

Danville Train Station Committee Minutes-DRAFT

Meeting of May 9, 2023, 4:00-5:30 pm

Location: Danville Town Hall Meeting Room

Attending: Tim Ide, Rob Balivet, Sally Fishburn co-chair Structure, Stan Pekala, Laural Ruggles, Patty Conly, Peter Crosby, Ross Meaders, Ted Houle, Kitty Toll, co-chair Funding, Alison Low

In Michael's absence, Sally led the meeting. There was a quorum of members present.

Meeting minutes of April 11 were reviewed. Sally made the motion to accept the minutes, Stan seconded. The motion passed and the minutes were accepted

Building/Land: Sally reported:

The civil and structural engineers are still working on their plans. Sally hopes to have them by the end of June. The construction manager cannot put the project out to bid until he has the engineering documents. Sally passed around the latest version of the engineering documents.

The lead paint and asbestos testing was done on April 11; Sally expects the results back soon.

Last Thursday the Selectboard approved the wetlands delineation contract. The work should take about a month or two. Agency of Natural Resources will meet with the delineation team.

Ryan and Sally met with VTRANS recently. VTRANS is happy with the plans and progress. Historic Preservation is also happy with Ryan's renderings. Sally mentioned to Historic Preservation about putting solar on the roof. They are "supportive", but we will need formal approval. Sally has a solar plan. Structural engineer needs to assess the roof to support solar panels. The wood shingles are under the metal roof. Sally reminded the group that solar can be done at any time, and suggested prepping the building. The Danville Energy Committee could be a good partner in getting a grant to pay for it. Rob suggested exploring the solar tiles for the roofing material. The plan is to use heat pumps. It was mentioned we probably also need a back-up heat source when the temperatures fall below negative 10 degrees.

Sally is recommended we move ahead to gut the freight room, put up sheetrock and install the bathroom, even if we don't know the exact use for that side.

Snow breakers will need to go up so snow does not fall onto the trail. This should not interfere with solar panels.

Windows: Sally met with Ryan to come up with a plan for the windows e.g., repair or replacement. Ross has prepared a detailed assessment of the windows, it was distributed. Ross noted failing or low-quality craftsmanship on many windows. Not much of the original glass remains. There will be 2 additional windows installed on the East side (using the guidelines of historic preservation). There was a brief discussion about security and the bars on the windows (they are not original to the building, they first appeared in the 1980s). Rob asked about the possibility of using security glass.

Ross would like to reach out to people who have been involved with the train station prior to this group to hear what they can add about the structure. These people were mentioned: Jane Kitchel, Hollis Prior, Winona, Archie Prevost, and Nat Tripp. Patty will also check her files.

Patty spoke about the RR Crossing Signal we are getting. Patty will get the photo that shows the original signal to Sally. VTRANS will have to be consulted on placement of the signal.

Ross would like to reach out to Devon Coleman to get the Train Station on the National Register. Rob and Patty asked to be kept in the loop on this.

Use: Laural reported in Kate's absence

Melissa Levy, the consultant hired to do the business feasibility study, has completed a draft. It outlines the issues and pros and cons of 3 main types of uses: Retail outfitter; food – ice cream, grab and go; bike and gear related – rentals, repairs. Kate and Laural have reached out to 3 organizations in these categories who have expressed interest in the train station space – LINK, Lamoille E-Bike Tours, Hannah, ice cream shop owner. LINK is not interested in locating at the train station permanently, but would be interested in pop ups or attending events there. Calls with Jim at Lamoille E-bikes and Hannah are still being scheduled.

Laural reported that she heard from Kate that the Vermont Arts Council grant has been submitted.

There will be a "local issues" meeting on the LVRT Amenities Plan on May 24, 6 pm at the Welcome Center in St J. This is a hybrid meeting, so one can attend virtually. Laural will send out more information when it is available.

Patty reported that we still need to arrange pick up of the RR memorabilia, but that is moving forward.

Laural reported that she has made some updates to the current V2V website about the Train Station project, but is waiting for the web person to do an update to the platform and offer training.

Fundraising – Kitty

Peter and Kitty think \$500,000 this is a good number to communicate as the total project cost. That means we will have to raise about \$114,000. Peter suggested rounding up to \$125,000. This number includes the \$20,000 as the match for the crowdsourcing Better Connections grant. The crowdsourcing part should come after larger donors have made commitments. Attendance at events like the Danville Fair and Autumn on the Green are good places to get donations for the crowdsourcing part. Even though dollars are "matched" with the crowdsourcing grant, the donation will be recorded at the exact amount paid by the donor (not the donation plus match)

For the larger donor part of the campaign, Kitty would like to set up smaller meetings with members of this group to brainstorm potential donors, including business donors. The "asks" will be divided up, so no one member needs to ask more than 5 people. We can also recruit non-committee members to help with the asks. Kitty reported that Michael would like to get donation commitments from town committee members e.g., Selectboard so we can say 100% of town officials support the train station project; Michael is working on a strategy to do this. Kitty and Peter calculated that to reach our goal we need to ask about 30 people.

Kitty reported that Kate is working on some “campaign materials”. We can also make large displays using some of the materials already created by Ross.

Motion to adjourn made by Sally and seconded by Stan. Motion passed. The next meeting is June 13, 4 pm.