Aug. .

"The mission of the Vision Committee is to nurture the development of West Stockbridge by recognizing our history, celebrating our present, and building toward our future, through a program of collaborative dialogue, innovative planning and creative public relations." Steve Graham will rewrite it and send it to us. Karden proposed anyone submit their proposed mission and additions be by Monday and then discuss and deliberate it at the next meeting and have a mandatory decision by the end of the meeting. Kim seconded. All in favor.

Adopt By-Laws [finalize] - review text from last week.

By laws are any procedures voted on at a meeting which will automatically migrate to a bylaw document. Eric proposed and all agreed.

[Rules of Order?] : [need to add anything here?] Not needed at this time. [Motion —> Second —> Discussion —> Vote —> Record]

Statement" for West Stockbridge –

You are invited to make bullet points and suggestions for a town vision statement and Eddie will put them together. Reply all. Eddie

Eddie will also send a link to the Mass Open Meeting Law and forward to everyone for reference -

Joe will look into the use of the Town copier in the Work Room and any passwords to the wi-fi capabilities so we can print documents for this board's use. There was also some discussion about the possible availability of an overhead projector to be used during meetings -

Determine the process that we will follow to create a "Vision" [minimum # words - - sentences - not what are "are" but what can we "become" ]

Karden proposed the use of Google Docs to more easily record suggestions to be considered at meetings for deliberation. We decided to follow up on this idea at the next meeting.

- THEN we can discuss different ways to highlight and implement ideas - [How we get there...] - For discussion [if we have time]: Start a list of "things that we'd like to see in town" for further discussion after we decide on the vision statement Determine next meeting date if not already done
- Meeting adjourned at : PM

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West Stockbridge Vision Committee Meeting Minutes

Aug. 1, 2018

Members in attendance:

Joe Roy, Steve Dixon, Randy Thunfors, Lois Ferguson, Karden Rabin, Peter Thorne, Sarah Thorne, Eddie Sporn, Eric Shimelonis, Wayne Cooper, Also there: Bob Salerno.

Meeting called to order at 6:07 PM

Review of last meeting minutes. Motion to accept last meeting minutes by Peter Thorne Second the motion by Kardin Rabin Vote all affirmative

Discussion of emails after last week's meeting

Joe suggested that we try to get our town clerk Ronnie Barrett to possibly come to the meeting next time so that we can all be sworn in properly as many of us have not yet done so.

Motion to have town clerk come to our next meeting to swear us all in.

Joe will touch base with Ronni about any special arrangements that she suggests and will report back.

Second by Eric Shimelonis

Vote all affirmative Discussion of Mission Statement

Motion to change Mission Committee Statement to read: Committee Purpose Statement by Karden Rabin Second by Joe Roy Vote all affirmative

Discussion of wording of Committee Purpose Statement After much discussion we arrived at the following:

“The purpose of the Vision Committee is to nurture the development of West Stockbridge by providing visionary guidance towards building our future while recognizing our history and celebrating our present. This will be accomplished by a program of collaborative dialog, innovative planning and creative public outreach.”

Motion to accept above as our Purpose Statement by Wayne Cooper Second by Randy Vote all affirmative

Discussion of Vision Statement Much discussion of the business district and the look of the town. Karden Rabin Randy Thunfors Troys Garage and new buildings in downtown Steve Dixon Sarah Thorne Eddie Sporn we are part of a bigger picture “Berkshire County” Wayne Cooper “Old West Stockbridge” looks Peter Thorne redundant purpose is our Vision Statement Eric Shimelonis Our Vision Statement should reflect what we are and what we stand for. Sarah Thorne reading of other town’s Vision Statements (she will email to group) Karden Rabin Switzerland of the Berkshires We are a gateway.

Joe Roy One of the good things about WS is that you can come here to catch your breath and relax, shop etc.

Peter Thorne That we only refer to Stockbridge as “East Stockbridge” Steve Dixon That we go back to the original town name of Queensboro

Motion to have meetings planned 30 days in advance (by the month) by Eric Second Joe Roy Vote 10 for 1 opposed Motion passed

Motion Karden to have a meeting on Wednesday August 15th 6:00pm Second by Sarah Thorne Vote all affirmative motion passed

Bring in lists of ideas for Vision of West Stockbridge next meeting Sarah Thorne including general public and more planning of what we will do Joe Roy Get Planning Board people to attend our meeting?

Motion to adjourn Steve Dixon Second Sarah Thorne Vote all affirmative motion passed -

Meeting adjourned 7:15pm

Submitted by Steve Dixon

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**West Stockbridge Vision Committee**

West Stockbridge, Massachusetts

Joe Roy, Jr

August 8, 2018 6PM Town Hall

- Call meeting to order 6: 02. In attendance Lois, Karden, Eric, Peter, Joe, Wayne, Kim, Sarah, Randy, Ed, Karen.

Guest Bob Salerno from finance and historic committees

- Eric moved to accept and all agreed.
- Review & accept/modify last meeting minutes
- Joe suggested we plan our next meetings. Ed proposed September 12 6pm. Peter seconded, all approved. Peter moved 26 as next after and all approved. Karden suggested a goal and then figure backwards. - Continue "Vision Statement" discussion for West Stockbridge One draft from our discussion: – West Stockbridge is one of Berkshire County's , defined by its rich history, hard work, scenic beauty, *multifaceted* community, and its own unique culture. We aspire to further develop our town's foundation of *creativity*, entrepreneurship, and diverse offerings, while also continuing to *beautify* our architecture, landscapes and preserve our natural resources. After the meeting Eric sent out:

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**"West Stockbridge is one of Berkshire County's rural gems, defined by a rich history, scenic beauty, industrious work ethic, and its own unique culture. We aspire to further develop our town's foundation of creativity, entrepreneurship, and eclectic offerings, while also continuing to beautify our land- scapes and architecture, preserve our natural resources, and build and diversify our community."**

Things to do during the next month before our next meeting:

- What are all the cool ideas- collect and share on Ed's page

- Modify/Expand on survey
- What is our future role after the vision statement
- Some of our recommendations which need funds be prepared for February budget meetings. For those that need state law or regulations changes, get proposals to your state senator or legislature by December so they can be presented in the next two year legislative calendar during the first couple weeks of January.

Review - compile - member list of suggested concepts for Statement - How to apply them?

Attempt draft of Vision Statement? What else do we need to discuss? Wait for more input? Is there a rush to do this NOW - or maybe last...?

- Discuss how to reach out for public input - Social media? Direct contact to certain individuals? How to create a public forum? We also suggested Local Yokel and survey monkey and inviting town committees to our meetings. We could also interview people and collect a list of people we want to interview.
- Compile questionnaire [as guideline - or actual document to seek opinions] Might be a useful tool for this

group as well... We reviewed the questionnaire which Joe sent out.

[Adopt By-Laws [finalize] ?? Do we need to formalize this?

- Yes? No? this was not discussed.]

Determine next meeting date if not already done -

- Motion to adjourn. 7:07 pm

Submitted by Karen Carmean

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West Stockbridge Vision Committee West Stockbridge, Massachusetts Submitted by Anne Roy

August 18, 2018 6PM Town Hall

Meeting minutes.

Meeting was initially attended by Joe Roy, Jr, Lois Ferguson, Randy Thunfors, Steve Graham, Eric Shimelonis, Karden Rabin, Sarah Thorne - NOT enough for a quorum. Kim Hubbard arrived late at around 6:35 PM.

Anne Roy attended to take the minutes.

Called meeting to order [with quorum] at 6:38PM -

The minutes of the last meeting were revised and Eric made one correction regarding the exact wording of the "Committee Purpose Statement". He pointed out that the word "by" should be changed to the word "through" in the last sentence so that it correctly reads as follows:

"The purpose of the Vision Committee is to nurture the development of West Stockbridge by providing visionary guidance towards building our future while recognizing our history and celebrating our present. This will be accomplished through a program of collaborative dialog, innovative planning and creative public outreach."

Everyone took note and corrected the minutes, which were then accepted.

Randy Thunfors [who serves as the Chairman of The Board of Appeals], passed around a copy of The West Stockbridge Zoning By-Laws - Page 2 -

Section 1: TITLE, AUTHORITY, AND PURPOSE [which reads as follows:]

SECTION 1: TITLE, AUTHORITY, and PURPOSE

- **1.1 Title** This By-Law shall be known as the “Zoning By-Law of the Town of West Stockbridge, Massachusetts”, hereinafter referred to as “this By-Law”.

- **1.2 Authority** This By-Law is adopted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A of the General laws as amended to regulate the use of land, buildings, and structures to the full extent of the independent constitutional powers of cities and towns to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the present and future inhabitants of the town.

- **1.3 Purpose** The purpose of this By-Law is to achieve greater implementation of the powers granted to the municipalities under Article 89 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth in the general interests of public health, safety, and welfare, including, but not limited to the following objectives:
 - a.) To prevent overcrowding of land, to secure safety from fire, flood, panic, and other dangers, to conserve health, and to lessen congestion in the streets;

 - b.) To facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water supply, drainage, sewerage, schools, parks, open space, and other public requirements;

 - c.) To conserve the value of land and buildings including the conservation of natural resources and the prevention of blight and pollution of the environment;

 - d.) To preserve and increase amenities by the promulgation of regulations designed to:
 - Protect the Town’s significant environmental features such as: flood plains and flood prone areas, wetlands, rivers, brooks, ponds, water resources, woodlands, areas of scenic beauty, and sites and structures of historic importance.

 - Preserve the natural, scenic, and aesthetic qualities of the community.

 - Minimize the adverse effects of developments on the Town’s unique environmental and historic features.

 - Further the objectives of the Town’s Comprehensive Plan.

 - Employ cooperatively the various measures taken by the Town’s agencies, under diverse legislative authority, including the State Sanitary Code, Wetlands Protection Act, Subdivision Control Legislation, and the State Building Code, for the protection and enhancement of the Town’s existing small-town character, open spaces, low density of population, and in the interests of the Town’s orderly growth at a deliberate pace.

Randy asked the committee to read the purpose which already outlines much of the town's objectives - and is actually part of the Zoning By-Laws that already guide much of the activities in West Stockbridge. Much of the language in our Zoning is taken from Mass General Law, Chapter 40A.

The group discussed the permitting process for things like solar farms - and "Special Permits" as well as the required permitting process for many of the activities in town. It was mentioned that part of our "vision" in town should include language that addresses new ideas [like solar farms, large & small] among other things so that new applications comply with our existing By-Laws. Then we can best strive to "Protect the Town's significant environment features..." including things like public health, safety and general welfare. This would help avoid potential legal and liability actions. It was mentioned that these things should be addressed in the vision statement.

There was some discussion that the town should be aware of possible future crises resulting from inadequate procedural actions. [Our Zoning By-Law doesn't contain the word "solar", for example.] We should encourage adequate interaction between town boards and departments for smooth interactive communication in town government.

Eric mentioned that a "common" understanding of our Vision Statement is still a work in progress. It still needs to have more aspirational text content.

Eric read his original thoughts on a Vision Statement:

"West Stockbridge is one of Berkshire County's rural gems, defined by a rich history, scenic beauty, multifaceted constituency, and an enduring culture of down-to-earth sophistication. Featuring well-curated, carefully preserved landscapes — and developed areas thriving with innovation, entrepreneurship and a diverse palette of first-class offerings — the town offers a way of life that is both progressive and sustainable."

Sara commented that it needed more "verbs."

Eric replied by saying "more to grab on to."

Joe brought up the idea of a "questionnaire" that could be circulated by various forms of social media to obtain some public input.

Steve Graham felt strongly that we need to formulate the vision statement first before developing other ideas.

Everyone seemed to agree that we should concentrate on at least a draft of a vision statement first. Then, as we develop ideas for implementation, the draft could be adapted to the implementations if necessary.

Eric made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM

Submitted by Anne Roy

Guest Stenographer

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West Stockbridge Vision Committee West Stockbridge, Massachusetts

Joe Roy, Jr

September 26, 2018 Meeting

Minutes by Eric Shimelonis

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm.

Members in attendance included the following: Joe, Steve, Stephen, Lois, Randy, Sarah, Peter, Eric, Karden, [& Karen came in late.]

Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. No discussion or corrections.

Motion by Eric Shimelonis to accept minutes.

Seconded by Peter Thorne.

Vote: unanimous.

Joe reported that Eddie Sporn is no longer able to continue as a member of this committee because of his increased professional work load.

Discussion about scheduling future meetings. It was decided to take some time off during the holidays, and to continue meeting fortnightly until then.

Motion by Peter Thorne and seconded by Eric Shimelonis to: - Meet next week, Wednesday October rd - Meet bi-weekly after that until Thanksgiving, but skipping Halloween on October 31st. Vote: unanimous

Discussion of Vision Statement draft, starting with the version documented in the minutes from the last meeting. After a focused conversation about some specific words, and entertaining some additions and cuts, the following revised version was put forward:

The town of West Stockbridge is defined by a rich history, scenic beauty, and industrious work ethic. We aspire to further develop our foundation of craftsmanship, entrepreneurship, and the arts, while continuing to beautify our landscapes and architecture, preserve our natural resources, and build, advance, and diversify our community.

Motion by Karden Rabin to accept this as the Vision Statement (subject to future revisions based on public feedback and committee discovery). Seconded by Karen Carmean.

Vote: unanimous

Eric Shimelonis agreed to start a draft of an article for the Local Yokel, to be mirrored on Facebook, summarizing the efforts of the Vision Committee so far, and submitting the Vision Statement for feedback, along with some survey questions. This will be presented at the next meeting.

Stephen Graham offered to begin construction of a Vision Committee Website. Joe was asked to be more vigilant in reminding members of meeting dates. Motion by Eric Shimelonis to adjourn, seconded by Karden Rabin. Vote: unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

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West Stockbridge Vision Committee

Meeting Minutes - 3 October 2018

Submitted by Eric Shimelonis

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm. Present at the meeting:

Joe Roy, Jr. Peter Thorne Sarah Thorne Wayne Cooper Kim Hubbard Karden Rabin Steve Dixon Stephen Graham
Lois Ferguson Eric Shimelonis

Joy Roy, Jr. provided printed copies of the last meeting's minutes, which all reviewed. Motion to accept the last meeting's minutes, by Peter Thorne, seconded by Karen Rabin. All reviewed the minutes. Vote: unanimous.

Motion to make the Community Room our standard meeting place, by Peter Thorne, seconded by Wayne Cooper. Vote: unanimous.

Discussion of Eric Shimelonis's draft of an article for the Local Yokel, attached at the bottom of these minutes, which summarizes the Committee's activities so far, and shares our mission statement and the draft Vision Statement. Committee members names to be added, along with a gmail address that Stephen Graham will establish.

Motion to accept draft of Local Yokel article, by Karen Rabin, seconded by Steve Dixon. Vote: unanimous.

Discussion of possible new Committee members: Peter Thorne recommends Dick Schectman of 8 Maple Street, a second homeowner in town, and others mentioned Brian Butterworth of 1 Stockbridge Road.

Discussion of the Committee giving its first report to the Select Board next week. Joe Roy Jr to deliver the report, with others attending in support.

Discussion of future meetings, with the possibility of a public forum to invite feedback on the Vision Statement, and ideas for the Committee. It was decided that the meeting of 14 November would be an invited public meeting, with further meetings on 28 November, 12 December, and our first meeting of 2019 - 09 January.

Stephen Graham presented his preliminary Vision Committee website design. All pulled the site up on their phones and computers, and all agreed that it is a fantastic start. Discussion followed about for whom the site is to be targeted. Karden Rabin suggested that the site be scaled to fit the real traffic demands that might or might not exist, so as not to waste Stephen's efforts. Stephen will continue work, and ask for help from others when necessary.

Motion to adjourn, by Eric Shimelonis, seconded by Sarah Thorne. Vote: unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.

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**West Stockbridge Vision Committee  
Meeting Minutes - 17 October 2018**

**Submitted by Eric Shimelonis**

Meeting called to order at 6:06pm.

Present at the meeting:

Joe Roy, Jr., Peter Thorne, Sarah Thorne, Wayne Cooper, Karden Rabin, Stephen Graham, Lois Ferguson, Eric Shimelonis & Randy Thunfors

Motion by Peter Thorne to accept last weeks minutes. Seconded by Karden Rabin. Unanimous.

Joe Roy Jr. reported that Brian Butterworth and Dick Schectman have been approved to join the Vision Committee.

Karden Rabin brought up the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act, and inquired as to whether this was adopted by West Stockbridge. Peter Thorne reported that it had not yet. Discussion followed about the process for adopting, and about the potential funds it would generate for Vision oriented projects.

Learn more about the Act here:

<http://www.communitypreservation.org/content/text-legislation>

Discussion about the November 14th public Vision Committee meeting. Lois Ferguson recommended making posters to supplement the Local Yokel announcement. Eric Shimelonis volunteered to make these.

In discussing a proposed agenda for the public meeting, we came up with this framework:

1. Intro (5 minutes)
2. Q&A and discussion about survey questions (50 minutes)
3. Vision statement presentation and discussion (25-35 minutes)

Karden Rabin proposed that each committee member speak for 3 minutes about their interests and passions with respect to Vision Committee projects, and he timed us with an iPhone stopwatch. Here is a brief summary:

Peter Thorne: trails allowing hiking to points around town - Implement CPA - Traffic - Scenic beauty -

Sarah Thorne: beautification - Town Beautification Plan - Revitalization Plan - Help to make better use of the southern portion of Main Street --

Wayne: adding kayak trails to the hiking trails that Peter mentioned - create access to our rivers & streams --

Lois: concerns about traffic through town, community rapport - Downtown congestion - Pedestrian & traffic safety --

Randy: smart zoning and affordable housing; commercial zone - More diversification - affordable housing - zoning modifications to encourage younger families to stay in town - development control - town marketing like a brochure or video -

Stephen: opportunities for families and young people; growth vs. prosperity - Controlled changes -- fewer children in town since he grew up here -- focus on local schools - - Jobs, - industry - -growth vs prosperity --

Karden: natural access - Easy access to natural activities - hiking, boating - outdoor activities - diverse beautification --

Eric: All of the above, and intentionally building the infrastructure to attract the creative, diverse community that we want. Controlled development - diversification - branding - -

Joe: Marketing and promotion of the town; parking. Slow controlled growth. Make West Stockbridge easier to like -- zoning - -

Motion by Peter Thorne to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Karden Rabin.

Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.

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West Stockbridge Vision Committee Meeting Minutes - October 14, 2018

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm.

Vision Committee ["Public Meeting"] 11.14.18

Members attending: Joe Roy, Jr, Wayne Cooper, Kim Hubbard, Stephen Graham, Randy Thunfors, Peter Thorne, Sarah Thorne, Karden Rabin, Lois Ferguson, Karen Carmean, Steve Dixon, Dick Shechtman & Eric Shimelonis.

Joe Roy called the meeting to order and read a brief history of this committee. He introduced Selectboard Chairman Bernie Fallon.

Bernie Fallon Chair of the Select Board: Thank you. Love this and appreciate it. Talented people can make good things happen. Let us find agreement on what we like. Be clear on who we are. We hope to have a good effect on decision making. We want to improve, to

feed your ideas into a funnel. If everyone is doing their best then it builds. The best comes from listening.

Joe: We are looking for positives

Karden and Peter Thorne: What are the things about WS that you like the most: they wrote highlights on the whiteboard.

Catherine Nihart: Can walk around town and you don't know who you are going to meet. Like a college town for older people. Amazing his- tory. Bob Salerno is terrific. Historic buildings.

Truc Nguyen: I grew up here. I decided to move back because I'm taking over my parents' business and continuing my own marketing business. We are smack dab in the middle of lots of interesting things and it is safe. Centralized and hidden and that makes it safe.

My parents said they talked to ten people and they saw your photos (my photos). WS has easy access to the wonderful things around West Stock- bridge (Karden: location, location, location.)

There is great potential in WS. Tap into people who have access to history and treasures of the town. Why not create tours or platform to tell your stories to attract people and have them come back. A regular weekend tour - Baldwin vanilla, hardware store, etc

Dick Shechtman: Keep small - not big. So many things get bigger and more complicated and we come here because it is not that way. Not a bureaucracy. I have been for 32 years as a second home owner.

John Campbell: New innkeeper at Shaker Mill Inn. Don't get too big and expand, Welcoming guests, love to be able to walk the town. Cleanliness, organization, friendliness. Controlled growth is what is needed.

Joe: Joe picked up on "slow controlled growth" - In 1977, he served on a committee called the "Local Growth Policy" Committee. The final "statement" was exactly the words "Slow, controlled growth."

Sheila Thunfors: We need to focus on a healthy, vibrant, self-sustain- ing environment. Kids need to know they can live here even if they get a job in Springfield, etc. Young people with families need to be able to live here. Elderly population the town is not being helped. Help them on fixed income to help them with property taxes. Maintain a healthy population. Beautiful town and center. BUT solar fields at both ends are eyesores. We have other gaps that could become worse. We need a sustainable healthy town. Gaps: still have com- mercial and manufacturing areas many in wetlands but no way to say is it ok and need buffers.

See the App download "Water in the Word" [or Word in the Water] under New Lebanon. Get the history of what you are parked in front of. Ruth Abrams lives there and she narrates. Perhaps the Shaker museum might have something to do with it.

Warren. Solar was built too fast so as to get the federal money. [Need more care when permitting commercial solar installations.]

Jan from New Lebanon. Arts all around in West Stockbridge and very interested in the Artist guild. She was an art teacher. Shaker Tavern had kids from Berkshire Farm. I felt to the sense of community in West Stockbridge.

Sissie Gun Astore: Celebrate the quarry. Steiner school and Darrow School work with the Quarry on history and archaeology and geology. Quarry is outside the box curriculum. We could build in with the histo- ry here – marble quarry and the railroad. See how it was done and why the quarry and the railroad were done. Reach out and work with Mass Forest Stewardship. A good place to share it. Rick Shrom from Steiner school did archaeology. Beavers after almost extinct, but the first sign was on the Williams River.

Sue Harrington. Explore Shaker Mill Pond/Mud Pond on kayaks. How do you access the ponds; they are not private ponds. On 41 side access is town land .

Peter Paulson on Silver Mine Lane. Canoe access on Cranberry Pond next to Nolan's. There is a sign and grass /muddy walk to the pond. From Cranberry, Card lake, Ponds are owned by West Stock- bridge.

Signage might be a good thing to help you find the water sport loca- tions.

Put Local Yokel on web. It is on the web but it has to be paid for and ads in the local yokel are how they can

Danielle: need to know about unknown path[s]. How to know all these things and be able to locate events in WS.

Jeff Mason: Instagram, Facebook, etc are avenues to reach out to people.

Most towns have a paid employee for a web site.

Young families like educational activities - use the quarries and ponds etc. as every wants the best education for their families.

Terri Jo Dixon; Playground here at the town hall. Isn't it going to be fixed? What about some vintage street lights? We had some that were removed? Where are they?

More sidewalks.

Mike King: affordability for young families and support for seniors . Will take some money and controlled growth. Our Our Congressman is the Chair of Ways and Means so we should ask him for help. Healthy towns recognize the importance of supporting those in re-covery from addiction, responding to their needs and the community's needs. Healthy towns also support reintegration into society, jobs and housing. This is important for public health.

Bike tourism and calm traffic will encourage biking and traffic and tourism.

John Whalen: business development can help to make improvements to our town.

Truc: "Secret West Stockbridge" Solar lights on river. Tourists will give us the money so we can do things we want to do. River. Light it up.

Ryan new resident. Best thing is the people. Green thumb. Small patches of floral beauty. Little things that make me stop and smile.

Historical society has over 200 members. And they get grants be- cause they have strong membership.

Jim Bruenn of Carlotto Road stated that he hikes the path along the old railroad tracks and often helps keep it clear.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12PM. Submitted by Karen Carmean

Link to "public meeting" video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W-UXz0OMRsQqmkovm1qdTuOYFQX2x2WE/view?usp=sharing>

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Draft Vision Meeting Minutes Nov. 28

Called to order 6:08

In attendance were Joe, Wayne, Peter, Sarah, Brian, Randy, Lois, Eric, Steve, Kim, Dick, Stephen, Karen

1. Peter made a motion to accept minutes of meetings approved. One date changed -date of public meeting. Joe seconded. Unanimous approval.

2. Review public meeting notes to discuss subcommittee and actions.
3. Discussion of sub committees and actions
4. Propose names of possible subcommittees. Sarah referred to another town's division.
5. Sub committees
  - a. **Cultural**- Sarah- chair, and Lois (state program. Arts, performance )
  - b. **Natural resources**- Peter-chair, Wayne
  - c. **Liveability**- Brian chair- Randy, Dick. Includes 'housing' -
  - d. **Marketing**- (website) media, communication, Steve, Joe Roy, Karden, Eric, Kim,
  - e. ?? Business Development – incentives, making business, fill space, parking, (two 20 min. spaces) – might go under liveability or marketing. [Not confirmed yet] -
6. Subcommittees made meet wherever they wish and may discuss issues among themselves and call up folks for their input and ideas. Subcommittees are not making final decisions. Members may submit information and proposals and ideas to Forum on website for review by others.
7. Next meeting Dec. 12, Jan. 9, 30, Feb. 20, March 13
8. Website presentation by Stephen Graham: Please send your bios, photos, and suggestions for Forum on different topics to Stephen. Purpose of this website is to educate each other and provide information for oversight for the Board of Selectmen. It is NOT now an external document. It is NOT for purposes of marketing to people outside the town. Once the site is launched, anyone can access it to offer input, comment, advice, etc.

Meeting adjourned 7:02PM

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West Stockbridge Vision Committee - West Stockbridge, Massachusetts

January 30, 2019 6PM Town Hall

Meeting was attended by Joe, Karen, Peter, Sarah, Eric, & Stephen Graham - NOT enough attendees for a quorum.

These are incomplete "notes" - not "minutes" - just so you know what we talked about. No "actions" could be taken without a quorum.

We discussed the results of the Special Town Meeting on zoning for Marijuana, Solar and "Formula" Business zoning regulations. This meeting was well attended and productive [although a bit contentious in areas that seem surprising...]

