

Danville Train Station Committee Minutes

Meeting of July 12, 2022 5:30-6:30 pm

Location: Danville Town Hall Meeting Room

Attendees: Michael Hogue, Kate Whitehead, Patty Conly, Laural Ruggles, Ted Houle, Alison Low, Stan Pekala, and Tim Ide

Meeting opened at 5:30 pm by Michael Hogue, chair. The Danville Train Station Committee (DTSC) is a subcommittee of the Planning Committee. Michael took roll; no guests present.

Minutes from the meetings of May 10, 2022, and June 14, 2022 were read and approved.

Chair report: Michael reported that in support of the Use committee's need to identify trail markers, wayfinding and development of a Danville Recreation Guide by the time the station goes active, that we need to start assembling the information now. And, given how full the agenda is for the Use committee, we should look for outside help. With that in mind a plan was presented to the SB to develop a list and description for all the Recreational Assets and the Historic/View Assets that Danville has to offer. A team will be formed with a point person in 10 geographical areas of Danville to create this documentation; four such persons have already committed to this effort.

Building/Land report: Sally reminded everyone that the meeting with Ryan Edwards, architect, will be at the train station, this Thursday the 14th at noon, to review the alternatives for the placement of the platform and canopy. She also indicated that the land survey was completed and submitted to the Town, and that no underground tanks were found.

Use report: Kate indicated that she would be a presenter at the Vermont Council on Rural Development Leadership Summit of the Danville Train Station project.

The remainder of the meeting was turned over to Kate and Laurel to lead us through a SOAR review (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Results) in preparation for the feasibility study on the use of the freight room. Results are attached.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Hogue

Danville Train Station Committee
SOAR Exercise
July 12, 2022

SOAR is used by organizations and groups as a strategic planning tool to analyze strengths and move from a “what are we now” to a “what can we be” mindset. The results of the SOAR with the DTSC will help inform the feasibility study and other planning work.

Strengths:

- History
 - Existing historic building
- Location
- Ambiance
- Sense of place, community
- Evolution of transportation
- Proximity to village
- Leverage school to community with youth involvement (as tour guides etc)
- Importance to the economy and the town, historically and now
- Social hub
- Architectural features
- Visibility
- Aura
- Hub and gateway to village

Opportunities:

- Partnerships between businesses, schools, and organizations
- Provide a space for educational programs and school groups
- LVRT connecting town to town
- Bed and breakfast facilities
- Bike shop
- X-country ski shop
- Snow mobile repair
- Communal dinners for a low price (Foellespisning)
- Pull community together
- Focus youth as a catalyst between sectors of Danville
- The gap is currently overnight accommodations
 - Camping areas
- Reimagine existing RR cars or other railroad equipment
- Change an eye soar into a community asset
- Communities along the trail are collaborating to enhance the trail user experience
- Making Danville a tourist destination
- Drawing resident to the LVRT and to the train station as an historic site

Aspirations:

- Fit in with existing businesses
- Doesn't have to make a profit
- Not only a hub to recreation assets but part of a hub with grainery and fire station
- That it will be the center of the community embracing the trail recreation and beyond
- The train station will be a public gathering place – celebrate our history, bring together community, regional partners
- Give people a chance to gather, sense of pride in what has been achieved by our community – appreciation for history of railroad
- Elevate recreation as a shared value
- Access parking
- A part of the community that gets a lot of use

Results:

- Need to capture change in income of recreation businesses
- Steady. Full use of the facilities
- Refurbish and others will follow
- Local business report increase in revenue
- Excitement among community about project
- A beautiful renovated building beside the trail
- Regular use among all ages, income groups, inclusive and accessible
- Multiple modes, walkers, wheelchairs, specialty bikes, dogs
- A renovated building for year-round use
- Communities in “gentle” competition around activities with RR as the center
- Management and reporting
- Number of users
- Trail counts