

**BORDERLANDS  
VILLAGE INNOVATION  
PILOT TEAM MEETING**

**Killingly Public Library, Community Room  
Westcott Road  
February 26, 2009, 7:00 PM**

**Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Ed Eramian, Donna Bronwell, Virge Lorents and Herbert Richardson

Staff Present: Sue Westa, Elsie Bisset and Linda Walden (7:45 pm). Ariana McBride from Orton Family Foundation was also present.

Janice Thurlow and Dale Desmarais were absent with notification.

Acting Chair Ed Eramian called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM

Upon a motion from Ed Eramian, seconded by Virge Lorents the minutes of January 2009 were unanimously accepted with the edit that Herbert Richardson was present at the January meeting.

Sue Westa stated that she received the final notebook from the UConn students. Also Dodson Associates are preparing an executive summary and the fiscal implications for their report. Sue then reviewed an outline summarizing the recommendations from the Phase I reports.

Ariana McBride gave an update from the Orton Foundation. Another 12 months of work is needed for Phases II and III and is expected to continue through March 2010. The funding is in place now for the next 12 months and Sue will continue as the Coordinator.

Ariana explained the matrix on the wall with charts of the Prioritization Process.

Ariana McBride led the group in planning and prioritizing goals and objectives for Phase II of the project. Recommendations (Consensus building, Build-out assessment, Rural development alternatives, Heart and Soul, Education and outreach, Progress and evaluation measures, Route 101 planning, Discovery process and exploration, and Connect residents to water) from the Dodson Associates/Consensus Building and Foresee Consulting report and results of the Discovery Process undertaken by James Kent Associates were distributed to those present in the form of post-it notes. Members then placed each of the report recommendations on a priority grid-ranking system which listed "Impact" choices as high, medium and low in combination with (Expected Needed) Resources as high, medium or low.

Results were:

- Consensus building: scattered
- Build-out assessment: between high impact/high resources and medium impact/high resources
- Rural development alternatives: High Impact/medium resources
- Heart and Soul: High impact/medium resources
- Education and outreach: between high impact/high resources and high impact/medium resources

- Progress and evaluation measures: between medium and low impact/medium and low resources - scattered
- Route 101 planning: High impact/high resources
- Discovery process and exploration: High impact/low resources
- Connect residents to water: High impact/low resources

There was large agreement for higher priority of

- Connect residents to water
- Route 101 planning
- Rural development alternatives
- Discovery process
- Build-out analysis

There were smaller clusters of responses for

- Heart and Soul

There were more scattered results for

- Consensus building
- Education and outreach

And lower results for

- Progress and evaluation measures

**Residents and Water:** Ed Eramian, Donna Bronwell and the Conservation Commission have taken an active interest in connecting residents to water resources. Linda Walden said Keith Thurlow is interested in this topic also. She said there are many informal water access points around town that could be formalized. Staff from the planning department will assist those interested.

**Consensus Building, Outreach and Education:** Virge Lorents mentioned that due to the economy, many contractors have more available time and perhaps they can become involved in community service at Cat Hollow. Their involvement could also become free advertisement for them.

Stories of Killingly residents and the mills should be recorded and documented. This can combine Heart and Soul and education if the schools are involved. Grandparents Day was suggested as a good event to tie into. School involvement requires a lot of lead time. Linda Walden said this is important to do sooner than later given the age of those with mill worker experience. Elsie Bisset commented on the presentation of story telling on the website. Editing, emphasis and ordering of stories can have an impact on the outcome and are important to consider.

In a discussion on consensus building, Virge Lorents said it was more effective building consensus and gaining public involvement around a specific topic or area of town rather than the amorphous, general “What do you think?” approach.

**Route 101 Planning:** Ed Eramian said looking at the 4 areas, what can be done in-house versus using outside consultants? Linda Walden suggested for project results, she would like to have the three areas of Dayville village center, East Killingly village and Dayville Four Corners physically

defined as to boundaries, densities, uses, zoning etc. If the land use boards and town then follow the plan for those areas, she then believes the fourth area, Killingly Center, and in-between areas on 101 can be controlled/protected using rural development alternatives. She said at least part of the build-out analysis/assessment recommendation would need to be used for the reality/feasibility of designing the boundaries of the three main areas. Virge Lorents said education and outreach would be involved for council and board and commission agreement. Ariana McBride said Sue Westa, Elsie Bisset and Linda Walden can work on this concept and define the next steps in this proposal.

Elsie Bisset will speak to Tammy Maerkel of the Historic District Commission to get her involved in the Heart and Soul storytelling project Virge Lorents suggested Lynn Laberge and Donna Bronwell suggested Paul Coutu also. All will be contacted. Ariana McBride said that once someone agrees to become involved, Orton offers online tools and assistance. Donna Bronwell also mentioned that there will be a "Protecting Family Lands" workshop in the fall.

**Pilot Team:** There was discussion on the need to re-energize and expand the Pilot Team. Ariana McBride said a small but dedicated group is good to work with and can accomplish much. Donna Bronwell said there are still people out there who will come back and be involved on specific projects.

**Regional Sharing Event:** The event will be held Wednesday, March 25 from 6 to 9 pm at the Sterling Municipal Building. Sue Westa will email the address to everyone. An agenda will go out next week after the Exeter meeting is held. RSVP to Sue on your attendance. Invitations are extended to the Project advisory group, other towns in the area, anyone you would like to spread the word to. There will be press releases and distributions through email lists, etc.

Sue Westa will do an overview and then introduce the town presentations. The presentation should include: what worked, what didn't, what would you change, next steps in the process, interesting thing you learned that you didn't expect, etc. Virge Lorents suggested visuals and a slide show of photos while we're eating. Equipment will be provided for this.

It was decided that Donna Bronwell, Ed Eramian, Virge Lorents and Janice Thurlow will be the presenters for Killingly (although Janice Thurlow doesn't know it yet as she is out of state for this meeting!) They will organize a 20 minute presentation. Virge Lorents will focus on the Discovery Process. The presentations will be followed by a question and answer period. Ariana or Betsy will speak 5 minutes on the Orton Family Foundation. Elsie Bisset suggested having an evaluation/response form available for attendees. **The presenters will provide Sue Westa a draft of their talk about a week ahead of the event.**

- **NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting (after the Regional Event) is tentatively **Tuesday, March 31, 2009 at the library at 7 PM.** Sue Westa will check with the library on availability and confirm with us.

Adjournment - At 9:12 PM upon a motion by Virge Lorents - unanimous

Respectfully submitted:

Elsie Bisset and  
Linda Walden  
Recording Clerks