Karen mentioned that she's begun a "list" of people in town that she wants to interview for ideas & concepts that would be helpful in developing a WS vision. We suggested different names in town that would be worth contacting. I'm sure anyone with additional suggestions for Karen would be welcome.

Peter mentioned various sources for maps and photographs of the town. We discussed other sources to find maps and land use data for his project.

Joe reminded that we need to devise a plan to identify specific topics to explore in an effort to suggest precise goals for the Selectboard. Eric stated that once that is done, our "regular meetings" will consist more of "reporting" from smaller groups [subcommittees] rather than creating a list of possibilities. Joe agreed.

Stephen & Eric reviewed the Marketing Committee's special meeting report that included words like "purpose, architects, channels, resources, attractions, targeting, presentations, culture, commerce, events, festivals, experiences, achievement, River, parks, biergarten, geology, science, vibe, art, photography, tourists, aficionados, cohesion, alignment, campaign, activities, maximize attendance, goals, assets, & input. "

REALLY great stuff! You should read it!!! It's posted on our Slack site.

Meeting ended around 7:20 PM Next meetings are scheduled for February 20th, and then March 13th.

Submitted by Joe Roy Jr

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WSVA meeting Minutes 2.20.19

Meeting called to order 6:12pm

Members in attendance were Joe, Lois, Karen, Eric, Randy, Steve [D], Stephen [G], Peter, Sarah, Kathleen, Kim, Dick, Karden and Bill Barth by phone. Others in attendance were Verne Tower and Jared Gelormino of TurnPark Art Space.

Minutes of the last two were meetings accepted as amended: [12/18/2018. Planning Board - not Board of Health - has held two meetings - page two bottom paragraph]

Joe welcomed Verne & Jared to the meeting. Verne expressed interests in the social & economic development in West Stockbridge. He emphasized the need for further presence of Arts. He also noted the historic value of mining in town. Jared works with TurnPark Art Space on Moscow Road where Verne built the amphitheater [among other things] and has done multiple projects in WS. Verne says he has a vested interest in our town.

There was discussion of the upcoming Special Town Meeting for adopting new zoning by-laws regarding marijuana dispensaries and solar installations. As a committee, we should attend the Town Meeting on Monday Jan. 14 at

7pm in gym if at all possible. Randy emphasized the importance of these by-laws to keep control within the Town's jurisdiction.

Joe asked for subcommittee reports.

Karden read the list from the cloud to the board aloud. He has not yet made a list for us to prioritize or pick 'low hanging fruit,' but he made a list of summarizing areas which he read off quickly and will send us. The idea is that we could all work on one of four or five areas. They might include Natural and recreational

improvement, Cultural improvements, Infrastructure and Economic development. Different subcommittees might incorporate these themes in their individual discussions.

He asked for approval of the list. Karen replied that she wanted to continue to interview people on additional ideas for the vision with the hope that other folks might join with us in making and implementing a vision. Eric suggested that we could work on two levels simultaneously - moving forward on agreed goals and always gathering "allies in moving things forward."

Peter reported on the very successful meeting held in December which a number of members of the committee reported to us last time. He is interested in gathering maps of all kinds of natural resources, trails, fish and wildlife, etc. in West Stockbridge. He is interested in making maps and collecting what is available. He could obtain maps from BNRC and find sources for drone pictures. Trails and conservation committees might have something to offer. Sprout Brothers have drones. Canon and 41 one works with Google. We can have a better understanding of the fabulous resources in West Stockbridge. He also talked about expanding some of the resources, but has been urged caution in proceeding so that others can have a better idea of the value and support it. He mentioned the possible purchase of the RR right of way. WS is buying some land from National Grid. Tom Norton and Peter worked on it in 2001. Ruth, a lawyer, said we did good work. An English company owns National Grid so the attitude about the land they own has changed. National Grid will sell it to the town, and set up a land trust to own it. The abutters can be a huge stumbling block. Mark Webber says don't tell abutters about it before we have a conversation and get them active against it. Stone crushing plant remains an issue

Karen proposed and Lois? (seconded) a vote of support to Peter to collect maps and pursue this effort. The vote was discussed and failed. Eric (who seconded?) proposed a focus on the goals of the project. In discussion it was suggested that a proposal needed a mission, goal, objectives, deliverables, budget before some might support it. Others said that Peter could come back with specifics and budget requests next time. This proposal was approved.

We had a general discussion on the need for specific deliverables to get something done rather than just share ideas and more ideas. Karen proposed (who seconded?) a meeting length of one and one half hours so we could move forward seconded and approved. Bill suggested the need to concentrate on transportation as something to discuss further.

Marketing had held a meeting with an expert friend of Kim's. Steve has implemented Slack for communication and Trello for project management.

We need a list of who is on which committee. Peter has a huge committee. There is an Arts committee with Sarah and Lois. Livability lost its chair and has not met yet [or has it?] It was decided at a previous meeting that economic and business development needed to be separate from livability; since no one was interested in economic and business development, should it combine with livability? No action taken on this yet.

We suggested that committees might meet in between our meetings and they should report back to the whole committee when they are ready to report something.

Karen suggested that if anyone has any ideas for changes in laws, funding or regulations on the state level, please contact her as she plans to contact Adam Hinds about a Berkshire wide transportation initiative. Otherwise good ideas, laws, regulations and funding may have to wait another two years until the next legislature.

Randy shared some beautiful charts on the river and the buildings along the river. The drawings showed the possibilities of a "River Walk" along the river. There was enthusiastic discussion on this topic. We were excited to focus on the river in West Stockbridge but there was no motion on how to follow up on this topic. People left the meeting with a strong feeling that this committee needs to start "doing" more and discussing it less. This of course requires diligent research regarding how to investigate these ideas and to develop, refine, fund and proceed with any given project before presenting them to The Selectboard.

Meeting adjourned about 7:30 pm

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West Stockbridge Vision Committee - West Stockbridge, Massachusetts March 13, 2019 6PM Town Hall -

Meeting was attended by the following WSVV members: Joe, Karen, Peter, Sarah, Eric, Stephen Graham, Karden, Randy, Lois & Kathleen

Meeting came to order at 6:05.

Last meeting minutes were not reviewed. We will consider them at the next meeting when we review these minutes as well. They will be first on the agenda.

Eric asked to begin the meeting first [because he had to leave early] by producing copies of his Mass Community Preservation Act CPA [6 page] presentation. All committee members were sent a copy. Peter and Sarah Thorne went to the Assessor's office and asked an assessor to figure out how much 1% could generate in funding for the town. Thanks to good questioning by Randy and others we realized the figures were based on 1% of the valuation above 300,000 NOT 1% of the tax. Peter and Sarah will go back and come up with real numbers of possible tax increases and how they might be levied. This they will do by our next meeting.

We discussed what the CPA covered. The three major areas deal with acquiring open space, historic buildings and sites as well as affordable housing. Peter pointed out that there were many more words on open space which included many of the goals we are discussing in our committee.

We had a long discussion on what could go wrong if people didn't understand the details of this process. Lower income taxpayers can be exempted and the committee which the Select Board would appoint would decide what the exempt valuation would be and that exemption would apply to that amount for all properties. Also what percentage, 1, 2 or 3% would be used, and which of the three areas and to what percentage of each.

The first page of Eric's presentation is as follows:

West Stockbridge Vision Committee ACTION RECOMMENDATION

TO: SUBJECT: DATE:

West Stockbridge Select Board Massachusetts Community Preservation Act (CPA) 13 March 2019

The CPA helps communities preserve open space and historic sites -

ABSTRACT: create affordable housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities.

RECOMMENDATION: West Stockbridge should pursue entering the CPA, in order to reap the benefits of the program to fund worthwhile town improvements.

PRIORITY: HIGH. There are efforts to “sunset” the CPA program, so time is of the essence.

COSTS: The program requires a local surcharge on real property, the amount of which is flexible - with a minimum of 1%. These funds are transferred to the town’s treasurer, and are multiplied by grants from the Massachusetts Community Preservation Trust Fund. We have the power to locally specify some exemptions, including for particular property classes and value thresholds. This will help to insure that the tax surcharge does not place a financial burden on fixed - or lower-income residents.

BENEFITS: By getting access to valuable state grants through the CPA, West Stockbridge can effectively double its resources for eligible local projects.

PROCESS: The town must vote to accept Mass Title VII, Sections 3 to 7, inclusive. (Attached) This process includes forming a local Community Preservation Committee (Section 5) to usher this process forward.

TERM: At any time after the expiration of five years after the date on which sections 3 to 7, inclusive, have been accepted in a city or town, said sections may be revoked in the same manner as they were accepted by such city or town.

COMMENTS: Your Vision Committee feels strongly that this program would provide valuable resources and enable significant progress for many of the projects that we see as vital for the town. If we can mobilize this effort to “ante up” locally, our efforts will be richly rewarded by the state through the CPA. Also worth noting: Lenox, Stockbridge, and Great Barrington have all adopted the CPA, and have done some great projects with it.

W.S.V.C. Action Recommendation 1 of 6

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Other topics brought forth at the meeting include the following:

Jim Barry’s Green presentation at the Select Board meeting: Many of us went to this presentation and supported the proposal to be a Green community.

BluePrint 2.0 [A Shared Economic Vision and Plan for Action]: Joe has scanned this document so if anyone wants a copy they can ask him for one.

Steven sent out an excellent overview of our vision in Slack and he already sent out on email of this short and useful summary. Everyone should have a copy, but most of the text is as follows:

#### WEST STOCKBRIDGE VISION

Our goal in promoting and marketing West Stockbridge is to bring more people into town for business, tourism, and permanent residence. We aim to become the cultural hub of the Berkshires. Through a series of proposals, we aim to get people to stop in town, not just pass through. By getting people to visit and enjoy their stay, we can

attract both passersby and new residents alike. By promoting the events in town and focusing on their experiences, we can succeed in attracting the target audience we wish to draw in.

#### WEST STOCKBRIDGE WALKABOUT

- A guide driver walk in town, running adjacent to the beautiful Williams River, would be a simple way to bring in visitors

and ensure they have access to all of the unique attractions and businesses downtown. This visual pathway around town would act as a sort of “yellow brick road”, guiding people along the Williams River and through the heart of our artsy commercial district.

- Lights along the route would ensure safety in the evening hours and highlight the beauties of the river when it is normally

dark.

- A “Bridge of Flowers”, a canopy filled with flowers would invite pedestrians to walk over the footbridge in town.

- Photos of all aspects of W. Stockbridge posted along the route and imposed onto any bare walls of buildings would provide an artistic visual experience to compliment the natural beauty of the river.

- A tree walk could be established, pointing out all of the beautiful and usual trees around town.

- To encourage visitors to stop into our local business establishments, town passports could be made available, where visitors would get their passports stamped along the way and receive discounts at participating businesses.

- The guide driver walk through town opens up myriad opportunities to create a unique and enjoyable experience for visitors

that will get people to come, explore, stay, and re-visit West Stock- bridge and see all that it has to offer.

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#### WEST STOCKBRIDGE RAIL TRAIL

- Along the Williams River is an unimproved rail trail starting at the cemetery on Van Deusenville Road in Housatonic.

This beautiful trail runs about 3.5 miles north to the junction of Pixley Hill Road and Route 41 in West Stockbridge (a little less than 7 miles roundtrip).

- This trail can be extended through the old, unused rail line into WestStockbridge bringing in hikers, bikers, and visitors looking to stroll through the natural landscapes available along the railway.

- Rail trails are an asset to their community, offering health benefits and enjoyment to both residents and visitors alike.

## COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT

Since 2001, the Community Preservation Act (CPA) has been adopted by 175 cities and towns across Massachusetts. The CPA allows communities to create a local Community Preservation Fund to preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable housing, develop outdoor recreational facilities, and strengthen the state and local economies by promoting tourism.

Community preservation monies are raised locally through the imposition of a surcharge of not more than 3% of the tax levy against real property and municipalities must adopt CPA by ballot referendum.

The CPA statute also creates a statewide Community Preservation Trust Fund which provides distributions each year to

communities that have adopted CPA.

Property taxes traditionally fund the day-to-day operating needs of safety, health, schools, roads, maintenance, and more, but

until CPA was enacted, there was no steady funding source for preserving and improving a community's character and quality of life.

The Community Preservation Act gives a community the funds needed to control its future.

## WEST STOCKBRIDGE WATERFRONT RECREATION

The most valuable and impressive natural features of West Stockbridge are created by the beautiful Williams river which snakes its way through town and culminates in the gorgeous Shaker Mill Pond right in the heart of the downtown district. This underutilized asset could become a recreational destination, attracting visitors from all over.

Through the creation of a West Stockbridge Waterfront Association (WSWA) and the installation of an outdoor recreation- al water park, controlled access to the Shaker Mill Pond could be made available to both visitors and citizens alike.

Whether fishing, kayaking, or just relaxing along the waterfront, the proposed park would provide a simple and cost-effective means to bring additional visitors into West Stockbridge to en- joy our spectacular waterfront.

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Joe's assignment will be to prepare a written "update" for The Select Board AND for publication in The Local Yodel regarding this group's progress - so interested townspeople don't forget what we're doing. He will circulate it to all members for comment before submitting it. Joe will pre-

pare a similar "report" to submit for the upcoming Town Report this year. We can review it together before he submits it.

Agreed to set dates for next meetings on Wednesdays March 27, April 10, & April 24. Joe will post the new dates immediately.

This meeting was continued to March 20th at 5PM at Town Hall in the event that we need time to act quickly on any activity that requires action to submit a report for the upcoming Town Meeting or Town Report. If we don't reconvene on 3.25.19, this meeting stands adjourned.

Meeting concluded at 7:16PM Submitted by Joe & Karen

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WSVC April 10, 2019 6PM Town Hall

Joe & Karen combined minutes - Draft

THIS WAS OUR 17TH MEETING -

Called meeting to order -

Meeting was attended by Joe, Eric, Karen, Wayne, Stephen, Lois, Randy, Kim & Karden.

The past two meetings' minutes were approved.

Karen introduced plans for a "Tree Walk" in the downtown area. She submitted a plan to develop a "walking tour" of various trees of interest in town that were described and identified in a handout. Her idea was voted as a project to go forward with.

Stephen brought everyone up to date on the progress on our website.

Stephen, Karden and Eric met on the prior Saturday to develop a strategy to promote the CPA initiative for the ATM.

An Informative Public Meeting is set for the 23rd to prepare for the May 6th ATM. There was extended discussion on the best ways to present CPA data. WSVC is charged with running the Informative public discussion about CPA. The group discussed the various and most effective ways to make the CPA project understandable. The group adopted the most "honest ways" to promote and explain the details of the CPA program.

The next meeting dates were set for May 8th and May 22nd.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18PM

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West Stockbridge Vision Committee - West Stockbridge, Massachusetts April 24th, 2019 6PM Town Hall -

THIS WAS OUR 18TH MEETING

Meeting was attended by the following WSVC members: Joe, Karen, Peter, Karden, Eric, Lois, Stephen, Peter, Sarah, Kim & Kathleen

Meeting came to order at 7:04PM

There was further discussion about The CPA - Lois & Stephen led the initial discussion -

Karen introduced the idea of an "Arts Celebration." It would take place in the downtown areas. Maybe the first weekend in May [next year?] - There could be 20 minute programs at different venues in town - It would need people to coordinate the program, handle people between venues, market the program, contribute toward funding[?], and work with a committee to run the project. She will forward more information on the subject.

Dick recommended that we begin a list of possible ideas that we've discussed so far. An initial list consists of the following:

Riverwalk, Tree walk, resurrecting The WS Sportsman Club property, Bridge of Flowers, Lighted walkways, Posted photos of various points of interest in town, Rail Trail, Huge well-placed "Rocks & Stone" markers throughout downtown, CPA progress, Waterfront development, Arts Celebration [including area schools] and Town Cleanup projects.

The idea of developing a "Master Plan" for the town [which may well be what this committee's "mission" actually is.] [note: the original WS "Master Plan" from the mid '60s turned out to become the original Zoning By-Law. This developed into The Zoning By-Law that exists today.]

Kim will produce pictures that she took of downtown for the next meeting.

Peter will work on a downtown "map" to base various points of interest on and develop downtown "walks" on.

Karen mentioned that on May 11th, there will be a "Conservation" presentation at The Town Hall between 4:30 & 6PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10PM

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West Stockbridge Vision Committee

May 22, 2019 6PM Town Hall -

This was our 20th Meeting

Meeting was attended by the following WSVC members: Joe, Wayne, Kim, Lois, Peter, Randy, Dick & Kathleen.

Visitors were Liz Digrigoli & Tobey Casey. Meeting came to order at 6:20PM [at such time that we had a quorum.]

The minutes from the 5/8/19 meeting were accepted as read.

The next meeting dates were switched from Wednesdays to Mondays [which makes it easier for Eric to remain on our committee]. He has indicated that it may be better if he got off this group to avoid any conflicts - a decision that has yet to become final. Joe will check with him as to the status of his relationship with The Vision Committee.

Next meeting dates are June 17th and July 15th. We agreed to meet about once a month now instead of twice a month.

There was some continued discussion about the idea of an "Arts Celebration." Karen is working on the main points of an agenda for this event. Anyone who would like to work with Karen on this event should contact her directly.

Peter gave a brief summary of what may be involved with developing a "Rail Trail" along the old railroad bed from West Stockbridge to Housatonic. It was decided that by the next meeting, Peter would compose a written outline of the project for this group to discuss. That outline would include a list of positive and negative aspects of the project for further discussion and research.

Dick commented that all potential proposals should be discussed while noting positive and negative aspects of each of them. Everyone agreed. This type of "outline" would be a great way to begin discussion of all of our possible recommendations as we develop our specific "visions" to focus on.

Presently, our 5 points of focus include a Pedestrian Freindly "Walkabout," Rail Trail, CPA, Parks [waterfront, open space & recreation points] & Arts Festival.

Kathleen proposed that this committee abandon the term "Board of Selectmen" and adopt the term "Select Board" instead. All agreed.

The idea of developing a "Master Plan" was further explored. We all agreed that some professional assistance would be valuable [for all 5 points on our list.] Joe remembers that such a similar study was done by a professional firm about 20 - 25 years ago for the downtown corridor. We should try to find the results of that study. Joe will inquire with Mark Webber about that and see if he could attend a WSVC meeting to discuss this with us.

Kathleen clarified that her idea of a Master Plan referred specifically to the newly acquired properties in town. She proposed that the town consider all properties that the Town may be seeking to acquire be considered at the same time. This might encourage a plan that addressed all of them [at once] to form a cohesive study that addresses the best alternatives with all proposed properties in mind. This might create a wider scope of focus for each use. Parks, open space, recreation, parking, and access to each could be discussed in relation to each other. A map that identifies these properties would be ideal so they can be considered in an overall view. We might reach out to our

Planning Board for any input from them as we go forward with this process. The Select Board could oversee this project/study - or appoint a special committee to do so.

Randy suggested that we recommend that the Zoning By-Law be brought up to date. A year or two ago, the town updated our downtown Zoning District and we have no new drafts of the By-Law or updated Zoning Map yet. Joe agreed.

Other topics discussed included the following: Installation of stone steps from Orient Express parking lot to TurnPark [Harris Street to Moscow Road]; Rail Trail map from 6 Depot to Rockdale cemetery; "Cohesive Vision" concept [as opposed to a list of possibilities]; determining what's involved with eliminating the telephone and power lines in the downtown areas; planting flowers and some landscaping where we can; and looking into and developing any Land Trust possibilities in West Stockbridge.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Submitted by Joe Roy, Jr

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West Stockbridge Vision Committee June 17, 2019 6PM Town Hall

Meeting was attended by the following WSVC members: Joe, Eric, Bill, Kathleen, Karen, Stephen, Lois, Randy & Peter. Visitor was Toby Casey.

Meeting came to order at 6:08PM [at such time that we had a quorum.]

Eric [our newly elected Select Board member] had asked for some time to address the Committee members. He offered to be WSVC's personal Liaison to The Select Board. After this meeting, he is officially resigned as a member of WSVC. This is to avoid any potential conflicts between Boards and is in the interest of high quality communication and strength in our town government. He suggested hard copy "memos" be submitted from our committee to The Select Board through him. They could be dropped in the Select Board box in the "Work Room." He would report our concerns and observations to The Select Board and then reply to WSVC after receiving these memos. He recommended that we avoid texting and emails at this time.

He also updated us on some of the progress our Select Board has made since he was elected to it. He made the point that one consideration might be for the town to hire a professional firm that could conduct a study of the downtown area and report back with some advice as to how to proceed with development of the downtown corridor. Eric also stated that he and The Select Board would be interested in any "suggestions" or questions on any subject that The Select Board might act on or be aware of. What could be improved? What should they "look into?"

There was some discussion regarding various ways to have some public discussion on some of these topics "outside" the scope and venue of Select Board scheduled meetings. This would be something that this committee could research.

WSVC should discuss how we determine the exact process that these communications be submitted before this begins, so we all understand the process and not confuse the channels of communication in any way.

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The minutes from the 5/8/19 meeting were accepted as submitted.

After moving meeting dates to Mondays, it was pointed out that Mondays were also restrictive to some other members. After

some discussion, meeting dates were switched to Tuesdays. The committee determined that the next meeting dates are as

follows: July 16, August 13 & September 17.

Kathleen adapted the current Project Proposal that is presently in use to be our standard form to identify and outline all future Projects that this committee forms. Stephen will set that up in the new website for all subcommittee heads and members to fill out and refer to.

Stephen then addressed our current [5] targeted projects and proposed that we list them with names from potential committee

members that will "own" that project so he can set up each project on our website. Each Project "Owner" would be the go-to

person on that project. The Project Owner [PO] should encourage other members and citizens to work with her/him in

developing that project. Our "5" projects quickly grew to NINE projects and are listed [in no particular order] as follows:

1. WALKABOUT - Lois, Karen
2. RAIL TRAIL - Peter [PO]
3. CPA - Stephen [PO], Joe
4. PARKS [open space, waterways] - Karden [PO], Wayne
5. ARTS FESTIVAL - Karen [PO]
6. SPORSTMANS CLUB - Peter, Kathleen, Randy
7. MASTER PLAN - KATHLEEN [PO]
8. LAND TRUSTS - Peter
9. AFORDABLE HOUSING - Karen [PO], Bill

[If any of this information is incorrect in any way, please notify Joe so he can correct it immediately.

Note to WSVc members: If your name does NOT appear on the Project list [above], please consider which one you can work on

and join! This committee is evolving from one of discussion to one of discussion AND action.

The committee decided that each Project Owner should fill out forms asap so he can begin loading the content on the

website. At each scheduled WSVc meeting, Project Owners would report progress to WSVc.

Lois asked if there would be any reason to exclude "non-committee" participants to help on Projects. Since one of our goals is to include as much "outside" input as possible, it was decided that any help from outside the committee would be welcome. [Non-WSVc participants must understand that they cannot vote as a WSVc member, but they are always welcome to come to meetings and join the conversation.]

We discussed how to propose a replacement for Eric's vacancy. It has come to our attention that several individuals are interested in this vacancy. Joe will address the Select Board on how we should proceed and if they care how many members that we have. Is there a limit? "Quorum" is determined by 50% of the total membership. We have been experiencing a little trouble meeting quorum requirements lately. Without a quorum, we can make no decisions or votes or take any actions - just have "discussions." Anyone who is added to our membership must be prepared to attend meetings as regularly as possible AND be prepared to serve individually on "Projects," help with research, and be an active participant on our team.

Karen reminded members to revisit her request for input on her Tree Walk list AND her applications for the Arts Festival proposed for next May. She wants to prepare a "Sign Up Genius" site for potential applicants and is seeking some WSVc participation.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM.

Submitted by Joe Roy, Jr

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WSVc 7.16.19 meeting

Meeting was attended by the following WSVc members: Joe, Bill, Kathleen, Karen, Lois, Karden, Randy & Kim. Visitors included Dana Bixby and Carter White.

Meeting came to order at 6:15PM at which time a quorum was reached.

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Since the discussion began before a quorum was reached, the topic of discussion began with Randy's suggested six points of concern that this committee voted on as recommendations to The Select Board for their consideration. Randy handed out pictures to illustrate his points and the group considered them one at a time.

The committee voted to recommend actions regarding the six items below as follows:

1. That Downtown speed limits between the two intersections of Rtes 102 & 41 [State Line Rd to the north and Great Barrington Rd to the south] should be consistent. Presently, the speed limit in this portion of roadway is 15 mph when traveling in a southerly direction and 25 mph when traveling in the northerly direction. In an effort to increase safety, this committee recommends that it be 15 mph in both directions and it be patrolled as regularly as the budget will allow.

2. Regarding plans to procure and develop the parking lot on Main Street [formerly known as The Card Lake Inn parking lot - adjacent to The Old Town Hall on 9 Main Street,] this committee first and foremost recommends that the town save the trees - **do NOT cut the "sidewalk trees" down**. Trim them, feed them, nurture them. It will take years to replace them. They provide valuable shade to pedestrians. Please develop parking space with attention to additional landscaping [shrubs, benches, tables, flower beds.] Make every effort to make this an inviting "open space" in the center of our downtown. Please pay attention to the type of paving within the parking area and slope the ground to direct "runoff" surface water toward the drains already in place.

3. Troys Garage "used car" lot [between Albany Road and Shaker Mill Pond:] Please enforce the conditions imposed last Fall in the issued license [for car sales] regarding the number and condition of the vehicles parked there [which to our understanding means in "drivable" condition that would pass inspection; and with proper clearance between vehicles.]

Also: Please ask The Building Inspector [as our Zoning Enforcement Officer] to address the golf carts, various items for sale [like tractors, plows, trailers, etc] and parked cars - all associated with the commercial business of Troys Garage, to be removed from the yard of what was formerly known as "The McClelland property" on 9 Albany Road - which is a residential property and cannot be used in association with a commercial use next door. This seems to be a direct violation of Chapter 40A [The Zoning Act] as adopted by The West Stockbridge Zoning By-Law. A residential property cannot participate or be involved with a commercial use - even if it has the same owner - regardless of its proximity to the commercial use.

