

Johnson - Downtown Reconfiguration and Redevelopment Task Force

10.22.2024

(Draft Meeting Minutes)

6PM-8:15PM

Committee Members Present: Paul Warden, Lynn Lehouiller, Jan Gearhart, Sue Lovering, Johna Keefe, Sam Jaspersohn, Adrienne Parker

Guests: Laura Cavin Bailey (VCRD), Mark Leese (FEMA CA), Peter Hark (FEMA CA)

Meeting Type: In-person and virtual

Purpose of Meeting: Introduce FEMA staff to the committee and discuss the plan process.

Meeting Notes:

- Introductions and meeting agenda shared.
- Paul Warden and Adrienne Parker were willing to co-chair this group.
- Paul reported that Randell spoke at Select Board providing information on what FEMA CA (Community Assistance) can provide related to assisting the town with a long-term recovery plan.
- Mark Leese (FEMA) provided overview and role of FEMA CA.
 - Long-term recovery plans are driven and developed by the town. It is a Town recovery plan not a FEMA plan.
 - Local government usually adopts the plan.
 - Identifying and describing 1 or maybe two projects max so town can more easily identify and go after funding opportunities.
 - Role of FEMA is to assist community in process.
- Mark will be attending joint meeting (Select Board and Village Trustees) on October 30th to describe FEMA's role and answer questions.
- Questions were asked about what a Long-term Recovery plan looks like and time frame of process.
- General discussion on flood modeling and need to better understand work being done and how this impacts discussions and decisions of work moving forward.
 - Johna Keefe will contact Peter with Agency of Natural Resource (ANR) to see if an overview can be given to this group.
- Questions were raised about building codes in the future and how this could help with town reaching future desired outcomes.
- Question was raised about defining downtown boundaries.
- Question was raised about EDA funding and who can apply for it. Only for Non-profit and Governmental entities.

- Question was raised as to what funding is available to small businesses. Mark Leese informed group we have a staff that can help identify funding once projects are defined.
- Next agenda items could include:
 - 1) Flood Modeling overview from ANR/other
 - 2) Start process of paring down long list of ideas to 1 or 2 projects
 - 3) Grant Funding Overview/Opportunities (Garrett Ellison, FEMA)

Next Steps/Action Items:

- Mark Leese will provide overview to Village Trustees and Select Board on October 30th.
- Adrienne Parker will send Mark and Peter full list of committee names and e-mail addresses.
- FEMA will pull out an example of a flood recovery plan for members to look at for future discussion.
- Johna Keefe will contact Peter with Nat Resource agency to inquire about providing flood modeling overview to group for next meeting.
- Paul and Adrienne will finalize agenda and confirm next meeting time tentatively set for October 29th.

Submitted by : Peter Hark