4. Action should be taking place regarding the application of visual "buffers" between the neighboring residential [and all] abutting properties adjacent to the two commercial solar power arrays in town. If these buffering screens were implemented when the permits were issued, they should be enforced; and if they were not issued [which is unfortunate], an effort should be made to initiate them.

5. Action should be immediately undertaken to begin the process of negotiating underground utility lines in the "downtown" areas. West Stockbridge is the only town in the immediate surrounding area towns that does not have underground lines. Just saying that it is "too expensive" is not a good reason to avoid looking into this. If that were the case, we'd never undertake any action to improve our town. We strongly recommend looking into exactly what would be the costs, the process, the impact on the commercial district, and how to fund such an endeavor. Only then would we be in a position to understand exactly what would be involved. The "The Town" could then decide how to move forward. Unless we are serious about the idea, we'll never know.

6. This committee and The Select Board should be supportive of a group effort to work closely with The Planning Board to develop a plan to increase affordable housing in West Stockbridge. It could include zoning changes that would encourage a second dwelling unit on a conforming lot. The Town of Richmond has a plan that could serve as a model for this type of initiative.

Note: What The Select Board does with these recommendations is up to them. We were asked to forward recommendations, which is what these are.

There was some discussion regarding the development of a Town "Master Plan" which would consider [among other things] various ways to best use the properties that The Town is considering to "acquire" in the future. This would include discussions regarding the need for more and better parks, open space and parking. Further discussion will continue after the "Project Group" has more information to offer on this subject. Dana Bixby seemed to agree with this possibility and expressed her desire to participate.

Before adjourning, the minutes from the 6/17/19 meeting were accepted after deleting the text "He also discussed and updated us on some of the the obstacles involved in the "taking" of properties that have been delinquent in taxes and that have been abandoned - and recommended that this committee join the conversation on how to overcome some of those obstacles in order to make best use of these properties" from the first paragraph.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25PM.

Submitted by Joe Roy, Jr

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July 20, 2019 6:15 Meeting at the Town Hall

Meeting was attended by the following WSVC members: Joe, Wayne, Kim, Bill, Randy Karden, Kathleen, Stephen, Lois

Called to order at 6:15 Topics for Discussion:

Procedure for recording minutes at future meetings Recommendations to the Select Board by the Vision Committee

Discussed was the need to have someone other than Joe take minutes of meetings. It was suggested that members to take on this responsibility on a rotating basis. As we wanted to move on to the topic of the recommendations to the Select Board, Kathleen made a motion that: 'Kathleen will take minutes for tonight's meeting'. Randy seconded and the motion was voted on as stated.

We agreed to revisit the 6 previously listed recommendations and rewrite each: 1. Karden read as written by Joe after the July 16th meeting:

1. That Downtown speed limits between the two intersections of Rtes 102 & 41 [State Line Rd to the north and Great Barrington Rd to the south] should be consistent. Presently, the speed limit in this portion of roadway is 15 mph when traveling in a southerly direction and 25 mph when traveling in the northerly direction. In an effort to increase safety, this committee recommends that it be 15 mph in both directions and it be patrolled as regularly as the budget will allow.

Rewritten as follows:

1. The Vision Committee recommend that Downtown speed limits between the two intersections of Routes 102 & 41 [State Line Rd to the north and Great Barrington Rd to the south] should be consistent. Presently, the speed limit in this portion of roadway is 15 mph when traveling in a southerly direction and 25 mph when traveling in the northerly direction. In an effort to increase safety, this committee recommends that it be 15 mph in both directions and it be patrolled as regularly as the budget will allow.

Karden made a motion to 'pass as read' Lois 2nd All voted in favor

2. Karden read as written by Joe after the July 16th meeting:

2. Regarding plans to procure and develop the parking lot on Main Street [formerly known as The Card Lake Inn parking lot - adjacent to The Old Town Hall on 9 Main Street], this committee first and foremost recommends that the town save the trees - do NOT cut the "sidewalk trees" down. Trim them, feed them, nurture them. It will take years to replace them. They provide valuable shade to pedestrians. Please develop parking space with attention to additional landscaping [shrubs, benches, tables, flower beds.] Make every effort to make this an inviting "open space" in the center our downtown. Please pay attention to the type of paving within the parking area and slope the ground to direct "runoff" surface water toward the drains already in place.

Rewritten as follows:

2. This committee suggests that no modifications of any kind be conducted at the Card Lake Inn Parking Lot on Main St. (such as removal of trees or paving). The VC further recommends that the select board nominate a committee specifically for the development of that property and/or it be integrated into the Master Plan Task Force.

Karden made a motion to 'pass as read' Kathleen 2nd All voted in favor

3. Karden read as written by Joe after the July 16th meeting:

3. Troys Garage "used car" lot (between Albany Road and Shaker Hill Pond): Please enforce the conditions imposed last Fall in the issued license (for car sales) regarding the number and condition of the vehicles parked there (which to our understanding means in "driveable" condition that would pass inspection; and with proper clearance between vehicles.) Also: Please ask the Building Inspector (as our Zoning Enforcement Officer) to address the golf carts, various items for sale (like tractors, plows, trailers, etc) and parked cars -- all associated with the commercial business of Troys Garage, to be removed from the yard of what was formerly known as "The McClelland property" on 9 Albany Road -- which is a residential property and cannot be used in association with a commercial use next door. This seems to be a direct violation of Chapter 48a (The Zoning Act) as adopted by the West Stockbridge Zoning By-Law. A residential property cannot participate or be involved with a commercial use -- even if it has the same owner -- regardless of its proximity to the commercial use.

Discussion was had about separating the motion into two separate motions (3A and 3B) as follows:

Rewritten as follows:

3. Recommendation on zoning and licensing enforcement:

3A: The Vision Committee would like to express our appreciation for the efforts conducted by the select board to address violations of our towns zoning by-law and licenses in relation to junk and used cars. We request that the Select Board vigorously enforce zoning by law and licenses against all violators in the town of West Stockbridge and require compliance.

Karden made a motion to 'pass as read' Randy 2nd All voted in favor

3B. We further request that the Select Board rigorously enforce zoning by-law as it relates to residential and commercial property use and to direct the zoning enforcement officer to take appropriate actions against violations such as conducting commercial activity on residential lots.

Karden made a motion to 'pass as read' Bill 2nd All voted in favor

4. Karden read as written by Joe after the July 16th meeting:

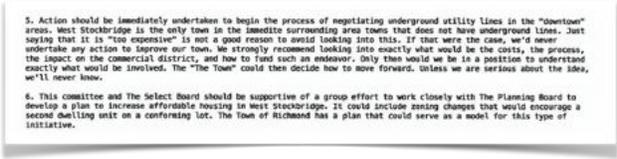
4. Action should be taking place regarding the application of visual "buffers" between the neighboring residential (and all) abutting properties adjacent to the two commercial solar power arrays in town. If these buffering screens were implemented when the permits were issued, they should be enforced; and if they were not issued (which is unfortunate), an effort should be made to institute them.

Rewritten as follows:

4. We recommend that the Select Board take action to require the owners of the commercial solar arrays to erect visual buffers (as approved by the licensing authority in consult with the planning board) to conceal them from view from all abutters and that such buffers be erected with haste.

Karden made a motion to 'pass as read' Kathleen 2nd All voted in favor

It was decided to table suggestions 5 and 6 until the next meeting.



The meeting was adjourned at 7:35

Submitted by Kathleen Keresey

August 12, 2019

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West Stockbridge Vision Committee  
8/13/19 Minutes submitted by Karen Carmean

Members in attendance:  
Joe, Kathleen, Lois, Karen, Bill, Peter, Karden & Sarah [by phone.]  
Also attending was Bob Salerno of The Finance Committee.

Minutes for last meeting accepted by Peter and Kathleen seconded. All approved.

Recommendation to have draft minutes of the Select Board be available based on the earliest possible delivery date. Karden made and seconded by Joe. All approved. To be brought up informally at the Select board meeting Wednesday night NOT as a formal recommendation.

The other recommendations are from the last meeting. The new ones are:

The vision committee highly recommends that the select board immediately research the process, cost, potential sources of funding and impacts on the town of burying the utility lines and present the findings in a report. Karden made the motion and Peter seconded this.

The vision committee recommends that the select board support a collaborative effort of the vision committee, the planning board and select board to develop a plan to increase affordable housing in West Stockbridge. Karden made and Lois seconded this motion.

Joe will contact the members who have not been showing up to see if they would stand down. Sarah Thorne agreed to stand down. You forfeit your membership if you miss two

consecutive meetings except for business trips out of town, vacation, or medical reasons.  
you cannot attend. We all agreed.

RSVP if

We agree to accept new members Liz DiGrigoli, Gary Schieneman, Michelle Laramie-  
and Paul Cunningham. Karen proposed. Peter seconded. All agreed.

Jenny

Peter moved & Karen seconded the adjournment at 7:30PM

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West Stockbridge Vision Committee
9/17/19 Minutes submitted by Anne Roy

Members in attendance:
Joe, Kathleen, Lois, Karen, Randy, Stephen, Dick, Michelle & Liz

Meeting came to order at 6:14PM

Last meeting minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

There was some discussion on who is taking over Parks and Recreation duties.

Discussion on next meeting dates resulted in everyone agreeing that future meetings would be on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6PM - at which time each subcommittee would produce reports on each subcommittee's progress.

Subcommittee reports began with Lois on the Beautification Committee. Discussion on when the dead Christmas tree would be cut down and possible locations of a new tree placement. Joe will get in touch with Bruno Balestro about obtaining a new tree for decoration. Joe recommended that a pipe in ground is advised for tree stand. Lois reported that banners & planters were being discussed.

There was a discussion on how Select Board has reacted to our 6 proposals. Joe will check.

Karen reported she had a "walkabout" with Amy Brentano's husband about identifying 75+ trees in town. All agreed that is a good idea. She also mentioned the Arts Festival was based on a Harvard University method of 20 minute presentations at several venues in town. May 3rd 2020 is the target date. She will need more than 12 volunteers. Tryouts could take place during the winter months.

Stephen Graham reported on WSVC website. He requested from each member a picture and a short bio [like the ones already on the site] for the "Committee" webpage. He plans to list the 12 or so subcommittees [and who is leading them] with a description of its purpose on a separate webpage. Kathleen suggested a possible page for website visitors to make suggestions.

Kathleen made some progress on the Master Plan Subcommittee. She met BRPC who can help create a process for townspeople to understand priorities like acquiring properties & public parking. Randy & Dana are concerned about zoning. Joe will discuss these ideas at the October 9th Select Board Meeting.

Discussion on available bicycle rentals and bike racks. A Bike survey is being planned.

Joe discussed the following rules for WSVC:

1. 9 members to meet quorum
2. Every member should be on one [or 2] subcommittees

Discussion on CPA "part 2" which will be a ballot question in order that it become adopted by the Town. How can WSVC help prepare for this vote?

Randy resubmitted photos of the pumping station and the dead tree by the Post Office as well as the numerous no parking signs in that area. What can we do to improve these unsightly things? There was some discussion that some WSVC subcommittees request town funding to perform certain projects to beautify and improve certain items to enhance the community.

Discussion on the 6 proposals submitted to The Select Board. Do we have any reports on any actions taken on things like speeding, traffic control, the Master Plan, and the remaining WSVC "suggestions?" WSVC will post the 6 proposals on the website as well as any actions taken on them.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

Submitted by Anne Roy

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West Stockbridge Vision Committee Oct. 15, 2019

1. In attendance Randy Thunfors, Bill Barth, Kathleen, Lois, Joe, Liz, Karden, Karen
2. Meeting opened at 6:11 pm
3. Karen taking minutes
4. Minutes change: omit: second from the bottom Kathleen will create sentence Karden and Randy seconded.
5. Motion to advise the select board to get the transmission and recording of Board meetings up and running asap. Karden and Joe seconded. Unanimous. 6. Refer CPA question "how can the vision committee help to prepare for the vote." to Joe and Steven from minutes. Karen. Joe seconded. Unanimous 7. Questions from 9/17/10 on "unsightly things" and 6 proposals were brought up by Joe at the Select Board and are recorded in the minutes of the Select Board and thus on the website. 8. Please get your photo and bio onto our website to give it to Steve Graham or get it from Joe. 9. Support the proposal developed on Arts First celebration and share it with artists and potential volunteers. Randy proposed, Joe seconded and unanimously supported. 10. If you miss two meetings in a row you can no longer be a voting member of the committee. We encourage you to join a subcommittee and attend any meeting you can. Randy made. Kathleen seconded. unanimously supported. In the future if you want to speak and are not a member voting member, ask permission of the chair and you may address the committee at the end of the meeting. 11. next meeting we will discuss the 12 focus groups. 12. Xmas tree- Tony will give us a tree, joe has a truck, but needs help. Lois reported that Kaitlin Graham, Steven's wife, has put it all together so they will do it. 13. Joe reviewed what was presented in the Select Board's meeting and the report on that will be in the minutes of the Board meeting and will be on the website and on Local Yokel.

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WSVC Meeting 11/19/19 Minutes submitted by Karen Carmean

Meeting came to order at 6:25PM. In attendance were Joe Roy, Steve Graham, Lois, Michelle, Bill Barth, Randy Thunfors, Karen Carmean, Kathleen & Kim [by phone]. Gerald Elias of 255 Gt Barrington Rd visited the meeting.

1. Randy made a motion to approve Celebrate Arts festival in West Stockbridge. Wsvc should ask SB for funding in the amount of \$1500.00 for advertising and related expenses. Seconded by Lois. All approved. Karen asked that all members should proofread the forms by filling out the performers form and the volunteer form pretending they were applying here to make sure there are no glitches!!
2. Randy made a motion to accept the last meeting's minutes as read and Lois seconded.
3. We agreed that all of us should talk to Wayne, once we find out if he can do Monday meetings, we will try to change.
4. Steve made a motion that anyone who misses two unexcused consecutive scheduled meetings is no longer a member. Member should contact Joe with reason for absence prior to the missed meeting. They may call into the meeting. Lois seconded - all approve.
5. Report from low cost housing and master plan report on ways to expand low cost housing. From Karen, Bill, Randy and Kathleen.
6. Tax abatement program proposed by Randy and seconded by Lois (see Randy's email with details below*)

7. Randy made a motion to ask SB to look into the process of permitting banners on utility poles in town.
Seconded by Lois. All approved

Adjourned at 7:15

* 1) Request that the Select Board pursue a tax abatement program for senior citizens who provide service to the town. This program is currently in effect in Great Barrington (Senior Property Tax Work Off program) and Richmond and directly assists senior citizens on limited budgets to remain in town and also to provide valuable services based on their individual skills and particular town needs

2) Request that the Select Board begin the process for permitting of banners and or flags to be installed on town electric/phone poles. Subcommittees of the Vision Committee have discussed various designs and the need to have the downtown area more vibrant . The Beautification Subcommittee has obtained the application process for the power/phone co. authorization.

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West Stockbridge Vision Committee

MINUTES - January 28, 2020 6:00 Meeting at the Foundry

Meeting was attended by the following West Stockbridge Vision Committee members: Joe, Bill, Randy, Kathleen, Steve, Lois, Liz, Karen, Gary and Peter

Called to order at 6:11

Discussion / Motions:

- There was a motion made to change the start the time of the opening of subsequent meetings until 6:30 on the third Tuesday of each month. It was decided to continue to start the meeting at 6:00 to allow for informal discussion, and to call the meeting to order at 6:30 with a hopeful finish at 7:30. All voted in favor.
- Motion made to submit proposal and funding requests from the various subcommittees to send to the town in time for Finance Committee and Select Board review prior to Town Meeting. Motion was made, seconded, and all present voted in favor.
- There was discussion on again clarifying the various subcommittees and leads. All present agreed that the following are the current, active

subcommittees: o Affordable Housing o Arts o Beautification o CPA o Education o Marketing o Master Plan o Public Land Trust o Parks o Railtrail o Transit

Bill, Karen Karen Lois Steve, Joe Steve, Joe, Karden, Steve Kathleen, Randy Peter Liz, Karden, Peter, Kathleen, Bill

- Motion made to ask the Select Board to set up an informational meeting with Senator Adam Hinds' office about the Berkshire Flyer and its' potential impact on the Town of West Stockbridge. All present voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27

Submitted by Kathleen Kersey

February 17, 2020

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West Stockbridge Vision Committee

MINUTES - February 17, 2020 6:00 Meeting at the Town Hall

Meeting was attended by the following West Stockbridge Vision Committee members: Joe, Bill, Randy, Kathleen, Steve, Lois, Liz, Karen, and Karden. Called to order at 6:30

Discussion / Motions: Eric S. informed us that he learned that towns that were most successful in Economic Development were towns that had excellent Public Relations programs as well as being warm and welcoming to business in terms of attitude and permitting process. Steve updated us on status of website: Current members, 1. Joe 2. Wayne 3. Karen 4. Peter 5. Randy 6. Kathleen 7. Karden 8. Bill 9. Lois 10. Steven 11. Kim 12. Liz

o Lois will check with Kim to see if she wants to stay on the WSVC

- Sub-Committees can gather informal volunteers and helpers to execute tasks that have been approved by the VC and SB.
- Eric Bill brought up electric car charging station and have it under his oversight. **Motion:** Randy T. asked that we ask the SB to investigate setting up an electric car charging station somewhere in WS. Seconded by Karen C. Motion carried, no objections.
- o Bill will complete the WSVC form for submission to the SB. o Kathleen wants the location of the chargers to be informed by the Master Plan

Eric Kathleen update: Master Plan's fall under the authority of the planning board (as opposed to the WSVC).

Discussion about how Kathleen's MP committee could work with the planning board. Randy said Kathleen's MP and WSVC could be the think tank and collaborator with Dana and BRP who would be the executor. Kathleen is thinking that phase 1 is the "town common/park" by taking advantage of the newly acquired land across from the Post Office. Randy and Lois brought up soliciting The Botanical Garden to collaborate in parks and rec and beautification of WS.

Eric Discussion: Pole Banners... Jennifer and Lois are in charge of designing the banners. Kurt is apparently completing forms with the power company about hanging the banners on poles. Karen brought up that there is a new sign for town hall being designed by the Eric and the SB.

o Steven brought up the idea of a style guide to coordinate the design of all the signage (and potentially marketing) of the whole town.

o Liz likes the design of the Werkshires and Tap House signs

Eric **Motion:** Steve proposes that we request the Select Board approve a process for creating a

Eric **Motion:** Steve proposes that we request the Select Board approve a process for creating a style guide to visually coordinate public/private marketing of the town such as flyers, banners, signs, web visuals and social media, etc. – seconded by Karden. Randy is opposed. Motion carries.

i Discussion about prioritizing the proposed budget for approval. General agreement was to green light marketing, beautification and website. Joe and Kathleen are going to talk to Marie about whats sensible/possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54

Submitted by Karden Rabin

February 17, 2020

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### **West Stockbridge Vision Committee Minutes for Tuesday 26 May 2020**

**Attending by Zoom: Joe Roy Jr., Randy Thunfors, Kathleen Keresey, Steve Graham, Karen Carmean, Doane Perry, Thom Lipiczky**

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm

1. Joe Roy (JR) read the **minutes from the last meeting** on 17 March 2020
2. Thom Lipiczky (TL) volunteered to **take notes for this meeting**
3. JR moved to **delay the appointing of a time keeper** until the next meeting. Karen Carmean (KC) seconded. Approved 7-0.
4. JR opened the agenda with discussion of the **Vision Committee budget request for the Annual Town Meeting (ATM)**. Finances in town are uncertain, largely due to impact of COVID. Actual amounts for various line items (including the VC, Highway Dept, School, etc.) are voted on at the ATM.

Concern was voiced by JR and KC over physical attendance at the ATM due to recommendation for physical distancing. Apparently, the Select Board has not issued any guidelines about this or made plans for a video conferenced ATM. Several members said they would not attend due to health concerns. Steve Graham volunteered to attend, and Doane Perry moved (seconded by KC) that Steve be the official representative of the VC. 7-0 in favor.

KC wondered why the ATM couldn't use video conferencing platform like zoom. JR pointed out that the physical vote could not be verified. Kathleen Keresey suggested that this could be done by polling on the "chat" function.

JR will give the VC budget to SG so he'll be able to follow the warrant items as they're brought up. KC looked at the warrant posted on the town website and found in Article 24 that \$1435 had been allocated to the VC for general expenses.

5. Discussion of Agenda Item "**realistic objectives for upcoming season**" was tabled, given the unlikelihood of any significant activity due to COVID.
6. Discussion of Agenda Item "**pole banners**" was tabled until next meeting for the same reason. JR pointed out that putting up the banners requires coordination with the State DOT through the town Highway Dept., and with the power company. RT mentioned that putting up pole banners also requires an application form that should be handled by a paid town employee.

7. Discussion of Agenda Item “**property tax program for elderly**” was described by JR and RT as, at least in part, tasks performed by seniors for the town in lieu of property tax payments. RT also mentions a “circuit breaker” tax rebate program whereby seniors could do town work.
8. Agenda Item “**WS town video**” was tabled due to uncertainty about finances, summer plans, etc. Nevertheless, there was discussion of this later on.
9. Agenda Item “**website update**” started with a note that information about the senior tax rebate program was needed if there were to be a page on the website describing this. KK suggested that a volunteer should help Marie Ryan the town administrator in getting info on the senior rebate.

SG said he’d be happy to consider additional ideas for the website. DP suggested that the “livability” of the town be highlighted. KC suggested more activities like the “tree walk” put on by the Historical Society, or contests for “the best vegetable garden” or other “best” categories. These could be coordinated with notices in the Local Yokel, or on the town FaceBook page. It was suggested by several people that Ron Kujawski, the gardening columnist for the Berkshire Eagle and town resident, be asked for ideas. KC also suggested that various residents’ stories of why they like to live here be part of the website.

RT said the Richmond town video was an example of something to pursue. He said he would contact the videographer who did it for ideas. KC wondered about the future—more people will want to move here, and thought that a heavily produced video would take too long to air, making the information obsolete. JR said we’d need to be able to update the video regularly. KC was concerned about the cost of producing a video. JR, DP, and KC said they’d contact other local film makers for advice.

10. JR reported that VC member **Lois Ferguson** has been ill, but that she hopes to rejoin the committee when she’s recovered.
11. RT mentioned that the **Community Preservation Act** needs support at the ATM. However, a search on the warrant did not find the CPA listed. Concern was voiced by several members about this.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm. Thom Lipiczky

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West Stockbridge Vision Committee Meeting 6.16.20

Active Members: Joe Roy, Peter Thorne, Randy Thunfors, Stephen Graham, Lois Ferguson, Karen Carmean, Doane Perry, Bill Barth, Wayne Cooper, Thom Lipiczky, Karden Rabin & Liz DiGrigoli.

Members in attendance at this meeting:

Joe, Steve, Kathleen, Karen, Bill, Randy, Doane & Thom. [Kathleen left the meeting before it began.]

Meeting called to order at 6:36PM

The group decided officially that we drop the idea of a timekeeper for discussions.

Some of the meeting invitations still said that the meetings were held on “Hangout,” and Joe will be sure that it will clarify that the meetings are held on ZOOM.

Joe asked if there were any comments on the last meeting minutes [accept or modify.] Randy referred to #7 on Page One which read as follows:

“Discussion of Agenda Item **“property tax program for elderly”** was described by JR and RT as, at least in part, tasks performed by seniors for the town in lieu of property tax payments. RT also mentions a “circuit breaker” tax rebate program whereby seniors could do town work.”

Randy pointed out that it refers to two different senior citizen tax possibilities. The first is a State property tax and is called “The Circuit Breaker” which can become a rebate through an individual’s taxes. He said the second one has been adopted in several towns nearby [including Great Barrington] and is a *property tax work-off program*. This option involves a senior citizen with skills that could be used by the town and could work for a town to earn credit [by the hour] that could be applied toward their tax statement from the town. To sum up: the first is a State tax rebate, and the second is a program [adopted by the town] that allows a qualified senior citizen to earn credits to be used to lessen their property taxes.

It was later decided that Randy would re-write the #7 agenda item and we would act on it at our next meeting. All other items in the draft for the May 26, 2020 meeting were accepted as submitted.

There was some discussion regarding WSVC’s role in implementing suggestions that we submit to the SB. Bill suggested that we create a list of those suggestions and post them on our website with dates, including dates for anticipated action by The SB. Thom spoke in favor of this idea of posting suggestions on our website. Joe followed up by saying that he would create a rough outline on how that idea should move forward and would make it an agenda item for our next meeting.

Joe asked for a motion to continue meeting by ZOOM for the foreseeable future. Karen seconded the motion and we all agreed that we would continue to meet via ZOOM.

The next agenda item was regarding whether to ask for the appointment of i’in Purwanti Cox to WSVC. After a very brief discussion, Randy made an enthusiastic motion to ask for her appointment and it was seconded and approved unanimously.

Joe asked if there were any subcommittee reports to be made at this time. Randy mentioned that since Lois has been ill, there haven’t been any Beautification meetings lately. But Randy told us that he has recently discussed West Stockbridge beautification with Michael Beck at the Garden Center who expressed interest in working on the West Stockbridge downtown design. He also mentioned that some others on the Center’s board [who live in WS] might also be involved as well. Randy further stated that the idea is to “green” the downtown area with an overall design and plan as opposed to doing things piecemeal. Joe commented that there is now an \$8,000.00 budget specifically designated for “beautification” in West Stockbridge. Our committee proposed that budget, although it is at this time a bit vague as to how that budget will be implemented. Joe will follow up that after the Town meeting.

It was also determined that Randy would write a letter on behalf of this committee to Lisa Parker of “The Lady’s Touch” for the outstanding job that she does with flowers and plantings in town.

Karen reminded us that she would like to see notes and letters from people that submit pictures of vegetable and flower gardens in West Stockbridge to The Local Yokel which would encourage the idea of beautification in town and attract visits to our website. She proposed a motion that WSVC would put an article in The Local Yokel asking people to submit their favorite photos of various gardens in town to The Vision Committee which will be posted on our website. We would then invite the Yokel to choose some of the photos to feature in their next issue. Karen will send an invitation to The Yokel to ask for peoples’ photos. We will follow up on this project at the next meeting.

There was a brief discussion about the possibility of a “West Stockbridge Video” at some point in the future, but we need more discussion on that subject before we even begin a plan to do so. Perhaps we may get some advice from i’in on that before we decide how to move forward with the idea.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37PM

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West Stockbridge Vision Committee 8/13/19

Active members: Joe Roy Jr, Bill Barth, Steve Graham, Carter White, Frank Landsberger, Thom Lipiczky, i'in Purwanti, Randy Thunfors, Karen Carmean, Doane Perry, Liz Digrigoli & Peter Thorne.

Members in attendance:

Joe, Bill, Steve, Frank, i'in & Thom. Quorum met.

Meeting called to order at 6:30PM

Review of the last two meetings minutes could not be made due to Joe's computer crashing after the power out and they are not available until it comes back from the shop.

Election of officers:

Chair: Bill nominated Joe - seconded - no other nominations - voted unanimously.

Vice Chair: Thom nominated Bill - seconded - no other nominations - voted unanimously.

Secretary/Clerk: Frank nominated Steve - seconded - no other nominations - voted unanimously.

There was a small discussion as to how the minutes would be taken from this time forward. Following the "tips to taking minutes" that Joe emailed everyone, which suggests just recording attendance, motions made & acted upon, and results. Other actions taken that received "approval" could also be noted. We would also archive the recorded meeting content separately.

Frank made a motion that we adopt that policy, it was seconded, and was approved unanimously.

Next on the agenda was i'in's nomination of Maddie Elling. Joe mentioned that after Maddie thought about joining, she decided to remove herself from consideration because she was already quite busy with other activities. Joe reported that she was no longer interested.

Joe asked if there was any interest at this time of anyone who wanted to serve on a committee with Carter that would deal with the development of a Land Trust initiative in West Stockbridge. Carter explained to great extent how it works at the last meeting. Joe thought that Carter might be interested in heading up a focus group or subcommittee on "land trusts." Joe said that he'd try to get more information from John Fulop who is president of the Berkshire Community Land Trust, Inc and if any information can be obtained regarding their annual meeting being held at the same time as ours this month. We will revisit this subject at the next meeting when we will hopefully have a better attendance. There are also other committee members that are interested in land trusts.

Joe & Steve will meet before the next meeting to figure out how to arrange for a way to have every WSVC meeting be available at the same link.

The next agenda item was about updating the WSVC website. Steve will first update the "Committee" webpage that shows the current members, their pictures, and a short bio for each entry. Then Joe asked that Steve add a focus page on CPA that we could develop. Joe had just written an article on CPA for the Local Yokel and once it's "final" [published], he will submit that for our website. There was more discussion on the production of data regarding WSVC activities and functions. Steve recommended having someone who would manage social media content that he could promote on the website. i'in said she would be interested in that sort of thing - once we focused on what our strategy and branding would be.

There was more discussion about how this committee would record our progress and make suggestions to the SB [Select Board.] We need to agree on a method to record our progress. And perhaps a way to ask for some feedback from the SB. Steve agreed to update the website to show an effort to illustrate progress on “branding,” SB recommendations and any input we can accumulate from the general public in such a way that it encourages external input that would inform us as to how to come to realistic conclusions that would lead to specific ideas to introduce to the SB. Steve & I will meet separately to discuss different ways to develop that concept. No one objected to this idea. Everyone agreed that Joe will add it to the next meeting agenda so that they can report back to this committee at the next meeting.

Steve asked Joe if he would try to find any notes from former meetings that discussed this idea and deliver it to the committee. Joe will do some looking.

Meeting adjourned 7:32 PM

JR; SG

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Tue, Sep 15, 2020

Meeting start 6:07

Attendees: - Joe - Steve - Thom - Frank - Randy - Carter - Liz- Karen - Doane - Bill

Motion to accept previous 3 meeting minutes as proposed

- Motion: Doane
- Second: Karen
- Unanimous for

Topic #1: Sub-committee for Land Trust

- Carter to chair
- Doane to join
- Karen to join

- Frank to join
- Check with Peter - Karen will do this
- Reach out to Richmond to see if they can help with this - Carter will

Topic #2: Website updates

- Send Steve bio updates
- Send Steve project updates
- Send Steve interest in being a blog poster
- Doane would like to be a blog poster
- Steve to tally website costs
- Karen and Steve to update tree walk project
- CPA page creation on the website - Steve to start it and send to Joe - Post garden pictures

Topic #3: Accounting for select board submissions

- Get the list together, maintain it, consider posting on the website (Joe will compile), discuss at next meeting

Topic #4: Garden pictures

- Karen to publish in the yokel

Topic #5: Sub-committee reports

- Marketing (Steve)
- Doane would like to contribute with I'in
- How to measure success of our marketing efforts? Consider this.
- Make sure it's not just a town commercial advertisement. Think about marketing affordable housing, family life... etc - this isn't just for business.

- Transportation? (Bill)

- Consider joining the BRTA - bus routes - Doane wants to join Bill's subcommittee

- Master Plan (Randy)

- Let's get a report from them, especially on how we're spending that \$50k grant
- Consider things like people buying houses just to turn them into Air-B-n-B hotels?

Motion to adjourn - Time 7:45

- Motion: Randy
- Second: Bill

- Unanimous for

Submitted by Steve Graham

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WSVS 10/20/2020 Meeting Notes

Submitted by **Stephen Graham**

Attendees:

Joe, Steve, Carter, Thom, Frank, I'in, Randy, Karen, Doane & Peter Guests:

Connie Eagan

Sarah Thorne

Start: 6:03 PM [Meeting came to order]

Motion:

Accept minutes as written Motion: Frank Second: Carter Discussion: None

Vote: Pass unanimous Motion:

Joe has authority to admit Michael Bolognino to the Vision Committee and Joe +1 should vet and interview each WSVS candidate before proposing

Motion: Frank

Second: Carter

Discussion: None Vote: Pass unanimous Topics / action items:
Marketing sub-committee:

What is the goal / message we are trying to accomplish?

Frank: economic development - increase employment opportunities. Micro- brewery?

Carter: get them here, then develop interest in joining community

I'in: first we need to decide what this town is - what is W. Stockbridge (example: Salem)?

Carter - careful with this, don't get pigeon-holed (example: Hancock) Thom - gateway to the Berkshires

Frank - marijuana shops?

I'in: creating community to attract young people

Joe: review the mission / vision statement, see if it makes sense and helps guide us here

Ultimately, we won't solve this tonight - let's all consider and propose ideas for this.

Steve / I'in will try to meet more this month and have a bigger report for next month

Land-Trust Sub-Committee -

Selectmen should be brought up to date on what we're trying to do (Joe)

Frank: seek endorsement at the next town meeting

Where does the Conservation Commission come in on this?

Someone there should join the sub-committee

Peter will join sub-committee, will meet with Carter, and they will report next week

Get a survey out to get the town involved

Carter, give Joe an introductory statement that he can use to present to folks to make this happen

Carter, see if we can get BNRC to help craft this

Can we incorporate economic development into this? Hiking/biking trails... etc. Need to publish standards on how this will operate

Steve had to leave at 6:53 PM

Joe submitted the remaining 13 minutes of meeting discussion as follows:

Joe addressed the three Agenda items of the 10.19.20 WSVC meeting that reported SB meeting topics regarding "Beautification" Budget, a Planning Board representative on the VC [Vision Committee] and progress on the Master Plan Committee.

Joe had submitted a written accounting to VC members prior to this meeting because they were on the last two meeting agendas and we were having trouble finding "meeting time" to get to them in the past. The committee agreed that they could be taken off future agendas at the time.

One conclusion of the discussion was that Joe should begin a dialogue with The Planning Board Chair regarding various ways to improve communication between the two boards. During that same discussion, it was also determined that when the VC had topics that would benefit from Planning Board input, The VC would be best served if the Planning Board were made aware of the topic for any possible comment or suggestions. Planning Board members are always welcome to participate with any VC Subcommittee.

The following is a list of Joe's written "reports" on those three agenda items: [Joe's report on "Beautification" budget](#) - where it is and implementation -

At a SB meeting many weeks ago, it was explained by saying that the \$8000.00 appropriation for Beautification was allocated to the departments that would be implementing the funds. Curt Wilton's Highway Department and The Parks & Rec Committee [also overseen by Curt] will be working with Lisa Parker who will continue and expand her work with the many floral arrangements around town. I'm not aware of any other information on this at this time.

[Joe's report on Master Plan Committee:](#)

During a SB Meeting with Dana Bixby [Planning Board Chair], a discussion regarding the formation of the recently discussed *Master Plan Committee* [in accordance with an agreement specified with The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and a grant received to move forward with a BRPC/West Stockbridge study regarding the formation and duties of a Master Plan Committee,] it was determined that our Planning Board would be charged with heading the new committee. Further information may be available at this time, but Joe is not aware of any.

[Joe's report on possible Planning board representation on The Vision Committee.](#)

During the same SB Meeting mentioned above, Dana Bixby [Planning Board Chair] expressed a desire to have a Planning Board representative on WSVC as a means of cooperative discussion between boards. Joe has extended an invitation to Dana in this regard and has as yet to receive a reply.

The above three agenda items contain the basis of Joe's reports.

Since WSVC introduced the Beautification budget that was approved at the Annual Town Meeting, it was Joe's way of reporting the progress of this budget to The VC. And since The Master Plan Committee began as a subcommittee of VC, our membership deserves an update as to its development. If there is any further discussion on these three items, we can address them further during the October 20th meeting. If anyone can add to the above "reports", by all means please do!

[End of Joe's 3 "reports."]

One final appeal was made by Karen Carmean for photo submissions [by anyone - particularly VC members] of any West Stockbridge gardens. They could be from this year, or any previous year. They could be of flower gardens or vegetable gardens. They would be selected and posted on the WSVC website.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06PM

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WSVC Meeting 11.17.20 at 6PM Zoom

Stephen Graham Meeting minutes

Attendees:

Steve, Joe, Thom, Carter, Frank, Michael, Randy, Bill, Karen, Doane

Call to order: 6:08 PM

Motions:

Description: Motion to strike Frank's comments made in jest regarding a shop and approve minutes as otherwise written

Motion: Frank Seconded: Thom Discussion:

Steve no issues, goal is to capture general topics and high-level discussion, willing to allow anyone else to take minutes if desired.

Randy issues with striking discussed comments from our public meeting notes.

Vote: 4-2 for, motion carries

Description: Motion for the committee to support Carter's Land Trust proposal as written

Motion: Frank

Seconded: Doane

Discussion: Carter addressed various questions regarding land trusts in general and logistical implementation details of this proposal

Vote: Unanimous for, motion carries

Description: Motion that Karen writes a letter thanking Lois on behalf of the WSVS, cc'ing select board for the achievements of this sub-committee.

Motion: Karen

Seconded: Doane

Discussion: Randy may send Karen items to include. Eric will read it at the next select board meeting.

Vote: Unanimous for, motion carries

Description: Motion to adjourn @ 7:20 PM

Motion: Thom

Seconded: Doane

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous for, motion carries

----- Topics:

New sub-committee to address noise ordinances - Select board asked us to form it

Frank interested in joining

Doane interested in joining
Karen willing to advise
Eric will help advise -
Motivation seems to be traffic-based.

Consider sound barriers along the turnpike

Traffic control remedies sub-committee. Need more clarification on this.
How about a western turnpike entrance?

Marketing sub-committee Reporter: Steve

Steve and I'in met with her husband George. Sub-committee is planning on putting together a series of visualizations that incorporate the various projects and ideas we've had in the past to help facilitate our discussions and help determine how and what we want to market.

Michael would like to join sub-committee. Steve will send material and follow- up with Michael

Traffic sub-committee Reporter: Bill
Nothing new to report - looking to engage with the BRTA
Joe will introduce idea to SB before next meeting for feedback

West Stockbridge Land Trust

Reporter: Carter
Looking to push proposal and solicit feedback (select board, Conservation Committee, mothers & fathers in town... etc). Need a team to support and drive this.
Should this be a stand-alone thing or a 501C? More discussion needed on this. This will be brought up as a topic at the next select board meeting - Carter will speak to this. We will be reaching out to a member of the BNRC to join us at this meeting. Joe to contact Narain Schroeder of BNRC.

Beautification sub-committee Reporter: Randy

Not a lot of action since Lois fell ill.
Randy will try to see if someone else will chair this sub-committee.

Solar panel bylaw will be discussed at the next select board meeting.

~~~~~

**Submitted by Stephen Graham WSVC Meeting 12.8.20**

Attendees:

Joe, Steve, Roger, Frank, Karen, Liz, Joe Jr, Thom, Michael, Kathleen, Carter, I'in, Karen & Doane.

Meeting called to order 6:05

Ideas to Kathleen's request for grant application:

Michael:

Ice skating - check

Boat ramp - check, Frank also likes this but worried about mollusk inspection requirements

Bird watching on shaker mill pond - explore

Art to town, building or crosswalk mural - explore but focus on downtown

Permanence on bridges - covered already

Historical / guided walk - good, especially if an add on / upgrades

Sidewalks / more walkable places - check, but no maintenance / operational cost coverage Winter market, street closure - not applicable

Valentine's day, cards - not applicable

Thom:

Purchase car lot from D'Aniello's to make a park - not fast enough

Bill:

Path to library, downtown to town hall on Oak Street - not bad if there is direct access, let's try, Joe will get assessor's map info, Doane likes this idea as well and maybe a good bus location. There are more facilities here than just the library. Karen likes this.

Transit, BRTA, allocate space for future transit uses, but stop... etc - check but no idea if this is achievable / operational in time

I'in:

Book and food donations - not applicable, but Michael interested in this idea, and should be achievable without the grant

Karen:

Bocci, shuffleboard, activities for seniors - might be interested in this.

Public restroom - they weren't interested in the last grant.

Other ideas will be sent to Kathleen

Frank:

Improving beach areas

Liz:

Card pond improvements - not necessarily downtown so could be a problem The stairway / walkway between card pond and downtown

Joe Jr:

Is the new town hall in scope? - believe so, but will confirm

Pavillions

Handicap swings

Card pond improvements, Kurt has a ton of suggestions

Goose deterrent

Ice skating - check

Steve:

Pole banners - grant may not fund this

WSWA

River Williams Trail

Tree Walk - already funded?

Celebrate Arts

Carter:

Park near the bridge

Parking on main street and exploring alternatives - master plan committee will be addressing this, Joe likes this idea

Path to library, downtown to town hall on Oak Street - not bad if there is direct access, let's try, Joe will get assessor's map info, Doane likes this idea as well and maybe a good bus location. There are more facilities here than just the library. Karen likes this.

Transit, BRTA, allocate space for future transit uses, but stop... etc - check but no idea if this is achievable / operational in time

Book and food donations - not applicable, but Michael interested in this idea, and should be achievable without the grant

Bocci, shuffleboard, activities for seniors - might be interested in this. Public restroom - they weren't interested in the last grant.

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Card pond improvements - not necessarily downtown so could be a problem The stairway / walkway between card pond and downtown

Is the new town hall in scope? - believe so, but will confirm Pavillions

Handicap swings

Card pond improvements, Kurt has a ton of suggestions Goose deterrent

Carter:

Park near the bridge

Parking on main street and exploring alternatives - master plan committee will be addressing this, Joe like this idea

Kathleen:

Expecting the WSVC to write up a proposal for anything you are interested in, try to prioritize and get something in quickly. Hard deadlines approaching.

Directional sign - might fund this

Parking safety, speed humps & traffic barriers, etc.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:08:

Proposed: Thom

Seconded: l'in

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous for

.....  
Minutes for WSVC meeting 1/19/21 by Steve Graham

Attendees:

Joe, Steve, Thom, Bill, Michael, Karen, Doane & Frank

Notes:

Meeting called to order 6:09

Motion to accept the minutes as written:

Motion: Doane –

Second: Thom –

Discussion: None –

Pass unanimous

Motion to keep our 2021 budget flat at \$1435.00

Motion: Thom

Second: Bill

Discussion:

How much does the website cost? About \$150 a year Should we pay Steve for website work? Steve says no need  
Doane wants to make sure we consider any known expenses

Pass unanimous

Shared Streets 2.0

Focus on parks and open spaces  
Kittleson helping us with our applications for 9 proposals

Marketing sub-committee:  
Unable to meet recently - planning to meet next week. Consider what to use our budget

Land Trust  
Carter not here to provide an update  
Joe will approach selectmen with Carter's proposal

Noise Committee

Idea for no Jake brakes  
Inviting discussion (meeting/survey... etc) to identify noise issues worth addressing

Unanimous recommendation of the committee

The VC is requesting that The Select Board call for a "public discussion" to identify possible "noise" issues in WS,  
and WSVC will participate in the process.

Frank wants us to consider enforcing other laws instead (speeding whenever a Jake is applied... etc)

Traffic Control Remedies  
Skipping for now, though we covered parts of this during other topics

Review List of Active Sub-Committees  
Next meeting, let's review this and decide what's active / in-active

Committee to seek & write grants

New Year's Resolution for WSVC  
Come up with proposals for next meeting

What should WS focus on in marketing?

Open Discussion:  
Karen mentioned that it's not too late to object or complain about regulations that are bothering you - now is the  
time to act (2 more years until next window).  
Frank mentioned that now is the time to ask for budget if you know of something you need funding for.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:10 PM Motion: Frank  
Second: Thom  
Discussion: none

Pass unanimous

WSVC Meeting 2.16.21 Submitted by Stephen Graham

Attendees:

Joe, Steve, Thom, Frank, Bill, Carter, Michael, i'in, Karen, Doane

Notes:

Meeting called to order at 6:06PM

Motion to accept meeting minutes as written

Proposed by Frank

Seconded by Thom

Discussion - none

Vote – unanimous for

Shared Streets grant:

\$300K draft crafted for cleaning pond pathways/beach, skating rink, camouflaging the sewer pump on Moscow Road.

Submitting in one week.

Letter to Select Board re: land trust & noise control committee notes –

No response yet.

Seeking approval to allocation \$500.00 of our budget to cover expenses related to building and maintaining VC website”

Proposed by Frank

Discussion: Cannot vote on this in this meeting – will seek to get approval first.

Karen & Steve to meet to get the tree walk onto the website –

Sub-Committee reports:

Marketing –

Goal 1: interview folks in town about what is unique about West Stockbridge / what makes us different and where they want to see West Stockbridge go –

Goal 2: Branding – coming up with a cohesive branding strategy –

Goal 3: Promoting our vision, visually – Steve has pictures to give to i'in to help capture our ideas in picture form –

Please send suggestions re: who to interview and/or talk to regarding branding to Steve, i'in and Michael-

Agenda items not covered:

Traffic Control, Noise Control, Land Trust

Time for Second public input meeting?

Topics for future meetings?

Revitalizing the Zucchini Festival?

Motion: End meeting at 7:17PM

Proposed by Karen

Seconded by i'in

Discussion: none  
Vote: Unanimous for

WSVC Meeting Minutes for Meeting #42 [3.16.21]  
Joe Roy, Jr [in Steve's absense]

**Attendees:**

- Joe
- Bill
- Thom
- Karen
- Doane
- i'in
- Frank
- 
- Guests:
- Roger Kavanagh
- Karen Kavanagh
- 

**Notes:**

- Meeting called to order 6:08 PM
- 
- Motion to accept the minutes as written:
  - Motion: Frank
  - Second: Thom
  - Discussion: None
  - Pass unanimous
  -
- Marketing sub-committee: [Reported by i'in]
  - presently working on an "interview-type story" - presently taking photos around town - creating a template for creating profile photos for starters - committee to approve template and then work on project - which will be posted on a social media platform -
  - This interview presentation will address questions about what people like about West Stockbridge as well as what they'd like to see developed further in town -
  - She will create the template [as an example] and email int to committee members who can comment on the format. Once decided, she will proceed with a presentation for approval and comments. Steve & Michael will work on the project with her.
  - She will email us a list of "branding" contacts for The Committee to study.
  - She asked that VC members be available to be included in the initial presentation draft.
  - Joe suggested that she contact Bob Salerno for comments and input - also, Randy Thunfors has some drawings of a river walk put together by Gordon Rose -
  - Karen mentioned her tree walk map; Doane mentioned a map that he donated to The Historical Society; Frank has a book of past representations of West Stockbridge... contributing to the "past" as part of a "past, present & future" picture of WS life.
  -
- Land Trust
  - Carter not present to provide an update - he heads that subcommittee.

- Joe needs to schedule an agenda item with the SB on that subject [for public interest.] Roger said that would be welcome.
- 
- Noise Committee: [Joe reported]
  - Doane & Karen reported on various ways to obtain sound meters [that measure sound.]
  - Doane also mentioned that there is some State legislation and statutes regarding noise.
  - Frank suggested focusing on the easily achievable noise problems first.
  - Jake breaks on trucks were mentioned. Are suggestive traffic signs available? Speed enforcement can have a positive effect on jake brake usage.
  - There was some discussion about regulations regarding “when” certain noises are allowed.
  - Joe asked if The SB has had a discussion about noise issues. Roger commented that he would be interested in having a discussion about it as an agenda item. Joe will contact Marie about it.
  - Some outdoor entertainment issues can be addressed during the licensing process.
  -
- Transit Committee: [Bill reported]
  - Bill answered a question from Doane regarding a questionnaire that he received about local transit. Bill explained that the Great Barrington committee that he’s on is interested in public opinion about bus service.
  - Frank explained that in The Netherlands there is a less expensive transit service [much like Uber] that is subsidized by the government. It easier to run “On Demand” like that than arranging for a bus system which requires heavy overhead & operating costs.
  - Bill mentioned that there are services now that serve passenger service for things like doctor’s appointments and medical needs.
  -
- Open Discussion: Traffic Control Remedies
  - Roger reported that Curt suggested a Spring public meeting on the subject. He wants to collect some ideas before proceeding with traffic controls. [Speed bumps can be noisy...]
  - Controlled speed also positively affects safety -
  - Roger pointed out that there is a firm that does traffic studies on traffic control. He’ll send the contact information on this.
- Open Discussion: “Tiny Housing”
  - i’in asked about the topic of “small housing” - Has WS studied this topic?
  - Karen Kavanaugh addressed the VC because she helps The Planning Board with various zoning and Master Plan issues. She will send us some of the updates and progress on this topic [in GB.]
  - Thom has written an article for The Local Yokel on this subject. See archives online.
  - Joe mentioned that our current zoning is not friendly to the idea of accessory dwellings on a single lot; especially as they apply to “tiny houses.”
  - i’in also pointed out how much more sustainable and environmentally friendly that “tiny houses” are in a community.
  - Frank also pointed out that “affordability” is also another subject. And how the topic fits with starter homes can be different from elderly housing.
  -
- Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:25PM
  - Motion: Frank
  - Second: Bill
  - Discussion: none
  - Pass unanimous

.....

4/20/2021 - WSVZ Zoom meeting at 6PM

Steve Graham

Attendees:

Members: Steve, Joe, Thom, Carter, Frank, I'in, Bill

Guest: Roger Kavanagh

Notes:

Meeting called to order at 6:21 [needed quorum]

**Motion:**

Motion to accept the minutes as written

Made by: Thom

Seconded by: Frank

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous for

**Report of sub-committees:**

Marketing: Photos taken for "visual vision" I'in working to get the stories created - Suggestion to get administrative access for the town's social media accounts for MB -

Joe can do Facebook, but wants to talk to The Village Association first -

Truc Nguyen & Jennifer Knopf from The Village Association can do Instagram, Joe will introduce -

I'in is working with someone on town branding, but wants to first figure out how exactly we are presenting ourselves - "what do you think W. Stockbridge is?" -

Carter's suggestion: W. Stockbridge is "a destination", which has a diverse variety of meanings and connotations around it. -

Joe's suggestion: Marketing sub-committee folks should attend select board, master plan committee, planning committee... etc meetings. -

Frank's suggestion: Our ability to market ourselves as a destination can be limited by our lack of parking, maybe we should invite Dana to one of our meetings to talk to this and share her vision for this. Carter agrees on the parking issue and feels the town needs to purchase land for parking. Joe agrees as well and will attend their next meeting to bring this up. -

I'm suggesting as something to consider that on weekends, we make Center St a pedestrian-only street to encourage people to come and walk around.

Land Trust: We attended a SB meeting to discuss with the board, Carter gave a "land trust 101" explanation.

The land trust issue doesn't need to be necessarily solved immediately (unlike the parking issue), so for now, it's more of an informational push.

Roger agreed that the SB now has the information they need, but we aren't really at a point to act on anything just yet.

Frank wonders if we should take this off of our agenda and hand this off to other committees. Joe and Carter do want to stay affiliated with this. Carter wants to start by understanding our goals for "land use" in order to help provide guidance.

Interested to know what sort of things we can do with land trust land - for example, can it be used for affordable housing.

**Motion:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:21

Made by: Frank

Seconded by: Thom

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous for

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**WSVC Meeting minutes Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

Stephen Graham - Secretary

Attendees:

- Joe
- Steve
- Frank
- Thom
- Liz
- Bill
- Karen
- Doane
- Roger
- Dana

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 6:03.
- Motion - accept minutes as written
  - Proposed by: Bill
  - Seconded by: Liz

- Discussion: None
  - Unanimous for
- Sub-committees:
  - Marketing
    - ▪ Did not get a chance to meet this month - I was on vacation and we all had work obligations
    - ▪ Steve will be setting up a regular cadence with the sub-committee to ensure we meet
    - ▪ Michael did connect via Joe with owners of social media accounts and is working to consolidate and contribute to those
    - ▪ I'm is working on both the interview videos and our "visual vision" - images of the town with our images overlaid.
  - Website
- Determine if any changes/updates needed.
- Land Trust
- Carter not present for an update
- Roger believes sub-committees are subject to open meeting laws and we may need to investigate this further
  - Minutes would need to be officially submitted
  - Notice of meeting would need to be posted
  - Quorum would be necessary
  - Motions for decisions
- Roger will do some research to determine if this is necessary or not
  - How to encourage collaboration across town boards
    - For example, Dana put together map of potential public parking areas, we would like to help with this
    - Try to connect with Master Plan Committee
    - Joe is going to publish topics that other committees are covering
  - Shared streets
    - We did not get the grant, we will look for assistance writing grants going forward
    - We need to be mindful of long term obligations to the town in the grants (e.g. paying someone to clean the restrooms... etc)
  - How do we encourage people to show up at more meetings?
    - Other than extenuating circumstances, to be in good standing with the board, you attend all meetings (80%). Call-ahead when you cannot make it.
    - We need to make more recommendations to the select board - that is the goal of the committee and will achieve the sense of accomplishment that encourages people to join.
  - Traffic & Parking
- We feel we covered this in previous topics
- New topics to discuss at future meetings
  - Access to business dispute (Foundry / Orient Express) - permits that govern your rights &

responsibilities, especially for downtown businesses.

- ▪ There are state access laws that govern this, would need to understand them more
- ▪ There are a couple of other proposals to resolve this (make the footbridge a vehicular bridge, extend Harris street... etc.)
- Motion - The vision committee recommends to select board to assure that all businesses have appropriate access to their business and to do nothing adverse to take it away
  - 
  - Proposed by: Frank
  - Seconded by: Thom
  - Discussion: None
  - Unanimous for
- Consideration - do we want to change the meeting times? 5,6,7? Should we go back to town hall?
- Motion - adjourn meeting at 7:18
  - Proposed by: Frank
  - Seconded by: Thom
  - Discussion: None
  - Unanimous for
  - 
  -

WSVC 6.15.21 Meeting cancelled due to COVID ZOOM restrictions mandating “in-person” meetings...

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WSVC 7.20.21 Meeting Notes

Joe Roy, Jr

Present at meeting:

Joe Roy Jr, Thom Lipiczky, Michael Bolognino, Frank Landsberger, Liz Digrigoli, Roger & Karen Kavanaugh, Bill Barth, Doane Perry & Karen Carmean.

Prior to reaching “quorum,” the committee discussed [without opinion or conclusion] various topics which included some of the history of the Harris Street footbridge and revised access to Trúć Orient Express. After waiting to reach a quorum, the meeting opened at 6:20PM.

Frank made a motion to amend the last meeting’s minutes to clarify some of the text under “**Shared Streets**” in the 7/20/21 minutes where two sentences began with the words “We did not get the grant...” and “We need to be mindful of long term obligations...” He wanted to clarify that the “We” in each sentence referred to The Select Board, and not The Vision Committee. [Thom managed to show the first page of the 4.21.21 meeting, but couldn’t share the second page... and it was the incorrect date in any event. [The committee was clearly out of its element...]] Although the motion did not receive a second,

partly because we were unsuccessful in “sharing” the copy of the aforementioned minutes, [and ultimately Frank withdrew his motion], it was collectively agreed to change the words “We” to “The Select Board” in those minutes and therefore it was understood that the last meeting minutes [7/20/21] were accepted as amended [and as stated above]. Apologies for the confusion, but that’s how it went at the time.

There were no subcommittee reports when asked.

There was some discussion as to how to address progress on “focused” committee agendas.

Frank suggested that the charge of each “focus” was very “broad” and therefore difficult to address.

Michael agreed and suggested that the group as a whole focus on one or two “issues” at a time and work together to identify the needs of each issue.

Frank summarized the discussion by recommending that we eliminate what we now refer to as “subcommittees” until the VC as a group identifies [and has some discussion on] a particular item. Then see if any members want to break off into an *ad hoc* group to look into it further.

After considerable discussion, it was resolved that after individual considerations outside a scheduled meeting, we will form a motion and take action on that motion at the next meeting. The ideas to consider are the following:

Abandon the “subcommittee” concept -

The Group will identify various considerations to develop -

Once identified, *The Group* will decide how to reach a recommendation to The SB -

Some individuals “may” do independent research on the subject and bring it to the next meeting for deliberation and action-

At ‘the next meeting’, The Group will determine whether or not to bring it to The SB and how that should be done. [To be addressed at the August 17th meeting next month.]

Joe reviewed the Joe Grochmal suggestions in his letter to this board. Joe read the letter from Eric Shimelonis to the VC. Eric’s letter encourages a “...program to welcome and indoctrinate new residents.” He hopes to have our committee give the idea some shape and develop a target date to move on Eric’s suggestion - with The SB’s support in the process. Joe referred to Grochmal’s “four point plan” and asked the committee to respond on how we should address the “Welcome to West Stockbridge” concept.

Frank commented that the Grochmal Plan outlines a great program, but like this committee’s “former” approach to addressing ideas, his plan suffers from the same flaw of having too many aspects of it “all at once.” He felt that the Grochmal Plan is “not executable” because of the limited number of residents that are needed to implement it. Most attendees seemed to agree with Frank’s statement - and that The Grochmal Plan might be more appropriate for a municipality with a population many times larger than that of West Stockbridge.

Michael suggested that this committee should consider an overall discussion in which we agree that such a “Welcome Wagon” approach actually be what West Stockbridge needs - or if The Historical Society has such a program, could we somehow enhance that process - or look into it.

Joe mentioned that much “town information” already exists on our Town website, but it’s not always easy to find. He was thinking of creating an outline - or index - that could be placed on the WSVC website that can refer residents and guests regarding where and how to find specific sources of information. He pointed out that many new residents and businesses don’t fully understand what their responsibilities are as home and business owners.

Michael stated that his guess is that both the town website and our own website has low traffic and that we should have more discussion on how to “find” the people that need to be aware of all the sources of information regarding West Stockbridge activities and services... things like a mailer, a bulletin, or more “local” places to visit.

Liz mentioned more use of The Local Yoke. Maybe a special article about new members of the community - something like they do with new businesses already.

Before asking for a motion to adjourn, Joe asked the committee [as was requested by Kathleen Keresey] if anyone on this committee is interested in working on a “grant writing” committee for future knowledge. After a short discussion, no one stepped forward. The comments included things like “hire a professional” to “it’s very tedious and difficult.” Joe will get back to Kathleen about that - and offer that she join a VC meeting to address it further if she likes - and that individuals on the VC might be interested depending on the nature of the grant.

Joe mentioned that based on *WSVC’s Mission Statement*, this group was charged with suggesting “ideas” - not necessarily to become the means to implement them. Although we exist at the pleasure of the Select Board, our goal is to discuss & suggest ideas - and seek public input, not become a task force.

Roger agreed that this board is more likely charged with reviewing possible options, but are not charged with making them come to pass. Everyone seemed to agree. He remembered that in the past, former SB members and administrators held the opinion that “...volunteer committees shouldn’t be dealing with policy.” He also commented that he thinks that this committee is on the right track as we decide how to move forward, and is happy to be an attending observer. Joe thanked him back for attending.

Motion to adjourn was made by Thom; was seconded; and carried unanimously at 7:02 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Roy Jr [in Steve’s absence]

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WSVC 7.20.21 Meeting Notes

Joe Roy, Jr

Present at meeting:

Joe Roy Jr, Thom Lipiczky, Michael Bolognino, Frank Landsberger, Liz Digrigoli, Roger & Karen Kavanaugh, Bill Barth, Doane Perry & Karen Carmean.

Prior to opening the meeting, based on a discussion in a former VC meeting, Thom mentioned that his wife Anne contacted Kathleen Keresey about helping with grant-writing in the future, but hasn’t heard from her as yet.

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.

Joe mentioned that he emailed Peter Thorne about his intentions to attend meetings again. We all love Peter, but participation is critical. Joe will follow up, but if anyone runs into Peter, ask him about his membership status.

Motion was made [Frank] to accept the last meeting's minutes. The motion was seconded and the vote to accept them was unanimous.

The discussion turned to our decision at the last meeting to eliminate "subcommittees" and deliberate as a group what the focus of this committee should be. Ad hoc groups can meet separately if they like and report back to the group.

Thom approved of the concept of functioning as a group instead of having multiple small groups of the committee operating separately.

Joe brought up the Website [which needs some updating.] Steve agreed and he recommended removing the "Municipal Projects" page and streamlining a running blog where members and guests can discuss whatever the current topic might be. There was some discussion about how to blog [or even edit] certain parts of the website [and blog.] Everyone was in favor of this type of activity on the website. For now, Steve will arrange that all members will be able to contribute to the blog. All members are encouraged to contribute and add to the "conversation" - and in order to do that, it will require all members to visit the website often in order to be more up-to-date at each meeting. The site will be accessible to the public as are our meetings.

Frank voiced some concern about the public's ability to contribute to the blog. Michael stated that he thought that nothing should be on the website that we [as a group] didn't approve before posting. Bill was nodding agreement during this part of the conversation. Joe suggested an introductory statement at the beginning of the blog which amounted to something like "The opinions and discussion in this blog are not necessarily the views of the Vision Committee." Steve said that could easily be done.

We all agreed that the idea here was to welcome comments from the public - much like our regular scheduled meetings. However, it might be wise to include the fact that all blog entries are subject to "committee" approval and discussion at a scheduled, posted meeting before any "decisions" are reached - so that we comply with The Open Meeting Law.

Karen commented that she seems to remember attending a presentation [or similar meeting] where she learned that "town websites" were mandated to "store" all information forever so that anyone who wanted to review it could have access to it. Frank stated that it's customarily understood that meeting discussions be held for a time certain [and it may be depending on the content.] Since no one was sure about this, we discussed whether or not Steve should seek legal counsel on the question - perhaps from The Mass Municipal Association which may not involve a cost. Frank thought that since this committee did not have authority to create policy or do much more than "discuss" and "recommend," such rules may not apply. Roger suggested checking with The Town Administrator for some guidance.

In an effort to move forward, Joe asked the group for approval of the concept that all members participate in helping Steve update the website. This would include visiting the website often, commenting

when appropriate, and submitting things like pictures, articles, and content that will help promote dialogue on the blog. No one disagreed with the idea.

Doane made a motion to remove the "Municipal Projects" Page. Karen Carmean seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried without objection.

Joe asked Steve if he created a place on the website that held our minutes - for anyone to access. Joe remembered sending a partial list of them to Steve some time ago for that purpose - and he is currently updating more copies of our minutes to bring them up to date. The Town Administrator has been asking for them [for the Town Website] and he'd like her to be able to access them from our website soon. Steve said that he started a place for the collection of our minutes and he'd make sure to update it soon. Joe and Steve agreed that by the next meeting [September 21, 2021], all of our approved Meeting minutes would be available on the VC website - which would also make them available for the Town Website.

Joe asked the group if there were any suggestions regarding topics that we could discuss that would qualify as a focus to discuss for recommendation to the SB.

Doane suggested the topic of "resident well-being." This would involve finding ways to improve the lives of any town residents who have needs that the town could help with. It could be regarding health, finances, housing, or anything that might be eligible for some sort of town assistance [thought existing programs, or at least create a list of resources where aid can be obtained. Frank elaborated on the concept of first identifying what the "problems" might be; then identifying who may need assistance; and finally determine the means [if any] that the town could address them. There was some discussion that the term "well being" might be too broad a topic and it may need some fine tuning for a more direct solution [to specific needs.] Bill suggested the need for some sort of "resident advocate" - or the creation of some sort of group dedicated to that concept. After extended discussion, it was suggested that rather than attempt to solve any given "focus", we create a list of topics for further evaluation at the next meeting.

Doane's second suggestion was "conservation."

Karen suggested creating a resource directory.

Frank offered "affordable housing" for young and old. He also recommended the development of "recreational resources."

Karen Carmean also suggested "Transportation." Bill added that his involvement with "traffic" in the county and the possibility of WS getting involved with BRTA is an ongoing topic in Great Barrington.

Roger mentioned that the Master Plan Committee is presently discussing things like Transportation, and various forms of housing at this time. He recommended that it would be wise to follow their meetings so we don't duplicate efforts. It might also be good to share information and interests with other groups who are charged with some of the same goals as this committee. He added that The Master Plan Committee is eager for input and suggestions, if not help in their discussions.

Karen Kavanagh [who volunteers as the secretary of the Master Plan Committee - MPC] suggested that we take a look at the Survey that was conducted by The Master Plan Committee - which can be found on the Town website.

As per Doane's request, the link to the "survey" is as follows:

[https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf4031/f/news/master\\_plan\\_survey\\_results.pdf](https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf4031/f/news/master_plan_survey_results.pdf)

It's definitely worth a look.

She pointed out that elderly and affordable housing as well as "accessory dwelling units" be considered as the town moves forward with planning and development. Attending future MPC meetings would be beneficial to this committee so we're not competing or duplicating efforts separately. But certainly the MPC wants input from the community [as do we] for public opinion, if any of us expect to represent the people of our town.

Michael suggested more discussion of the "Welcome Committee" - or supporting the Historical Society as they work on that concept.

He also wondered how the town celebrated certain holidays. Things like The Zucchini Festival, certain forms of "holiday" festivals, or research various types of celebratory events that the town could support.

Karen Carmean mentioned that "The Arts" are always worth celebrating.

Frank offered the term "Traffic Control."

As a final mention, Karen Kavanah mentioned a "Winter Stroll" where the town shops & restaurants stayed open and there were horse drawn hay rides, caroling, and family events throughout the town.

Motion to adjourn was made by Frank; was seconded; and carried unanimously at 7:01 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Roy Jr [because Steve's was out of town - with terrible internet service]

Summary of possible "Topics" to discuss on September 21st - our next meeting - in the order that they were discussed:

- Resident well-being
- Conservation
- Resource Directory
- Affordable Housing
- Recreational Resources
- Transportation
- Accessory Dwelling Units [Zoning]

Welcome Committee  
Celebratory Town Events  
The Arts  
Traffic Control

From this list, we should pick ONE topic to discuss and decide how to recommend an action to The SB.  
After that recommendation [if any], we can choose the next topic.

.....

WSVC 9.21.21 Meeting  
Submitted by Steve Graham

Attendees:

- Joe
- Steve
- Frank
- Thom
- Bill
- Karen
- Doane
- Roger (Visiting)

Agenda:

- Meeting called to order at 6:29 PM
- Motion: Accept the minutes as written
  - Made by: Bill
  - Seconded by: Frank
  - Unanimous pass
- Mission Statement
  - Needs to be revisited
  - Ideas: Re-develop mission statement, implementation plan(, culture statement?)
  - The question it needs to answer: Does this topic/action we are proposing further our mission or not?
- Define process for discussing new topics at the meeting
  - Proposal: pick one or two topics and focus on that at the meeting
  - Bill: Traffic control
    - Parking is a major issue in town
    - Ideas: Slow down traffic, add crosswalks, add traffic lights
    - Curt signed us up to a DOT program. Next step is to assign someone to it for grant applications.
    - What are we now supposed to do as a committee? Suggest an implementation or just suggest that we address it? What is the purpose of the vision committee? What is the expectation? What is the work product? A proposal that highlights the issues and needs? Do we need to get grants so that our ideas can be implemented?
- We agreed that we need to take a step back and address this before we take on other topics

- Motion: To have a working session 3-6 Sunday Oct 3 afternoon with an agenda to re-develop our mission statement and the process for how we work with the select board to implement our ideas, we can use traffic control ideas as an example
  - Made by: Steve
  - Seconded by: Joe
  - Unanimous pass
- Motion: Adjourn meeting at 7:15 PM
  - Made by: Frank
  - Seconded by: Bill
  - Unanimous pass

West Stockbridge Vision Committee – 10/3/21 – Steve’s minutes

Attendees:

- Joe
- Steve
- Frank
- Bill
- Thom
- Karen
- Doane
- Carter
- Roger (Visiting)
- Karen (Visiting)

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 3:05 PM
- Roger brought examples of other towns (Lexington)
  1. More than just a think tank group, brings a legitimate project plan to the board
- 90 Minutes per agenda item below
- Agenda:
  1. Statements:
    - Mission Statement (1-3 sentences – the “why”)
      - Why do you do what you do? What is your purpose?
      - Original:
        - The purpose of the Vision Committee is to nurture the development of West Stockbridge by providing visionary guidance toward building our future, while recognizing our history and celebrating our present. This will be accomplished through a program of collaborative dialogue, innovative planning, and creative public outreach.
      - New (proposed – maybe call it “Purpose Statement”):

- Ditch the “how”.
  - Leave nothing to interpretation.
  - Ideas:
    - Dream
    - Envision
    - Vibrance
    - Energy
    - Community
    - Diversity
    - Marketing / Promote
  - **The Vision Committee fosters initiatives that enhance West Stockbridge.**
  - Motion:
    - Adopt the mission statement as written
    - Made by: Frank
    - Seconded: Karen
    - Discussion: None
    - Vote: Unanimous for
  - Consider the word “promote” over “enhance” ().
  - Vision Statement (Aspirational)
    - What do you want to achieve?
    - Original:
      - The town of West Stockbridge is defined by a rich history, scenic beauty, and industrious work ethic. We aspire to further develop our foundation of craftsmanship, entrepreneurship, and the arts, while continuing to beautify our landscapes and architecture, preserve our natural resources, and build, advance, and diversify our community.
    - New (proposed):
      - Suspend further discussion regarding mission/vision statement
2. Traffic Control (Example to test our new mission)
- Suspend discussion on this until we get through the process discussion.
  - Motion:
    - Suspend further discussion regarding statements & traffic control until agenda item 3 is complete (process for achieving our mission).
    - Made by: Steve
    - Seconded: Bill
    - Discussion: None
    - Vote:
      - Opposed: Frank
      - Abstained: Carter
      - Everyone else for, motion carries
  - Following our new process:
    - Project/focus:
      - Traffic control – crosswalks.
    - What’s the problem you are trying to solve – define project scope.

- Safety - There is a lack of traffic control that creates dangerous situations downtown.
  - Orange cones – Dangerous curb coming off main street to swamp road.
  - Crosswalk – When you are crossing from center street/hotel street, it is very difficult to see traffic coming south on main street. It is dangerous for children to cross here.
    - See if we can get metrics to support this issue and establish urgency.
      - # of ambulance calls
      - Video
    - Goal: Make this crossing safe for pedestrians. Make this crossing consistent with smooth traffic flow.
    - Collaborations: Curt.
    - Owner/Lead: Joe P. Roy (outside committee), Bill?
  - What ideas do we have to work on this / topics that we are going to pursue. Potential solutions:
    - Improve enforcement of traffic speed limits.
    - Traffic lights (or flashing / warning lights).
    - Speed bumps.
  - Discussion with select board
3. Process for achieving our mission (the “how”)
- Make sure it is clear what we are asking of the select board when we bring something to them
  - We don’t need to only target the SB – we can & should advise other committees (planning, parks & rec, master planning committee... etc).
  - Get feedback from the boards & committees we advise – make sure they want to pursue the item before we invest too much time & energy into.
  - Surveys?
  - See if SB has specific items they would like us to focus on.
  - Ensure project ideas fit within our town’s strategic plan (master plan).
  - Process:
    - 2-parts – Problem identification & scope, Implementation
    - Problem Identification (statement of intentions) & scope:
      - Project/focus, examples:
        - Traffic control.
        - Noise control.
      - What’s the problem you are trying to solve. Define project scope, examples:
        - There is a lack of traffic control that creates dangerous situations downtown.
        - There are noise complaints and the town does not have a comprehensive bylaw regarding noise control.
      - What ideas do we have to work on this / topics that we are going to pursue. Potential solutions.
        - Be ready to talk about next steps.
      - Owner within the committee

- Notify SB before we pursue item further, whether certain action is already being taken, and the SB supports the agenda.
  - See if other town committees or boards are already working on this? Are there others we should collaborate with?
  - Do you have any input on how we should proceed?
  - Get these proposals on the SB agenda, not just at citizen speak (call Marie).
    - See if SB wants to add an “updates from town committees” standing agenda item.
- Solution / Implementation Plan guideline (will be tweaked as we go along):
  - Stakeholders
  - Project team (implementers)
  - Summary
  - Objectives
  - Project details
  - Deliverables
  - Timelines (immediate, short-term, long-term goals & milestones)
  - Benefits
  - Costs & needs
  - Impact analysis
  - Appendix (additional/supplementary material)
  - Rather than making a motion to formally adopt this process, we are going to proceed with this process as more of a “working document” that we can update as we go along.
- Motion:
  - Adjourn meeting
  - Made by: Frank
  - Seconded: Thom
  - Discussion: None
  - Vote: Unanimous for

Steve’s COMBINED Vision Updates 10.21.21

Attendees:

- Joe
- Steve
- Frank
- Bill
- Thom
- Karen
- Doane
- Carter
- Roger (Visiting)

- Karen (Visiting)

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 3:05 PM
- Roger brought examples of other towns (Lexington)
  1. More than just a thinktank group, brings a legitimate project plan to the board
- 90 Minutes per agenda item below
  
- Agenda:
  1. Statements:
    - Mission Statement (1-3 sentences – the “why”)
      - Frank gave a five minute presentation, showing the slide show created by his wife Miki. It was the result of a course that she took which included the creation of mission statements and vision statements.
      - Why do you do what you do? What is your purpose?
      - Original:
        - The purpose of the Vision Committee is to nurture the development of West Stockbridge by providing visionary guidance toward building our future, while recognizing our history and celebrating our present. This will be accomplished through a program of collaborative dialogue, innovative planning, and creative public outreach.
      - New (proposed – maybe call it “Purpose Statement”):
        - Ditch the “how”.
        - Leave nothing to interpretation.
        - Ideas:
          - Dream
          - Envision
          - Vibrance
          - Energy
          - Community
          - Diversity
          - Marketing / Promote
        - **The Vision Committee fosters initiatives that enhance West Stockbridge.**
        - Motion:
          - Adopt the mission statement as written
          - Made by: Frank
          - Seconded: Karen
          - Discussion: None
          - Vote: Unanimous for

- Consider the word “promote” over “enhance” ().
- Vision Statement (Aspirational)
  - What do you want to achieve?
  - Original:
    - The town of West Stockbridge is defined by a rich history, scenic beauty, and industrious work ethic. We aspire to further develop our foundation of craftsmanship, entrepreneurship, and the arts, while continuing to beautify our landscapes and architecture, preserve our natural resources, and build, advance, and diversify our community.
  - New (proposed):
    - Suspend further discussion regarding mission/vision statement
- 2. Traffic Control (Example to test our new mission)
  - Suspend discussion on this until we get through the process discussion.
  - Motion:
    - Suspend further discussion regarding statements & traffic control until agenda item 3 is complete (process for achieving our mission).
    - Made by: Steve
    - Seconded: Bill
    - Discussion: None
    - Vote:
      - Opposed: Frank
      - Abstained: Carter
      - Everyone else for, motion carries
  - Following our new process:
    - Project/focus:
      - Traffic control – crosswalks.
    - What’s the problem you are trying to solve – define project scope.
      - Safety - There is a lack of traffic control that creates dangerous situations downtown.
      - Orange cones – Dangerous curb coming off main street to swamp road.
      - Crosswalk – When you are crossing from center street/hotel street, it is very difficult to see traffic coming south on main street. It is dangerous for children to cross here.
        - See if we can get metrics to support this issue and establish urgency.
          - # of ambulance calls
          - Video

- Goal: Make this crossing safe for pedestrians. Make this crossing consistent with smooth traffic flow.
    - Collaborations: Curt.
    - Owner/Lead: Joe P. Roy (outside committee), Bill?
  - What ideas do we have to work on this / topics that we are going to pursue? Potential solutions:
    - Improve enforcement of traffic speed limits.
    - Traffic lights (or flashing / warning lights).
    - Speed bumps.
  - Discussion with select board
- 3. Process for achieving our mission (the “how”)
  - Make sure it is clear what we are asking of the select board when we bring something to them
  - We don’t need to only target the SB – we can & should advise other committees (planning, parks & rec, master planning committee... etc).
  - Get feedback from the boards & committees we advise – make sure they want to pursue the item before we invest too much time & energy into.
  - Surveys?
  - See if SB has specific items they would like us to focus on.
  - Ensure project ideas fit within our town’s strategic plan (master plan).
  - Process:
    - 2-parts – Problem identification & scope, Implementation
    - Problem Identification (statement of intentions) & scope:
      - Project/focus, examples:
        - Traffic control.
        - Noise control.
      - What’s the problem you are trying to solve. Define project scope, examples:
        - There is a lack of traffic control that creates dangerous situations downtown.
        - There are noise complaints and the town does not have a comprehensive bylaw regarding noise control.
      - What ideas do we have to work on this / topics that we are going to pursue? Potential solutions.
        - Be ready to talk about next steps.
      - Owner within the committee
      - Notify SB before we pursue item further, whether certain action is already being taken, and the SB supports the agenda.

- See if other town committees or boards are already working on this? Are there others we should collaborate with?
  - Do you have any input on how we should proceed?
  - Get these proposals on the SB agenda, not just at citizen speak (call Marie).
    - See if SB wants to add an “updates from town committees” standing agenda item.
- Solution / Implementation Plan guideline (will be tweaked as we go along):
  - Stakeholders
  - Project team (implementors)
  - Summary
  - Objectives
  - Project details
  - Deliverables
  - Timelines (immediate, short-term, long-term goals & milestones)
  - Benefits
  - Costs & needs
  - Impact analysis
  - Appendix (additional/supplementary material)
- Rather than making a motion to formally adopt this process, we are going to proceed with this process as more of a “working document” that we can update as we go along.
- Motion:
  - Adjourn meeting
  - Made by: Frank
  - Seconded: Thom
  - Discussion: None
  - Vote: Unanimous for

Attendees:

- Joe
- Steve
- Frank
- Thom
- Karen
- Doane

Notes:

- Motion: Meeting called to order at 6:09 PM.
- Vote on minutes will be held in the next meeting.
- Discussion on meeting duration and frequency.
  - Consensus is that we leave a monthly cadence in place, but set additional meetings on-demand as-needed.
- Motion: to accept the mission statement as read: The Vision Committee fosters initiatives that enhance West Stockbridge.
  - Called by: Frank
  - Seconded by: Joe
  - Discussion: None
  - Vote: Unanimous for
- Discussion on whether or not we want to change the vision statement.
  - Tabled for now.
- Discussion on whether or not we continue to pursue traffic control as next proposal.
  - Suggestion: to limit scope, focus solely on the crosswalk issue
    - Subject:
      - Resolve problems surrounding the crosswalk on main street, make it safe for adults and children to cross.
    - Underlying facts:
      - Joseph Peter Roy had a near incident with his children and brought it to the group. This is not the only near incident reported.
    - Who/what is impacted:
      - Anyone crossing the street.
    - Has an incident been reported:
      - Yes
    - Has it been discussed with other town officials:
      - Yes – multiple boards and police. SB passed it to Kurt who wants town feedback (survey? meeting?). Speed bumps increase noise and make plowing more difficult.
    - What solutions will the committee consider?
      - Increased police presence, rigorous enforcement of speed limits, speed bumps, traffic/warning lights.
    - Implementation costs?
      - Not known

- Funds or resources needed?
    - Kurt instructed to collaborate
    - Need funds for an engineer to propose options
  - Running costs and/or revenue stream?
    - Unknown, probably no revenue
    - Make sure we allocate for repair costs
  - Who owns this project / proposal?
    - Frank: bullets 1-3
    - Joe: 4-6
    - Primary: Thom 7-10
  - Other considerations?
    - None
- Take topic to the SB, make sure they want us to pursue, and that no one else is pursuing it.
- Goal: deliver bullet point answers by Monday.
- New topics:
  - Consider a town website overhaul
  - Owner: Steve – take a stab at the template
  - Ask Marie who owns the town website?
    - Problem is accessibility
  - Consider getting our notes on our website before we ask.
- Motion: to request that Steve Graham explore making the town website more accessible and to encourage cross-committee understanding & communication.
  - Called by: Frank
  - Seconded by: Doane
  - Discussion: None
  - Vote: Unanimous for
- Motion: adjourn meeting at 7:10 PM
  - Called by: Karen
  - Seconded by: Frank
  - Discussion: None

West Stockbridge Vision Committee Meeting Minutes Meeting #50 1/18/22  
 Submitted by Steve Graham

Attendees:

- Joe Roy
- Steve Graham
- Thom Lipiczky
- Frank Landsberger

- Doane Perry
- Seth Jenkins (Visitor - BRPC / Community planner working on Open Space & Master Plan)

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM
- Joe circulated a lot of information for everyone to review - please take time to review it all
- Motion: Request for Steve to modify the previous meeting minutes as discussed today (see discussion below) & resubmit, approve in next meeting
  - Proposed by: Doane
  - Seconded by: Thom
  - Discussion: Frank suggests we use last names in the attendee list, pointed out some discrepancies in the notes, and suggested Select Board should be capitalized. Doane would like for us to be careful using acronyms. Seth noted that the minutes online stop in 2020 and asked us to get that up to current. Steve and Joe are going to get them up on the Vision Committee website and track them here going forward.
  - Vote: Unanimous pass
- Crosswalk draft review
  - Frank questions whether or not the proposal needs a specific ask. Group suggests that we include a cover letter with the proposal
  - Motion: Include a cover letter with the proposal that outlines our clear asks with submitting the proposal and any other suggestions not in the proposal today
    - Proposed by: Doane
    - Seconded by: Thom
    - Discussion: None
    - Vote: Unanimous pass
  - Idea to ask for budget increase to address the crosswalk issues (policeman during bus stops... etc)
  - Idea to add "school bus stop" sign near that crosswalk
  - Seth pointed out that there is a state process for traffic plan grants (Complete Streets). Next step would be for us to send someone for training, then create and submit a prioritization plan.
- Steve to produce invoices for the WSVC website so that Joe can get it reimbursed. Additionally, consider invoicing for Steve's website work.
- Suggestion to circulate all committee's documentation to the chairs of the other committees to keep information readily available.
  - See if Marie can help with this
- Next topic for vision committee to focus on
  - Frank's proposal is for everyone to come to the next meeting with their topic proposals (3 ideas)
  - Idea to meet bi-weekly until we clear the backlog
- Next Vision Committee meeting Feb 2

- Joe will approach inactive Vision Committee members by the next meeting to see if they would like to leave the committee
  - Stay on as non-voting members
- Motion: Adjourn the meeting at 7:18 PM
  - Proposed by: Frank
  - Seconded by: Doane
  - Discussion: None
  - Vote: Unanimous pass

Meeting Date: 2/2/2022

Attendees:

- Joe Roy
- Stephen Graham (Author - Clerk)
- Thom Lipiczky
- Frank Landsberger
- Doane Perry

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 6:06 PM
- Review last TWO meeting minutes
  - Motion: Accept the minutes as written
    - Made by: Doane
    - Seconded by: Thom
    - Discussion:
      - When acronyms are used, Steve will spell out the entire meaning first and reference the acronym in parenthesis afterwards.
      - Instead of using “as read”, change motion to “as written” since it was not read out loud.
    - Vote: Unanimous for
- Final Report of subgroup “Crosswalk” - Ready to submit??
  - Joe will run this by someone on the select board ahead of official submission and work with Marie to get it on the agenda. Also, Curt & the police.
  - Thom needs to add the referenced Mass.gov URL in the document.
  - Motion: To submit the document as written with the one modification regarding the referenced URL (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/crossing-guard-safety-bulletin-0/download>)
    - Made by: Joe
    - Seconded by: Frank
    - Discussion: None
    - Vote: Unanimous for

- We should bring up Karen Kavanaugh’s letter when we talk to the select board and the suggestions that she mentioned in it.
  - Joe will bring up the Complete Streets program – he will take lead as Chariman of the committee.
- Discuss Steve Graham’s “vision” goals for West Stockbridge
  - Goal: bring young families to live in W. Stockbridge
  - Focus to achieve goals:
    - Education
    - Jobs
    - Housing
  - Compare to neighboring towns & areas, including Williams
  - Table the remainder of this discussion until the next meeting
- Consider Karen Kavanaugh’s suggestions from our 11.16.21 meeting
  - We need to look more into the Complete Streets program, it sounds very interesting.
- Discuss any new topics that may arise
  - Should we meet again in 2 weeks or in 4?
    - Let’s meet in 2 weeks on the 15<sup>th</sup> @ 2PM
  - Liz DiGrigoli has resigned from the committee
  - Joe is trying to figure out if Peter Thorne is going to resign from the committee (~1 year since his last meeting, multiple attempts to contact him). We will address this in the next committee if he does not respond.
  - Motion: If Peter does not respond in the next week, he will be removed from the committee
    - Made by: Joe
    - Seconded by: Steve
    - Discussion: We all respect Peter very much, but it is impacting our ability to make a quorum
    - Vote: Unanimous for
  - Steve and Joe to get together to create calendar events for future meetings
- After approximately one hour, adjourn
- Motion: Adjourn meeting at 7:09
  - Made by: Frank
  - Seconded by: Doane
  - Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous



Meeting Date: 2/15/2022

Attendees:

- Joe Roy
- Stephen Graham (Author - Clerk)
- Thom Lipiczky
- Bill Barth
- Karen Carmean
- Doane Perry
- Frank Landsberger

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 8:04 AM
- Steve to update the recurring calendar invite – fix membership and address any time changes
- Review last meeting minutes
  - Motion: Accept the minutes as written
    - Made by: Bill
    - Seconded by: Thom
    - Discussion:
    - Vote: Unanimous for
- Final Report of subgroup “Crosswalk” - Ready to submit??
  - Motion: To submit the final document as
    - Made by: Thom
    - Seconded by: Steve
    - Discussion: None
    - Vote: Unanimous for
- Discuss Steve Graham’s “vision” goals for West Stockbridge
  - Goal: bring young families to live in W. Stockbridge
  - Focus to achieve goals:
    - Education
      - Karen proposal to have a forum in town to collect town opinion on the matter – talk to people in town (with kids under 5), understand ways we can convince young families to stay here
        - Karen will look into ways to identify these people
      - Steve to think about models like charter schooling that could be achievable in town
      - Joe will see if Lisa Baldwin would be interested in coming in and sharing her views
    - Jobs
    - Housing
      - Master planning committee is addressing housing right now – Joe suggests we should attend their meetings to understand what efforts are going on today

- Frank brought up that expanding our medication facilities and capabilities would also attract young people
  - When should we meet again?
    - March 8, 8 AM
  - Motion: Adjourn meeting at 9:09
    - Made by: Frank
    - Seconded by: Bill
    - Discussion: None
    - Vote: Unanimous for
    -
- .....

MEMO TO SELECT BOARD REGARDING THE “MAIN ST CROSSWALK”

To: Select Board of West Stockbridge

From: Vision Committee Date: February 2, 2022

The Vision Committee has been considering the traffic and pedestrian safety issues at the Main Street/Depot Street/Hotel intersection. Town residents have often remarked how dangerous this intersection is (see Joe P. Roy’s presentation to the Board a year ago). The Vision Committee would like to consider ways to better this situation and is asking the Select Board for a warrant to do so. In the interests of not duplicating efforts, we ask the Board to inform us if any other town boards or committees are working on this issue.

Our preliminary observations follow:

The dangers posed at the crosswalk/intersection are caused by

1. Speeding automobile traffic, especially at “schoolbus hours”

- a. The posted limit for northbound traffic is 25 MPH
  
- b. The limit for southbound traffic is 15 MPH
  
- c. Casual observation shows general lack of compliance
  
- d. Traffic study (c.f. Curt Wilton's data) shows increased traffic

2. Visibility (this despite the clearly marked crossing indications)

- a. Pedestrians crossing from west to east cannot clearly see oncoming southbound automobile traffic
  
- b. Southbound traffic cannot see eastbound pedestrians waiting to cross or automobile traffic trying to exit Depot Street.
  
- c. Cars and pedestrians exiting Hotel Street cannot easily see northbound traffic
  
- d. Parked cars along the west side of Main Street in front of the Public Market and other stores have difficulty seeing oncoming traffic when trying to exit.

Some general concerns raised by this issue:

- 1. Who has legal authority for the section of Main Street? Is it considered a State Highway or a town road here? Any suggested improvements would need to be vetted by Town Counsel.

2. What actions have been taken by the Select Board in response to Joe P. Roy's presentation about the crosswalk in the Fall of 2020?

Possible solutions to making crosswalk less dangerous, and questions raised by these:

- Speed control by police o can Chief Mark Portieri enforce posted limits? (See question 1 above.)

- Installing speed bumps (which Curt Wilton already purchased) o o

Jurisdiction (see above about State Highway or town street) Does this solution create a noise issue? We might ask neighboring towns which use speed bumps to control traffic if this is a problem.

- Flashing light (pedestrian controlled) at crosswalk o Ask Lenox about their experience with this (see accompanying video) o Is there grant money available for this?

- Crossing Guard during school bus hours o Who pays for this person?

- o Liability Insurance for person? (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/crossing-guard-safetybulletin-0/download>) o

- Convex mirrors to permit greater visibility o Can the town legally do this?

o Mirrors would likely be Installed on Natl Grid poles. Must we ask permission from them for this? Do we have to install separate poles?

Proposal for approval by the Select Board:

Given the increase in traffic in town, especially during the summer months, we are aware of the importance of this issue. We request response to our proposal and are prepared to assist in whatever way we can to help select the appropriate and actionable solution from the above possibilities, or others as they may arise. We could also assist with an implementation process if needed.

In particular as a starter, the Vision Committee is prepared to develop a public meeting to obtain community input.

APPENDIX A TRAFFIC STUDY OCTOBER 2020

APPENDIX B JOE P. ROY'S PRESENTATION TO THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD 2010 Dear Members of the Select Board,

[Images not included here]

Before I begin I would like to thank all of you for hearing me out today and thanks to Marie Ryan for setting this up. I know it's late and at the end of a long meeting so I will do my best to keep this brief.

For those who do not know me, my name is Joe Roy. You all know my father... I'm the "younger one". My wife Mary and I run The Floor Store on 12 Main Street, right next to the Public Market. Due to the pandemic: we also have our two boys Alex (age 7) and Zachary (age 6) as well as our dog Lola along with us at the store each day.

The reason why I am here today is because I wanted to talk to you about the current situation on Main Street and the extreme danger with using the crosswalks. Over the last few weeks I have had some near death experiences crossing the crosswalk. I can't tell you how many times I am standing on the

edge of the sidewalk with a death grip on my kids watching people fly by either completely oblivious to us or staring at their phones while driving.

NOBODY goes the speed limit on Main Street. Rte 41 and 102 are both coming downhill at 30mph. The road is extremely narrow and you have a blind corner when you are driving southbound. Most importantly, there can be a number of vehicles parked on main street blocking your vision of the entire sidewalk and upwards to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the crosswalk.

To better illustrate this: I have a few pictures that I would like to show you.

<Go over images>

So you might ask: what makes now so bad? People are very distracted these days. The sun is getting lower and really messing with our vision. As you can tell from my images, the sun from the morning and afternoon is quite blinding. School is back in session and parents are stressed to the max with trying to deal with their kids and work at the same time. I get it. I'm one of those parents. My wife and I are burnt out! We also have a presidential election coming up and we are all glued to our radios while in the car trying to get the latest on what is going on. But most importantly: there are a TON of new people here this year. The real estate market is booming with people flooding to the Berkshires from the neighboring cities. This is one of the busiest Summer and Fall seasons that I have ever experienced and as a result the traffic on Main Street has also increased.

I know this is not a new subject and the town has been working on this for a while. The digital speed limit sign and crosswalk cones are great efforts to try and get people to slow down. But as good as they are, they are only deterrents. People need to want to slow down in order for them to be effective. We can't keep crosswalk cones in the middle of the road where they belong because people literally run them over. People drive by the digital speed limit sign while speeding all day long.

I have been in touch with Curt Wilton and Chief Portieri. They are both on board with wanting to make our Main Street crosswalks more safe and both agree with my concerns. I would also like to personally thank Chief Portieri for finding some extra time to patrol downtown a bit more. I have also had a chance to talk to many of the Main Street merchants to which all of them have had similar experiences and would also like Main Street safety to be addressed.

We need something to make people slow down. Signs help but aren't going to cut it for the people who just don't care.

The best suggestion I have heard so far is speed bumps in the downtown section of town. These can be seasonal or year round. They are cheap and are a 24/7 solution to MAKING people slow down and respect the law. I know Curt Wilton has proposed this in the past and this idea has been backed by many Main Street merchants. I have not heard much criticism about this idea other than that they don't look very pretty and might be a little annoying. Personally, I hardly notice them while I drive through the Main Streets of our neighboring towns and I don't mind a little annoyance if it can save a life.

My second suggestion is additional Police presence downtown during critical hours. Between 8 & 9am during the morning commute and School Bus routes are when traffic is at its absolute worst. It gets bad again in the afternoon and evening between 4 and 6pm. I know that's a big ask but if it's something the town can swing then it would be greatly appreciated.

We all remember the terrible accident that happened in Great Barrington. Let's not wait until something terrible happens to take modest preventative measures that could save a life.

Thank you all for taking the time to hear me out. I am more than willing to help out with this if there is anything that needs to be researched or if you have any questions.

Thanks again.

Joe P Roy 4 Miller Lane West Stockbridge 413-841-5004 jproy16@gmail.com  
My kids getting on the bus

Car passing stopped vehicles to turn onto Center Street.

This is an image from my security camera footage from my business. A car attempted to pass stopped vehicles and the School bus which was stopped with the lights flashing. I had to get in front of the car to make them stop.

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Meeting Date: 2/15/2022

Attendees:

- Joe Roy
- Stephen Graham (Author - Clerk)
- Thom Lipiczky
- Bill Barth
- Karen Carmean
- Doane Perry
- Frank Landsberger

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 8:04 AM
- Steve to update the recurring calendar invite – fix membership and address any time changes
- Review last meeting minutes
  - Motion: Accept the minutes as written
    - Made by: Bill
    - Seconded by: Thom
    - Discussion:
    - Vote: Unanimous for
- Final Report of subgroup “Crosswalk” - Ready to submit??
  - Motion: To submit the final document as
    - Made by: Thom
    - Seconded by: Steve
    - Discussion: None

- Vote: Unanimous for
    - Discuss Steve Graham’s “vision” goals for West Stockbridge
      - Goal: bring young families to live in W. Stockbridge
      - Focus to achieve goals:
        - Education
          - Karen proposal to have a forum in town to collect town opinion on the matter – talk to people in town (with kids under 5), understand ways we can convince young families to stay here
            - Karen will look into ways to identify these people
          - Steve to think about models like charter schooling that could be achievable in town
          - Joe will see if Lisa Baldwin would be interested in coming in and sharing her views
        - Jobs
        - Housing
          - Master planning committee is addressing housing right now – Joe suggests we should attend their meetings to understand what efforts are going on today
        - Frank brought up that expanding our medication facilities and capabilities would also attract young people
  - When should we meet again?
    - March 8, 8 AM
  - Motion: Adjourn meeting at 9:09
    - Made by: Frank
    - Seconded by: Bill
    - Discussion: None
    - Vote: Unanimous for
    -
- .....

Meeting Date: 3/08/2022

Attendees:

- Joe Roy
- Stephen Graham (Clerk)
- Thom Lipiczky
- Karen Carmean
- Doane Perry
- Frank Landsberger
- Bill Barth
- Seth Jenkins (Visitor)

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 8:02 AM
- Reviewed last meeting minutes
  - Motion: Accept the minutes as written
    - Made by: Doane
    - Seconded by: Frank
    - Discussion: None
    - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
- Discussed our Crosswalk report which was sent to the select board
  - On the agenda for the next select board meeting (virtual meeting 3/14/2022 @ 7:00 PM)
  - It is currently missing on the circulated agenda, Marie Ryan has been contacted to add that in
  - If anyone from the vision committee can make it, please attend
  - Joe will forward a copy of the report to Seth
  - Seth alerted us to the fact that W. Stockbridge has received funding from the Complete Streets program in an old contract with the state to help with traffic control projects including the crosswalk project
  - Frank suggested we have something we can circulate at the select board meeting so that attendees can refer to the report we are referencing
  - Frank suggested asking if they use the Local Yokel as an information source
- Discussed Steve Graham's "vision" goals for West Stockbridge, long/short-term
  - General:
    - Steve to create a survey to collect information from families in town in order to help set our direction
    - Make sure we reach the same demographic – the last survey that was done may not have been representative of the people it intended to target
    - Ask people what age group they belong to in the survey (demographic info)
    - Karen found out that Peter Dillon can target the right demographic (people with children in W. Stockbridge, home schooling)
    - Frank suggested writing a pre-amble to explain why we are collecting this data
    - Karen would like this to go out before school's April vacation
    - Frank suggested we try to collect as much quantifiable information as possible (rank 1-5 with a follow up free text form to explain your answer... etc)
    - Seth indicated that we can create focus groups if we feel we have under-representation in certain demographic groups
    - Frank suggested we ask "where did they end up residing? What kind of job or further education did they take?"

- Would you be willing to take to the Vision Committee regarding your thoughts/views on this topic?
  - Education, Jobs, Housing
    - Steve to circulate living document that describes short & long term goals
    - We will collect additional thoughts / suggestions by e-mail to add to the goals
    - Identify tangential goals that get suggested for future focus
- Discussed the creation/revival of social programs and interaction (calendar of major events):
  - Zucchini fest 2
    - Fireworks used to be a part of this, how it ended
    - Takes about 150-200 volunteers to make this happen
    - The previous efforts suffered from burn-out – very challenging to plan
    - Suggestion that we create a committee or board with rotating members to avoid burn-out
    - Cultural council took the lead on this well, we could talk to them first – Steve will take this on (contact Margery & Bob Powell, Peter Thorne, Don Johnson)
  - Communal Thanksgiving Dinner
    - The Congregational Church is doing their corn beef and cabbage dinner, take out only
    - Due to COVID, the church events have been take-out only
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July event (hot dogs, fireworks... etc)
    - Perhaps holding this event at card lake
    - Parks and rec are planning on holding an annual event
  - Shuttle from town hall to various locations in town
    - For specific events
    - Good parking at the town hall
  - Pedestrian walkway from town hall to downtown
  - Don Johnson's Apple Squeeze
- Discussed what our next focus/topic as a committee should be
  - Frank suggested that our focus has been very infrastructure-focused, perhaps we should focus on something with more social capital, like finding volunteers to take a walk with shut-ins... etc
  - We should contact the council on aging (John Zick, Irine Norton)
- Discussed when we should we meet again and any changes to our meeting format
  - Semi-weekly, 8AM, starting two weeks from today
  - Steve to update the recurring calendar invite – fix membership and address any time changes
  - Creation of a permanent Zoom link that goes into the calendar invite
  - Give Marie Ryan our meeting cadence so that we do not need to keep notifying her
- Motion: To adjourn meeting at 9:07

- Made by: Frank
- Seconded by: Bill
- Discussion: None
- Vote: Unanimous to adopt
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Meeting Date: 3/22/2022

Attendees:

- Joe Roy
- Stephen Graham (Clerk)
- Thom Lipiczky
- Frank Landsberger
- Karen Carmean
- Doane Perry

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 8:07 AM
- Reviewed last meeting minutes
 - Motion: Accept the minutes as written
 - Made by: Frank
 - Seconded by: Doane
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
- Discussed the status of main street crosswalk project
 - Thoroughly reviewed at the last select board meeting by Curt Wilton from the highway dept.
 - No real action items for us at this point, Curt is on it.
 - Looking back, we could have solicited feedback from Curt ahead of our submission.
 - We would like to see a serious effort at implementation before summer – Joe agreed he will emphasize this to the select board
- Discussed wording of the West Stockbridge Noise Ordinance
 - There was a demonstration at the last select board meeting at what 70-75 decibels sounds like at a 40-foot distance.
 - Everyone at the meeting agreed there needs to be additional detail on the proposed ordinance and there was an ask for the Vision Committee to get involved on this topic and help finalize the ordinance.

- Frank sent around the wording that the commonwealth uses for noise ordinance and believes we should stick with the state ordinance (it would supersede ours anyway in a court).
- Joe, Karen, and Frank would like to form a focus group to address this.
- Frank found a device for \$350 that could help address this problem.
- Discussed West Stockbridge Family Survey
 - The superintendent of schools is willing to circulate this, but we need to get this ahead very soon before his vacation (third week of April). Because of the testing schedule and end-of-year focus, it is difficult to do this afterwards.
 - Get feedback for Steve by end of day Sunday
 - Will decide by e-mail if survey is good to go after the next revision
 - Could get it into the next local yokel session
 - Steve will look into means for preventing multiple submissions
- Discussed a handful of other topics Steve brought up
 - Steve created a living document to track short & long term goals for family livability in town
 - Steve updated the recurring calendar invite – needs to make one more change once Joe gets a permanent Zoom link for this meeting
 - Steve reached out to Margery Powell regarding Zucchini-fest 2.0 – have not heard back yet. Cait Graham is going to approach her on this but believes no one is taking this up at the moment.
- Discussed proposal for additional clerk responsibility to highlight and call out action items and a permanent agenda item to review previous action items and Steve’s proposal for round-robin style status updates each meeting
 - Motion: Extend the Vision Committee Clerk’s responsibilities to include capturing and tracking action items along with leading a permanent agenda item to track everyone’s progress.
 - Made by: Joe
 - Seconded by: Frank
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
- Discussed BRTA cutting bus service routes
 - Bill Barth has been in touch with the folks involved on this
- Discussed Board of Health’s involvement in “noise pollution”
 - Motion: At Joe’s discretion, the Vision Committee purchase the decibel recording machine that Frank e-mailed out to the group
 - Made by: Thom
 - Seconded by: Frank
 - Discussion: Update the motion to include “at Joe’s discretion” in case he decides it is not appropriate for our needs.
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
- Further discussed the family survey proposal

- Want to make sure we capture a wide range of demographics and can analyze based on demographics information
- Perhaps drop the question regarding income
- Everyone will review these on their own time and will “reply-all” so that we can all be aware of everyone’s input & feedback
- Consider multiple distribution methods – school district, local yokel, town e-mail (Joe will ask Marie if we can do this).
- Steve – add non-resident option to the survey so we know if we get submissions from non-residents
- No additional topics
 - Motion: Adjourn meeting at 9:08 AM
 - Made by: Frank
 - Seconded by: Thom
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt

Action Items:

- Emphasize to the select board that we would like to see a serious effort at implementation at the crosswalk project before summer. @Joe 4/5/2022
- Form a focus group to assist in researching/writing a town noise ordinance. @Joe, @Frank, @Karen 4/5/2022
- Review West Stockbridge Family survey and provide Steve feedback (reply-all so we can all see the feedback). @All 3/27/2022
- Look into ways to prevent multiple submissions by the same person for the West Stockbridge Family Survey. @Steve 3/29/2022
- Make updates (known already are dropping income question and adding non-resident option) and circulate final revision of West Stockbridge Family Survey for committee review. @Steve 3/29/2022
- Approve final revision of West Stockbridge Family Survey by E-Mail. @All 4/5/2022
- Distribute West Stockbridge Family survey (Superintendent, Local Yokel, Town E-Mail list, Other channels). @Steve, @Karen, @Joe 4/5/2022
- Review Steve’s living document of short&long-term goals for family settlement. Provide additional items, thoughts, & feedback. @All 4/5/2022
- Create permanent Zoom meeting for committee meetings and update calendar invite with the link. @Steve, @Joe 4/5/2022
- Get info/feedback from Marge Powell regarding current efforts with the Zucchini-fest and our committee’s interest in reviving this. @Steve 4/5/2022
- Capture list of on-going action items to track & review at each committee meeting. @Steve 3/22/2022
- Create permanent agenda item to review prior meeting’s action items and review progress of each committee member. @Joe 4/5/2022
- Purchase decibel tracking equipment (if appropriate). @Joe 4/5/2022

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Meeting Date: 4/05/2022

Attendees:

- Joe Roy
- Stephen Graham (Clerk)
- Thom Lipiczky
- Frank Landsberger
- Karen Carmean
- Doane Perry
- Bill Barth
- Seth Jenkins (Guest)

Previous Action Items:

- Emphasize to the select board that we would like to see a serious effort at implementation of the crosswalk project before summer. @Joe 4/5/2022
- Form a focus group to assist in researching/writing a town noise ordinance. @Joe, @Frank, @Karen 4/5/2022
- Review West Stockbridge Family survey and provide Steve feedback (reply-all so we can all see the feedback). @All 3/27/2022
- Look into ways to prevent multiple submissions by the same person for the West Stockbridge Family Survey. @Steve 3/29/2022
- Make updates (known already are dropping income question and adding non-resident option) and circulate final revision of West Stockbridge Family Survey for committee review. @Steve 3/29/2022
- Approve final revision of West Stockbridge Family Survey by E-Mail. @All 4/5/2022
- Distribute West Stockbridge Family survey (Superintendent, Local Yokel, Town E-Mail list, Other channels). @Steve, @Karen, @Joe 4/5/2022
- Review Steve's living document of short & long-term goals for family settlement. Provide additional items, thoughts, & feedback. @All 4/5/2022
- Create permanent Zoom meeting for committee meetings and update calendar invite with the link. @Steve, @Joe 4/5/2022
- Get info/feedback from Marge Powell regarding current efforts with the Zucchini-fest and our committee's interest in reviving this. @Steve 4/5/2022
- Capture list of on-going action items to track & review at each committee meeting. @Steve 3/22/2022
- Create permanent agenda item to review prior meeting's action items and review progress of each committee member. @Joe 4/5/2022
- Purchase decibel tracking equipment (if appropriate). @Joe 4/5/2022

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 8:05 AM
- Reviewed last meeting minutes
 - Motion: Accept the minutes as written

- Made by: Thom
 - Seconded by: Karen
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
- Talked about the survey
 - Decided to hold off on the survey and could wait until October. Karen will communicate with the superintendent on our decision.
- Talked about the crosswalk
 - Seeking to have a meeting with Curt Wilton to determine where this is at.
 - Contract for Complete Streets has been signed with BRPC, there will be a committee formed focusing on traffic. Seth will get us contacts (Justin Gilmore, Nick Russo) from the BRPC who are working on this.
- Talked about the noise ordinance
 - Joe, Frank, & Karen met as a “focus group” on this topic.
 - Considering 3 documents:
 - Mass DEP Noise Pollution policy interpretation
 - W. Stockbridge town code (ch 185 – Noise)
 - Select board’s proposed rewrite of ch 185
 - Joe will circulate these 3 documents to the committee
 - Focus on the legal definition of what is considered “noise”
- Talked about the livability goals
 - Discussed the Zucchini festival
 - There is \$12k in the town report that appears to be earmarked for this festival
 - Marge Powell indicated that the Cultural Council is trying to revive this. They were denied a permit for this in 2022 due to COVID concerns.
 - Marge would like to meet with the Vision Committee on this – Steve will extend her a formal invite
 - Discussed the Open space planning commission’s plan to hold a meeting next week to solicit input on some of their on-going efforts, including the Oak Street walkway between the town hall and downtown.
 - Karen has expressed concern about fire access to residents on Oak Street. This could be
 - Discussed the potential to encourage a pre-school and/or daycare to setup in town.
 - There is funding available through the CCRR (Child care resource & referral agency)
 - Discussed the increased usage of our town library and the potential to capitalize on that
 - Karen brought up that there is an upcoming event (Mary Pope Osborne) that will attract a lot of people & families
 - Discussed the idea of bringing municipally chartered broadband services to West Stockbridge

- Bill has a copy of the town contract with Charter/Spectrum and will circulate it – if the contract says that everyone who wants it can get it, we may have some leverage
 - Seth believes it could be challenging for us since the state is prioritizing towns with no service
 - Steve will attempt to pull out actionable items in the livability goals document to see if we can make formal recommendations to the select board
- Joe and Anne Roy are looking into the creation of an Index of West Stockbridge permitting authorities and a list of permits.
 - If anyone has an ideas or sources, please send them to Joe
- Talked about the data logging sound recording meeting
 - Marie can purchase this for us once we settle on what to purchase
 - Motion: To purchase the sound monitoring equipment that Joe recommends so long as the town does not already own this device
 - Made by: Steve
 - Seconded by: Karen
 - Discussion:
 - Frank noted that this purchase is about one third of our annual budget
 - Tom noted that it would make sense if other groups purchased equipment like this (the Board of Health, Police Dept... etc)
 - Decided to modify the motion so that Joe can confirm with Marie that this item is not already owned by the time
 - Seth wants to ensure that that we don't create additional controversy with us measuring decibel levels ourselves
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
 -
- No additional topics
 - Motion: Adjourn meeting at 9:19 AM
 - Made by: Thom
 - Seconded by: Bill
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt

On-Going Action Items:

- Emphasize to the select board that we would like to see a serious effort at implementation of the crosswalk project before summer. @Joe 4/19/2022
- Reach out to superintendent to let him know that we were not able to settle on the contents of the survey. Our intention is to wait until October to try again. Get his feedback on this plan. @Karen 4/19/2022
- Create permanent agenda item to review prior meeting's action items and review progress of each committee member. @Joe 4/19/2022

- Purchase decibel tracking equipment (if no other groups in town own it already). @Joe 4/19/2022
- Update calendar invite to use Joe's personal room as a persistent meeting link. @Steve 4/19/2022
- Circulate contact info for BRPC members who are working on the Complete Streets endeavors. @Seth 4/19/2022
- Circulate the 3 noise ordinance documents to the committee. @Joe 4/19/2022
- Formally invite Marge Powell to attend a WSVC meeting and discuss the Zucchini festival efforts. @Steve 4/19/2022
- Send permitting issuance ideas or sources to Joe @All 4/19/2022
- Pull out actionable items from the family livability goals document and begin forming recommendations to the select board. @Steve 4/19/2022

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Meeting Date: 4/19/2022

Attendees:

- Joe Roy
- Stephen Graham (Clerk)
- Thom Lipiczky
- Karen Carmean
- Doane Perry
- Bill Barth
- Frank Landsberger

Previous Action Items:

- Emphasize to the select board that we would like to see a serious effort at implementation of the crosswalk project before summer. @Joe 4/19/2022
- Reach out to superintendent to let him know that we were not able to settle on the contents of the survey. Our intention is to wait until October to try again. Get his feedback on this plan. @Karen 4/19/2022
- Create permanent agenda item to review prior meeting's action items and review progress of each committee member. @Joe 4/19/2022
- Purchase decibel tracking equipment (if no other groups in town own it already). @Joe 4/19/2022
- Update calendar invite to use Joe's personal room as a persistent meeting link. @Steve 4/19/2022
- Circulate contact info for BRPC members who are working on the Complete Streets endeavors. @Seth 4/19/2022
- Circulate the 3 noise ordinance documents to the committee. @Joe 4/19/2022
- Formally invite Marge Powell to attend a WSVC meeting and discuss the Zucchini festival efforts. @Steve 4/19/2022

- ☒ Send permitting issuance ideas or sources to Joe @All 4/19/2022
- ☒ Pull out actionable items from the family livability goals document and begin forming recommendations to the select board. @Steve 4/19/2022

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 8:05 AM
- Reviewed last meeting minutes
 - Motion: Accept the minutes as written
 - Made by: Thom
 - Seconded by: Karen
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
- Talked about the W. Stockbridge Open Space & Recreation Plan Forum
 - Goal 1: W. Stockbridge natural landscape maintained
 - Goal 2: W. Stockbridge water resources protected & high priority
 - Goal 3: Action items (master plan, card pond, trail system to Tom Ball Mtn... etc).
 - Many goals that align with our efforts
 - Joe will circulate their draft plan to the committee
- Talked about main street safety efforts
 - Frank had a conversation with Curt Wilton from the Highway Department about the creation and implementation of a sign that indicates the town is not built for speeding
 - Joe will follow up about how to move forward on this with the Select Board
 - Frank would like to get some press coverage on this (Yokel, Eagle... etc)
- Talked about the Select Board's request for assistance about the noise ordinance
 - Frank and Joe attempting to get the new noise monitoring equipment to function
 - Kathleen Keresy (Select Board) asked if we had updates for the board on this topic
 - We are going to present facts & capabilities and how they relate to the laws as we understand them, not make specific recommendations or edits to the ordinance itself
 - Karen recommends that we reach out to Richmond to see if they can help or assist
- Talked about our family livability goals
 - Steve to circulate the Google drive link, send instructions, and make a video that shows people how to participate
 - Steve to prioritize the list of goals so that we have the first handful to focus on
 - Steve to invite Marge Powell to speak to our committee regarding her Zucchini festival efforts
 - Joe will talk to Bob Powell and see if he would be interested in joining our committee
 - Karen talked to the superintendent regarding the survey who suggested that mid-September would be a good time for us to revisit this

- Talked about additional action items
 - On the crosswalk proposal, the select board is looking for more of a concrete plan. Joe will talk to Curt and come up with a statement about this to submit something to the Select Board
 - Joe will invite Curt to our next meeting
 - There is a complete streets committee forming, no one from our committee has the capacity to join, but we would like to know about their meetings so that we can attend. Joe will circulate to the committee their meeting times
 - Joe and Anne are starting a permit information repository effort and invite committee members to assist them
- No additional topics
 - Motion: Adjourn meeting at 9:16 AM
 - Made by: Frank
 - Seconded by: Doane
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt

On-Going Action Items:

- Formally invite Marge Powell to attend a WSVC meeting and discuss the Zucchini festival efforts. @Steve 5/3/2022
- Circulate W. Stockbridge Open Space & Recreation Committee’s draft plan to the WSVC members. @Joe 5/3/2022
- Determine how to move forward with the Select Board on the town “slow down” sign that Frank proposed. @Joe 5/3/2022
- Get noise recording hardware working, test the capabilities, and determine what information we want to provide to the select board. @Joe, Frank, Karen 5/3/2022
- Circulate Family Livability Google Drive repository, prioritize the list, and create instructions on how each committee member can participate. @Steve 5/3/2022
- Invite Bob Powell to join our committee. @Joe 5/3/2022
- Draft a statement to the Select Board to tie off our crosswalk proposal to the board. @Joe 5/3/2022
- Invite Curt to join our next meeting to talk to him about the crosswalk proposal. @Joe 5/3/2022
- Circulate the complete streets meeting days/times so that we can attend. @Joe 5/3/2022

Meeting Date: 5/03/2022

Attendees:

- Joe Roy
- Stephen Graham (Clerk)
- Karen Carmean
- Doane Perry

- Bill Barth
- Frank Landsberger

Previous Action Items:

- Formally invite Marge Powell to attend a WSVC meeting and discuss the Zucchini festival efforts. @Steve 5/3/2022
- Circulate W. Stockbridge Open Space & Recreation Committee's draft plan to the WSVC members. @Joe 5/3/2022
- Determine how to move forward with the Select Board on the town "slow down" sign that Frank proposed. @Joe 5/3/2022
- Get noise recording hardware working, test the capabilities, and determine what information we want to provide to the select board. @Joe, Frank, Karen 5/3/2022
- Circulate Family Livability Google Drive repository, prioritize the list, and create instructions on how each committee member can participate. @Steve 5/3/2022
- Invite Bob Powell to join our committee. @Joe 5/3/2022
- Draft a statement to the Select Board to tie off our crosswalk proposal to the board. @Joe 5/3/2022
- Invite Curt to join our next meeting to talk to him about the crosswalk proposal. @Joe 5/3/2022
- Circulate the complete streets meeting days/times so that we can attend. @Joe 5/3/2022

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 8:05 AM
- Reviewed last meeting minutes
 - Motion: Accept the minutes as written
 - Made by: Bill
 - Seconded by: Doane
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
- Talked about the crosswalk proposal
 - Joe, Frank, and Thom will get together before the next meeting and come up with something to present at the next meeting
 - Bill pointed out that the type of crosswalks that a pedestrian presses and lights change make a lot more sense than signs with a bunch of arrows (like Lenox)
 - Curt Wilton of the Highway Department has been opposed to this due to aesthetic reasons – no lights, doesn't think we need that yet
 - Curt is going to get us a speed reduction sign
- Talked about the Select Board's request for assistance about the noise ordinance
 - We got the noise meter and have it setup and ready to record
 - Joe is going to start by monitoring his yard & the quarry to test it
 - Once we're good with it, we can come up with suggestions to the SB on how to use it going forward
 - When we do set it up, it will be vulnerable to animals, vandals, and weather, we need to ensure it is safe

- Truc has offered to let us set it up at her property at Truc's Orient Express
- Another good place to measure is downtown, measure traffic noise and trucks on Swamp road (trucks using their J-brakes)
- Talked about our family livability goals
 - Steve circulated instructions for how to access & edit the livability documents
 - 4 priorities:
 - 02 - Creating Incentives for the Establishment of Private Early Child Care Facilities
 - 04 - Supporting the Re-Establishment of the Annual Zucchini Festival
 - 06 - Advertising West Stockbridge as an Ideal Work from Home Destination
 - 11 - Capitalizing on Two Train Lines that Intersect on the Rail Between State Line and Pittsfield
 - Some feedback on #11 (rail):
 - Bill brought up that there is no public transportation between Pittsfield and W. Stockbridge, we will need some alternative method for bringing people to town
 - Wasaic & Hudson can and should also be a focus of the rail effort
 - At one point, there was discussions about a station in W. Stockbridge on the East/West line, but we believe that plan was scrapped
 - Bill conceived of some service that picks someone up at the train, brings them to W. Stockbridge, and then drops them at Tanglewood, something like that
 - Frank brought up that we need to consider the consequences of bringing many people into town (Where do we put them? What do they do?)
 - Joining BRTA would be something we could do, but the select board does not seem interested in this
 - Some feedback on #2 (daycare):
 - Frank asked what the potential number of kids would be currently, something to consider for this project
 - Joe suggested that we look at what other towns around us are doing and support them
 - Frank brought up that W. Stockbridge, Richmond, and Alford are acting more in concert and perhaps we should look at some mini-regionalization between these towns
 - Bill asked whether or not we could / should consider Stockbridge as well
- Talked about the Complete Streets committee
 - Frank is not a fan of these closed meetings from all these committees. We're not sure why they are not subjected to open meeting law. Not very happy with the output we've seen. His suggestion is that we suggest these committees open their meetings and invite the public

- Doane is seeking to join the Complete Streets committee and represent the Vision Committee, we are in favor of this. Doane will suggest they make the meeting publicly accessible and publish notes
- No additional topics
 - Motion: Adjourn meeting at 9:15 AM
 - Made by: Frank
 - Seconded by: Doane
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt

On-Going Action Items:

- Circulate W. Stockbridge Open Space & Recreation Committee's draft plan to the WSVC members. @Joe 5/17/2022
- Determine how to move forward with the Select Board on the town "slow down" sign that Frank proposed. @Joe 5/17/2022
- Get noise recording hardware working, test the capabilities, and determine what information we want to provide to the select board. @Joe, Frank, Karen 5/17/2022
- Invite Bob Powell to join our committee. @Joe 5/17/2022
- Draft a statement to the Select Board to tie off our crosswalk proposal to the board. @Joe 5/17/2022
- Invite Curt to join our next meeting to talk to him about the crosswalk proposal. @Joe 5/17/2022
- Circulate the complete streets meeting days/times so that we can attend. @Joe 5/17/2022
- Fix the WSVC calendar issues. @Steve 5/3/2022
- Get all of our historical meeting minutes on our website. @Steve, @Joe 5/17/2022
- Come up with something we can present about the crosswalk. @Joe, @Frank, @Thom 5/17/2022
- Join the Complete Streets committee and suggest that they make their meetings & material more available to the public. @Doane 5/17/2022

Meeting Date: 5/17/2022

Attendees:

- Joe Roy
- Stephen Graham (Clerk)
- Thom Lipiczky
- Karen Carmean
- Doane Perry
- Bill Barth

Previous Action Items:

- Circulate W. Stockbridge Open Space & Recreation Committee's draft plan to the WSVC members. @Joe 5/17/2022
- Determine how to move forward with the Select Board on the town "slow down" sign that Frank proposed. @Joe 5/17/2022
- Get noise recording hardware working, test the capabilities, and determine what information we want to provide to the select board. @Joe, Frank, Karen 5/17/2022
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- Circulate the complete streets meeting days/times so that we can attend. @Joe 5/17/2022
- Fix the WSVC calendar issues. @Steve 5/3/2022
- Get all of our historical meeting minutes on our website. @Steve, @Joe 5/17/2022
- Come up with something we can present about the crosswalk. @Joe, @Frank, @Thom 5/17/2022
- Join the Complete Streets committee and suggest that they make their meetings & material more available to the public. @Doane 5/17/2022

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 8:08 AM
- Reviewed last meeting minutes
 - Motion: Accept the minutes as written
 - Made by: Thom
 - Seconded by: Bill
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
- Talked about follow up items from last meeting's minutes
 - Steve created a spot on our website for meeting minutes
 - Joe will send Steve all of our historical minutes so that we can get them up and hosted on the website
 - Thom asked if Curt will be attending an upcoming meeting of ours
 - Joe will talk to Frank and they will determine if we will invite Curt to an upcoming meeting.
 - Thom asked if Bob Powell will be part of our committee
 - Joe mentioned Sharon Vidal would like to join.
 - Joe will ask Bob and Sharon if they would like to join
 - Joe will invite Marge Powell to attend the next meeting
 - Once the Select board elections are complete, Joe will invite the Select board members to attend our meetings
- Talked about the crosswalk
 - No new discussion on this topic
- Talked about the noise ordinance

- Joe circulated sound data tracking the John Lane Quarry activities
 - Bill suggested that we look into some sort of agreement with Lane to reclaim the land after quarry activities cease. Joe does not believe any such agreement is in effect today.
- Once Joe and Frank are comfortable with everything it can do, the Vision Committee will craft a proposal to the Select Board
- Talked about Family Livability goals
 - Steve will try to come to the next Vision Committee meeting with the first proposal in hand to review and discuss
 - Joe will send Karen contact information for the tree people on the Berkshire Regional Planning Board (Nick & Lauren)
- Talked about open action items
 - Reviewed action items
- Talked about potential new members
 - Another potential visitor from the Alford Planning Board is Alex Glover.
 - Karen suggested that we invite her to a June meeting, record it, and share it with the town
 - Motion: Have a special open meeting in June dedicated to a discussion with Alex Glover about a variety of topics (BRBO's, AirBnB's... etc)
 - Made by: Karen
 - Seconded by: Bill
 - Discussion: Joe will talk to Alex Glover about meeting with the Vision Committee (and potentially other people in town)
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
 -
- Talked about the Gypsy Moth caterpillar infestation
 - Karen suggested that everyone who can sprays them with BT (a bacteria that kills the caterpillars)
 - Joe will get in touch with John Parker and see if there is any information we can circulate regarding how to deal with the Gypsy Moth caterpillars
- No additional topics
 - Motion: Adjourn meeting at 8:53 AM
 - Made by: Doane
 - Seconded by: Karen
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt

On-Going Action Items:

- Circulate W. Stockbridge Open Space & Recreation Committee's draft plan to the WSVC members. @Joe 5/31/2022
- Determine how to move forward with the Select Board on the town "slow down" sign that Frank proposed. @Joe, @Frank 5/31/2022

- Get noise recording hardware working, test the capabilities, and determine what information we want to provide to the select board. @Joe, @Frank, @Karen 5/31/2022
- Invite Bob Powell and Sharon Vidal to join our committee. @Joe 5/31/2022
- Invite Marge Powell to attend our next meeting and discuss the Zucchini Fest. @Joe 5/31/2022
- Invite Curt to join our next meeting to talk to him about the crosswalk proposal. @Joe 5/31/2022
- Circulate the complete streets meeting days/times so that we can attend. @Joe 5/31/2022
- Come up with something we can present or deliver to the Select board about the crosswalk. @Joe, @Frank, @Thom 5/31/2022
- Join the Complete Streets committee and suggest that they make their meetings & material more available to the public. @Doane 5/17/2022
- Get historical meeting minutes up on the website. @Joe, @Steve 5/31/2022
- Once the Select board elections are complete, invite the Select board members to attend our meetings. @Joe 5/31/2022
- Present first Family Livability proposal to the Vision Committee at the next meeting. @Steve 5/31/2022
- Put Karen in contact with the tree people on the Berkshire Regional Planning Board (Nick and/or Lauren). @Joe 5/31/2022
- Talk to Alex Glover about meeting with the Vision Committee (and potentially other people in town). @Joe 5/31/2022
- Get in touch with John Parker and see if there is any information we can circulate regarding how to deal with the Gypsy Moth caterpillars. @Joe 5/31/2022

Meeting Date: 5/17/2022

Attendees:

- Joe Roy
- Stephen Graham (Clerk)
- Thom Lipiczky
- Karen Carmean
- Doane Perry
- Bill Barth

Previous Action Items:

- Circulate W. Stockbridge Open Space & Recreation Committee's draft plan to the WSVC members. @Joe 5/17/2022
- Determine how to move forward with the Select Board on the town "slow down" sign that Frank proposed. @Joe 5/17/2022
- Get noise recording hardware working, test the capabilities, and determine what information we want to provide to the select board. @Joe, Frank, Karen 5/17/2022
- Invite Bob Powell to join our committee. @Joe 5/17/2022

- Draft a statement to the Select Board to tie off our crosswalk proposal to the board. @Joe 5/17/2022
- Invite Curt to join our next meeting to talk to him about the crosswalk proposal. @Joe 5/17/2022
- Circulate the complete streets meeting days/times so that we can attend. @Joe 5/17/2022
- Fix the WSVC calendar issues. @Steve 5/3/2022
- Get all of our historical meeting minutes on our website. @Steve, @Joe 5/17/2022
- Come up with something we can present about the crosswalk. @Joe, @Frank, @Thom 5/17/2022
- Join the Complete Streets committee and suggest that they make their meetings & material more available to the public. @Doane 5/17/2022

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 8:08 AM
- Reviewed last meeting minutes
 - Motion: Accept the minutes as written
 - Made by: Thom
 - Seconded by: Bill
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
- Talked about follow up items from last meeting's minutes
 - Steve created a spot on our website for meeting minutes
 - Joe will send Steve all of our historical minutes so that we can get them up and hosted on the website
 - Thom asked if Curt will be attending an upcoming meeting of ours
 - Joe will talk to Frank and they will determine if we will invite Curt to an upcoming meeting.
 - Thom asked if Bob Powell will be part of our committee
 - Joe mentioned Sharon Vidal would like to join.
 - Joe will ask Bob and Sharon if they would like to join
 - Joe will invite Marge Powell to attend the next meeting
 - Once the Select board elections are complete, Joe will invite the Select board members to attend our meetings
- Talked about the crosswalk
 - No new discussion on this topic
- Talked about the noise ordinance
 - Joe circulated sound data tracking the John Lane Quarry activities
 - Bill suggested that we look into some sort of agreement with Lane to reclaim the land after quarry activities cease. Joe does not believe any such agreement is in effect today.
 - Once Joe and Frank are comfortable with everything it can do, the Vision Committee will craft a proposal to the Select Board
- Talked about Family Livability goals

- Steve will try to come to the next Vision Committee meeting with the first proposal in hand to review and discuss
- Joe will send Karen contact information for the tree people on the Berkshire Regional Planning Board (Nick & Lauren)
- Talked about open action items
 - Reviewed action items
- Talked about potential new members
 - Another potential visitor from the Alford Planning Board is Alex Glover.
 - Karen suggested that we invite her to a June meeting, record it, and share it with the town
 - Motion: Have a special open meeting in June dedicated to a discussion with Alex Glover about a variety of topics (BRBO's, AirBnB's... etc)
 - Made by: Karen
 - Seconded by: Bill
 - Discussion: Joe will talk to Alex Glover about meeting with the Vision Committee (and potentially other people in town)
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
 -
- Talked about the Gypsy Moth caterpillar infestation
 - Karen suggested that everyone who can sprays them with BT (a bacteria that kills the caterpillars)
 - Joe will get in touch with John Parker and see if there is any information we can circulate regarding how to deal with the Gypsy Moth caterpillars
- No additional topics
 - Motion: Adjourn meeting at 8:53 AM
 - Made by: Doane
 - Seconded by: Karen
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt

On-Going Action Items:

- Circulate W. Stockbridge Open Space & Recreation Committee's draft plan to the WSVC members. @Joe 5/31/2022
- Determine how to move forward with the Select Board on the town "slow down" sign that Frank proposed. @Joe, @Frank 5/31/2022
- Get noise recording hardware working, test the capabilities, and determine what information we want to provide to the select board. @Joe, @Frank, @Karen 5/31/2022
- Invite Bob Powell and Sharon Vidal to join our committee. @Joe 5/31/2022
- Invite Marge Powell to attend our next meeting and discuss the Zucchini Fest. @Joe 5/31/2022
- Invite Curt to join our next meeting to talk to him about the crosswalk proposal. @Joe 5/31/2022

- Circulate the complete streets meeting days/times so that we can attend. @Joe 5/31/2022
- Come up with something we can present or deliver to the Select board about the crosswalk. @Joe, @Frank, @Thom 5/31/2022
- Join the Complete Streets committee and suggest that they make their meetings & material more available to the public. @Doane 5/17/2022
- Get historical meeting minutes up on the website. @Joe, @Steve 5/31/2022
- Once the Select board elections are complete, invite the Select board members to attend our meetings. @Joe 5/31/2022
- Present first Family Livability proposal to the Vision Committee at the next meeting. @Steve 5/31/2022
- Put Karen in contact with the tree people on the Berkshire Regional Planning Board (Nick and/or Lauren). @Joe 5/31/2022
- Talk to Alex Glover about meeting with the Vision Committee (and potentially other people in town). @Joe 5/31/2022
- Get in touch with John Parker and see if there is any information we can circulate regarding how to deal with the Gypsy Moth caterpillars. @Joe 5/31/2022

Meeting Date: 5/31/2022

Attendees:

- Joe Roy
- Stephen Graham (Clerk)
- Thom Lipiczky
 - Karen Carmean
 - Doane Perry
- Bill Barth

Previous Action Items:

- Circulate W. Stockbridge Open Space & Recreation Committee's draft plan to the WSVC members. @Joe 5/31/2022
- Determine how to move forward with the Select Board on the town "slow down" sign that Frank proposed. @Joe, @Frank 5/31/2022
- Get noise recording hardware working, test the capabilities, and determine what information we want to provide to the select board. @Joe, @Frank, @Karen 5/31/2022
- Invite Bob Powell and Sharon Vidal to join our committee. @Joe 5/31/2022
- Invite Marge Powell to attend our next meeting and discuss the Zucchini Fest. @Joe 5/31/2022
- Invite Curt to join our next meeting to talk to him about the crosswalk proposal. @Joe 5/31/2022
- Circulate the complete streets meeting days/times so that we can attend. @Joe 5/31/2022
- Come up with something we can present or deliver to the Select board about the crosswalk. @Joe, @Frank, @Thom 5/31/2022

- Join the Complete Streets committee and suggest that they make their meetings & material more available to the public. @Doane 5/17/2022
- Get historical meeting minutes up on the website. @Joe, @Steve 5/31/2022
- Once the Select board elections are complete, invite the Select board members to attend our meetings. @Joe 5/31/2022
- Present first Family Livability proposal to the Vision Committee at the next meeting. @Steve 5/31/2022
- Put Karen in contact with the tree people on the Berkshire Regional Planning Board (Nick and/or Lauren). @Joe 5/31/2022
- Talk to Alex Glover about meeting with the Vision Committee (and potentially other people in town). @Joe 5/31/2022
- Get in touch with John Parker and see if there is any information we can circulate regarding how to deal with the Gypsy Moth caterpillars. @Joe 5/31/2022

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 8:04 AM
- Reviewed last meeting minutes
 - Motion: Accept the minutes as written
 - Made by: Frank
 - Seconded by: Thom
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
- Talked about follow up items from last meeting's minutes
 - Reviewed outstanding previous action items
 - Steve to put together invoice for Website creation and maintenance
- Talked about the ZucchiniFest
 - Marge Powell and the Cultural Council will be trying to re-establish this in 2023
 - We have a proposal in hand to give the Select Board to lend our committee's official support to the Cultural Council to re-establish the ZucchiniFest and to encourage the Select Board to re-consider their position on granting them a license
 - We decided we should wait until Marge Powell addresses our committee before we officially vote on this
 - Frank suggested we change the word "support" to "endorse"
- Talked about the crosswalk
 - We have done all we can until we talk to Curt Wilton on the Highway Department and will need to wait until after the Select Board is fully established (next several weeks)
 - Joe will arrange a discussion between himself, Frank, Thom, and Curt to review the delivery of a final report to the Select Board
- Talked about the noise ordinance
 - We tested the new hardware and obtained a good sample set of data
 - Average dB noise was around 50 dB

- We do need to be careful when we move it
- Next effort is to approach Kathleen, see if we can put it at her house and measure the Jake Brake noises
- We need to take notes when we use it as well so that we understand what the spikes mean
- Talked about Family Livability goals
 - Steve will send around which goal he is working on before each meeting so the committee has the opportunity to review ahead of the meeting
 - Steve presented two proposals:
 - Encouraging the establishment of a private daycare center / pre-school in town
 - Officially supporting the Cultural Council on their efforts to re-establish the ZucchiniFest and to encourage the Select Board to grant them a license for 2023
 - Steve to circulate official proposal document for committee to review and provide feedback on. Propose that we vote on its delivery in the next meeting
- Talked about the Select Board
 - Frank suggests that we each introduce ourselves to the new members
 - Joe will approach the new Select Board and establish a new liaison between our committee and the board
- Talked about the Master Plan
 - There are 11 pages in the draft proposal around traffic & transportation
- Talked about meeting cadence
 - Decided to stay with the same meeting time and cadence
- No additional topics
 - Motion: Adjourn meeting at 9:10 AM
 - Made by: Frank
 - Seconded by: Doane
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt

On-Going Action Items:

- Determine how to move forward with the Select Board on the town “slow down” sign that Frank proposed. @Joe, @Frank 6/14/2022
- Get noise recording hardware working, test the capabilities, and determine what information we want to provide to the select board. @Joe, @Frank, @Karen 6/14/2022
- Invite Bob Powell and Sharon Vidal to join our committee. @Joe 6/14/2022
- Invite Marge Powell to attend our next meeting and discuss the Zucchini Fest. @Joe 6/14/2022
- Invite Curt to join our next meeting to talk to him about the crosswalk proposal. @Joe 6/14/2022
- Circulate the complete streets meeting days/times so that we can attend. @Joe 6/14/2022

- Come up with something we can present or deliver to the Select board about the crosswalk. @Joe, @Frank, @Thom 6/14/2022
 - Join the Complete Streets committee and suggest that they make their meetings & material more available to the public. @Doane 6/14/2022
 - Get historical meeting minutes up on the website. @Joe, @Steve 6/14/2022
 - Once the Select board elections are complete, invite the Select board members to attend our meetings. @Joe 6/14/2022
 - Get in touch with John Parker and see if there is any information we can circulate regarding how to deal with the Gypsy Moth caterpillars. @Joe 6/14/2022
 - Put together invoice for website work. @Steve 6/14/2022
 - Approach Kathleen and see if we can measure Jake Brake noise levels at her house. @Frank, @Joe 6/14/2022
 - Circulate initial livability proposals to the committee for review & feedback. @Steve 6/14/2022
 - Send around active livability efforts so group can review ahead of meetings. @Steve 6/14/2022
-

Meeting Date: 6/14/2022

Attendees:

- Joe Roy
- Stephen Graham (Clerk)
- Thom Lipiczky
- Bill Barth

Previous Action Items:

- Determine how to move forward with the Select Board on the town “slow down” sign that Frank proposed. @Joe, @Frank 6/14/2022
- Get noise recording hardware working, test the capabilities, and determine what information we want to provide to the select board. @Joe, @Frank, @Karen 6/14/2022
- Invite Bob Powell and Sharon Vidal to join our committee. @Joe 6/14/2022
- Invite Marge Powell to attend our next meeting and discuss the Zucchini Fest. @Joe 6/14/2022
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- Get historical meeting minutes up on the website. @Joe, @Steve 6/14/2022

- Once the Select board elections are complete, invite the Select board members to attend our meetings. @Joe 6/14/2022
- Get in touch with John Parker and see if there is any information we can circulate regarding how to deal with the Gypsy Moth caterpillars. @Joe 6/14/2022
- Put together invoice for website work. @Steve 6/14/2022
- Approach Kathleen and see if we can measure Jake Brake noise levels at her house. @Frank, @Joe 6/14/2022
- Circulate initial livability proposals to the committee for review & feedback. @Steve 6/14/2022
- Send around active livability efforts so group can review ahead of meetings. @Steve 6/14/2022

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 8:07 AM
- Reviewed last meeting minutes
 - Motion: Accept the minutes as written
 - Made by: Thom
 - Seconded by: Joe
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
- Talked about meeting cadence
 - Suggestion that we go to every 3 or 4 weeks during the summer
 - Suggestion that we do a meeting with the select board to talk about the vision committee's activities
 - Motion: Cancel WSVC meetings on June 28, July 26, Aug 23
 - Made by: Bill
 - Seconded by: Thom
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
- Talked about ZucchiniFest plans
 - Joe will invite Marge to our next meeting
- Talked about Crosswalk plans
 - Joe connected with Curt and will talk to him about Curt returns from vacation, will coordinate with Thom & Frank
- Talked about Noise Ordinance
 - Frank and his son are still working on figuring out what our new noise monitoring meter can do and we want to wait for the new select board to get underway
 - Bill suggests that we focus on "what is the action?" when we make our proposal to the select board. We need to come up with something enforceable
 - Steve suggested that any proposal we make includes what the current state ordinance entails and what about our proposal is different or goes beyond the current state ordinance
- Talked about Family Livability goals

- Steve has not had a chance to work through his action items yet and plans to have more in the next meeting
- Talked about the master plan draft
 - Bill would like to get a transit warrant on the agenda for the town meeting, but it might be too late at this point
 - Joe will let the select board know that we are interested in getting in front of the BRTA and solicit their feedback
 - Bill wants to investigate a shuttle between W. Stockbridge and Pittsfield's multi-modal train station
 - Joe will see if there is a brochure rack at the multi-modal train station in Stockbridge and that our town brochure is on display there
 - Steve would like to see more advertisements for W. Stockbridge & events at the train station
 - Bill brought up that our marketing material should also be at the train station on the NYC side
 - Steve will attempt to contact the train station to talk about how to advertise at both Pittsfield and in NYC
- Talked about new committee members
 - Joe will reach out to Bob Powell and Sharon Vidal and invite them to the committee
- Talked about inviting Alex Glover to an upcoming meeting to discuss short term renting
 - She is very interested in coming to talk to our committee (and anyone else who is interested in coming)
- Talked the state change to MA meetings - as of July 15th, town meetings cannot be done by Zoom exclusively
 - We will need an in-person quorum in order to have an official meeting
 - Joe will ask Smitty Pignatelli how we can formally express our displeasure as a committee to the state
- No additional topics
 - Motion: Adjourn meeting at 9:10 AM
 - Made by: Thom
 - Seconded by: Bill
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt

On-Going Action Items:

- Determine how to move forward with the Select Board on the town "slow down" sign that Frank proposed. @Joe, @Frank 7/12/2022
- Get noise recording hardware working, test the capabilities, and determine what information we want to provide to the select board. @Joe, @Frank, @Karen 7/12/2022
- Invite Bob Powell and Sharon Vidal to join our committee. @Joe 7/12/2022

- Invite Marge Powell to attend our next meeting and discuss the Zucchini Fest. @Joe 7/12/2022
- Invite Curt to join our next meeting to talk to him about the crosswalk proposal. @Joe 7/12/2022
- Circulate the complete streets meeting days/times so that we can attend. @Joe 7/12/2022
- Come up with something we can present or deliver to the Select board about the crosswalk. @Joe, @Frank, @Thom 7/12/2022
- Join the Complete Streets committee and suggest that they make their meetings & material more available to the public. @Doane 7/12/2022
- Get historical meeting minutes up on the website. @Joe, @Steve 7/12/2022
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- Get in touch with John Parker and see if there is any information we can circulate regarding how to deal with the Gypsy Moth caterpillars. @Joe 7/12/2022
- Put together invoice for website work. @Steve 7/12/2022
- Approach Kathleen and see if we can measure Jake Brake noise levels at her house. @Frank, @Joe 7/12/2022
- Circulate initial livability proposals to the committee for review & feedback. @Steve 7/12/2022
- Send around active livability efforts so group can review ahead of meetings. @Steve 7/12/2022
- Cancel WSVC meetings on June 28, July 26, Aug 23. @Steve 7/12/2022
- Let the select board know that we are interested in getting in front of the BRTA and solicit their feedback. @Joe 7/12/2022
- See if there is a brochure rack at the multi-modal train station in Stockbridge and that our town brochure is on display there. @Joe 7/12/2022
- Attempt to contact the train station to talk about how to advertise at both Pittsfield and in NYC. @Steve 7/12/2022
- Ask Smitty Pignatelli how we can formally express our displeasure at the in-person quorum requirements as a committee to the state. @Steve 7/12/2022

Meeting Date: 7/12/2022

Attendees:

- Joe Roy
- Stephen Graham (Clerk)
- Thom Lipiczky
- Bill Barth
- Karen Carmean
- Doane Perry

Previous Action Items:

- Determine how to move forward with the Select Board on the town “slow down” sign that Frank proposed. @Joe, @Frank 7/12/2022
- Get noise recording hardware working, test the capabilities, and determine what information we want to provide to the select board. @Joe, @Frank, @Karen 7/12/2022
- Invite Bob Powell and Sharon Vidal to join our committee. @Joe 7/12/2022
- Invite Marge Powell to attend our next meeting and discuss the Zucchini Fest. @Joe 7/12/2022
- Invite Curt to join our next meeting to talk to him about the crosswalk proposal. @Joe 7/12/2022
- Circulate the complete streets meeting days/times so that we can attend. @Joe 7/12/2022
- Come up with something we can present or deliver to the Select board about the crosswalk. @Joe, @Frank, @Thom 7/12/2022
- Join the Complete Streets committee and suggest that they make their meetings & material more available to the public. @Doane 7/12/2022
- Get historical meeting minutes up on the website. @Joe, @Steve 7/12/2022
- Once the Select board elections are complete, invite the Select board members to attend our meetings. @Joe 7/12/2022
- Put together invoice for website work. @Steve 7/12/2022
- Approach Kathleen and see if we can measure Jake Brake noise levels at her house. @Frank, @Joe 7/12/2022
- Circulate initial livability proposals to the committee for review & feedback. @Steve 7/12/2022
- Send around active livability efforts so group can review ahead of meetings. @Steve 7/12/2022
- Cancel WSVC meetings on June 28, July 26, Aug 23. @Steve 7/12/2022
- Let the select board know that we are interested in getting in front of the BRTA and solicit their feedback. @Joe 7/12/2022
- See if there is a brochure rack at the multi-modal train station in Stockbridge and that our town brochure is on display there. @Joe 7/12/2022
- Attempt to contact the train station to talk about how to advertise at both Pittsfield and in NYC. @Steve 7/12/2022
- Ask Smitty Pignatelli how we can formally express our displeasure at the in-person quorum requirements as a committee to the state. @Joe 7/12/2022

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 8:19 AM
- Reviewed last meeting minutes
 - Motion: Accept the minutes as written
 - Made by: Frank
 - Seconded by: Bill
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
- Talked about the crosswalk proposal
 - Joe contacted Curt Wilton from the Highway Department

- Joe will send Curt the last letter that we put together for the Select Board
- Talked about the Noise Ordinance
 - Motion: Send the letter that Joe drafted to the Select Board regarding the Vision Committee's suggestion as it relates to the noise ordinance
 - Made by: Frank
 - Seconded by: Thom
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
- Talked about Livability Goals
 - Steve does not have anything formal to report this week, but did do some analysis regarding the cost per child for West Stockbridge in the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (BHRSD)
 - Steve will circulate his analysis to the committee
- Talked about Zucchini Festival plans
 - Marge addressed the committee regarding the current efforts on-going with the Zucchini Festival
 - With the Cultural Council, WSVC, and Parks & Rec, Marge feels that we do have enough people willing to help in order to host the committee
 - There is funding for the festival, but it is not quite enough. Need to fund-raise and/or see if the town will invest more
 - Through the Cultural Council, we can request a grant that needs to be prepared by the end of August for an October Submission
 - Frank suggests that we make a formal request to the budget committee in this budget cycle (due end of Fall)
 - Joe suggests that we check with Marie Ryan regarding due dates for budget submissions
 - 170 volunteers were needed previously to accomplish the festival
 - Frank suggests a Local Yokel article to announce our plans and solicit volunteers
 - Marge's first step is to go to the Select Board and ask if they will approve it (talk to Marie Ryan about this)
- No additional topics
 - Motion: Adjourn meeting at 8:58 AM
 - Made by: Frank
 - Seconded by: Bill
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt

On-Going Action Items:

- Determine how to move forward with the Select Board on the town "slow down" sign that Frank proposed. @Joe, @Frank 8/9/2022
- Circulate the complete streets meeting days/times so that we can attend. @Joe 8/9/2022

- Join the Complete Streets committee and suggest that they make their meetings & material more available to the public. @Doane 8/9/2022
- Get historical meeting minutes up on the website. @Joe, @Steve 8/9/2022
- Once the Select board elections are complete, invite the Select board members to attend our meetings. @Joe 8/9/2022
- Put together invoice for website work. @Steve 8/9/2022
- Approach Kathleen and see if we can measure Jake Brake noise levels at her house. @Frank, @Joe 8/9/2022
- Circulate initial livability proposals to the committee for review & feedback. @Steve 8/9/2022
- Send around active livability efforts so group can review ahead of meetings. @Steve 8/9/2022
- Let the select board know that we are interested in getting in front of the BRTA and solicit their feedback. @Joe 8/9/2022
- See if there is a brochure rack at the multi-modal train station in Stockbridge and that our town brochure is on display there. @Joe 8/9/2022
- Attempt to contact the train station to talk about how to advertise at both Pittsfield and in NYC. @Steve 8/9/2022
- Sent Curt crosswalk proposal letter. @Joe 8/9/2022
- Circulate West Stockbridge BHRSD cost per child analysis. @Steve 8/9/2022

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There was no August meeting in 2022.

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Meeting Date: 9/13/2022

Attendees:

- Joe Roy
- Stephen Graham (Clerk)
- Thom Lipiczky
- Bill Barth (had to leave at 8:30)
- Frank Landsberger

- Curt Wilton (Guest) – DPW Director
- Aina de Lapparent Alvarez – Berkshire Eagle

Previous Action Items:

Determine how to move forward with the Select Board on the town “slow down” sign that Frank

proposed. @Joe, @Frank 8/9/2022

Circulate the complete streets meeting days/times so that we can attend. @Joe 8/9/2022

Join the Complete Streets committee and suggest that they make their meetings & material

more available to the public. @Doane 8/9/2022

Get historical meeting minutes up on the website. @Joe, @Steve 8/9/2022

Once the Select board elections are complete, invite the Select board members to attend our

meetings. @Joe 8/9/2022

Put together invoice for website work. @Steve 8/9/2022

Approach Kathleen and see if we can measure Jake Brake noise levels at her house. @Frank,

@Joe 8/9/2022

Circulate initial livability proposals to the committee for review & feedback. @Steve 8/9/2022

Send around active livability efforts so group can review ahead of meetings. @Steve 8/9/2022

Let the select board know that we are interested in getting in front of the BRTA and solicit their

feedback. @Joe 8/9/2022

See if there is a brochure rack at the multi-modal train station in Stockbridge and that our town

brochure is on display there. @Joe 8/9/2022

Attempt to contact the train station to talk about how to advertise at both Pittsfield and in NYC.

@Steve 8/9/2022

Send Curt crosswalk proposal letter. @Joe 8/9/2022

Circulate West Stockbridge BHRSD cost per child analysis. @Steve 8/9/2022

Notes:

Meeting called to order at 8:07 AM

Listened to Curt Wilton's update on traffic calming

o Downtown Main St is on the "wrong side of the river" – route 102/route 41. Lot of traffic on those major routes.

o 2 speed limits on main street – 15 MPH on the N side to negotiate the L/R turns, 25 MPH

on the south side (the "straightaway")

o Front-end angle parking (not recommended by the state)

o Unique crossing/crosswalk pattern right in the middle

o Limited in terms of what we can do with signage

o 6,200 cars per day heading southbound on Main St

o 40% of cars are traveling faster than 25 MPH

o Lowering the speed limit may cause additional congestion

o Hard to take a left out of Depot St onto Main St

o State does not recommend speed bumps on an arterial highway

o Richmond purchased solar-powered pedestrian crossing lights for Olivia's outlook area,

we could try this

o We could also stencil-paint a crosswalk indicator on the road

o Main street parking angle could be changed (increase the angle) but we would lose 2 parking spots

o Curt likes Frank's proposal for a polite sign indicating the town is "not built for speed"

o Could host a public forum, invite the town to give us opinions

o We will send Aina a picture of Frank's "slow down" sign to include in her article

Motion: Make the meetings monthly going forward, but start two weeks from today

o Made by: Frank

o Seconded by: Joe

o Discussion: Our meetings are currently scheduled for every two weeks

o Vote: Unanimous to adopt

No additional topics

o Motion: Adjourn meeting at 8:58 AM

Made by: Frank

Seconded by: Thom

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous to adopt

On-Going Action Items:

Circulate the complete streets meeting days/times so that we can attend. @Joe
9/27/2022

Join the Complete Streets committee and suggest that they make their meetings & material

more available to the public. @Doane 9/27/2022

Get historical meeting minutes up on the website. @Joe, @Steve 9/27/2022

Once the Select board elections are complete, invite the Select board members to attend our

meetings. @Joe 9/27/2022

Put together invoice for website work. @Steve 9/27/2022

Approach Kathleen and see if we can measure Jake Brake noise levels at her house. @Frank,

@Joe 9/27/2022

Circulate initial livability proposals to the committee for review & feedback. @Steve 9/27/2022

Send around active livability efforts so group can review ahead of meetings. @Steve 9/27/2022

Let the select board know that we are interested in getting in front of the BRTA and solicit their

feedback. @Joe 9/27/2022

See if there is a brochure rack at the multi-modal train station in Stockbridge and that our town

brochure is on display there. @Joe 9/27/2022

Attempt to contact the train station to talk about how to advertise at both Pittsfield and in NYC.

@Steve 9/27/2022

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Meeting Date: 9/27/2022

Attendees:

- Joe Roy
- Stephen Graham (Clerk)
- Thom Lipiczky
- Frank Landsberger
- Karen Carmean
- Doane Perry
- Aina de Lapparent Alverez (Guest – Berkshire Eagle)

Previous Action Items:

- Circulate the complete streets meeting days/times so that we can attend. @Joe 9/27/2022
- Join the Complete Streets committee and suggest that they make their meetings & material more available to the public. @Doane 9/27/2022
- Get historical meeting minutes up on the website. @Joe, @Steve 9/27/2022
- Once the Select board elections are complete, invite the Select board members to attend our meetings. @Joe 9/27/2022
- Put together services invoice for website work. @Steve 9/27/2022
- Approach Kathleen and see if we can measure Jake Brake noise levels at her house. @Frank, @Joe 9/27/2022
- Circulate initial livability proposals to the committee for review & feedback. @Steve 9/27/2022
- Send around active livability efforts so group can review ahead of meetings. @Steve 9/27/2022
- Let the select board know that we are interested in getting in front of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA) and solicit their feedback. @Bill 9/27/2022
- Check with Eddie Sporn to see if there is a brochure rack at the multi-modal train station in Stockbridge and that our town brochure is on display there. @Joe 9/27/2022
- Attempt to contact the train station to talk about how to advertise at both Pittsfield and in NYC. @Steve 9/27/2022

Notes:

- Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM
- Motion: Adopt the previous two meeting minutes as written
 - Made by: Frank
 - Seconded by: Thom
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
- Discussed the SB request on noise ordinance
 - Suggested that Joe send a draft to the SB today
- Discussed the livability goals

- Motion: Steve and Karen submit the survey to the superintendent and ask him about how the survey will be circulated and who will receive the survey
 - Made by: Karen
 - Seconded by: Frank
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
- Motion: We will make an attempt to reach people who are not included in the superintendent's list to get more complete and unbiased results
 - Made by: Karen
 - Seconded by: Steve
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt
- Discussed the ongoing action items
 - Stepped through the list and checked off complete ones
- Discussed new members
 - Bill Powell's schedule has not allowed him to join the committee
- Discussed the ZucchiniFest and other community events
 - The Cultural Council is actively working on this
- Discussed the concept of Turnpike barriers
 - Lung disease from nanoparticles is significantly higher in people who live closer to interstates
 - Noise pollution from the interstate is a problem in places like Moscow Road
 - Light pollution is also a problem
 - Eliminating the toll booths fixed a lot of these problems
 - Suggestion that we approach Curt Wilton from the Highway Department to see if there would be interest in pursuing barriers
 - There is grant money from the state to put up barriers
- Discussed charging stations in town
 - There is funding available for this
 - Frank talked to National Grid about this, they have programs that will pay for the installation of charging poles
 - Suggest not putting them on main street, parking lots would be better for businesses
 - Thom will pursue finding more information about this
- Discussed summer traffic and parking options
 - There is a need for this, but our committee will not address this
- Discussed Alex Glover
 - Joe is trying to arrange a session with Alex to discuss legal problems & solutions to short-term rentals and zoning
 - Karen suggests that we find a time and space in late Oct or early Nov for Alex so that we do not conflict with holiday time
 - Try to figure this out before Oct 15 so that we can announce in the Local Yokel
- Discussed list of abandoned focus items

- Joe will circulate a list of topics that we have discussed in past meetings
- Keep regular meeting cadence as bi-weekly and we will decide each meeting if we will cancel the next meeting or not
 - Joe will put this in as an agenda item
 - Skip the Oct 11 meeting, next meeting will be Oct 25
- No additional topics
 - Motion: Adjourn meeting at 8:58 AM
 - Made by: Frank
 - Seconded by: Karen
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous to adopt

On-Going Action Items:

- Get historical meeting minutes up on the website. @Joe, @Steve 10/25/2022
- Put together services invoice for website work. @Steve 10/25/2022
- Send around active livability efforts so group can review ahead of meetings. @Steve 10/25/2022
- Let the select board know that we are interested in getting in front of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA) and solicit their feedback. @Bill 10/25/2022
- Check with Eddie Sporn to see if there is a brochure rack at the multi-modal train station in Stockbridge and that our town brochure is on display there. @Joe 10/25/2022
- Attempt to contact the train station to talk about how to advertise at both Pittsfield and in NYC. @Steve 10/25/2022
- Send livability survey to Superintendent and ask about circulation methods. @Karen @Steve 10/25/2022
- Attempt to circulate livability survey to folks outside of the Superintendent's sphere of influence. @Steve 10/25/2022
- Approach Curt Wilton from the Highway Department to see if there would be interest in pursuing Turnpike barriers. @All 10/25/2022
- Pursue finding more information about charging stations. @Thom 10/25/2022
- Try to arrange a session with Alex Glover and get the announcement into the Local Yokel. @Joe @Karen 10/14/2022
- Circulate a list of topics that we have discussed in past meetings. @Joe 10/25/2022
- Put on the agenda a decision each meeting if we will cancel the next bi-weekly meeting or not. @Joe 10/25/2022
- Cancel the Oct 11 meeting. @Steve 10/4/2022

