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**Revitalization Committee**

**July 20, 2021**

**Minutes**

Those present: Michael Coffman, Mike Kelly, Cheryl Bell, Rose Derring, Bob Shingler, Lisa Zweban, Roger St. Louis, Georgianna Weddington, Jere Ann King, Victoria Lehman, Kimberly Harding and Robert Davie.

Minutes of the June meeting were reviewed. One typo was noted and Cheryl Bell motioned to approve the minutes with change. All approved.

Michael Coffman reviewed action items from the previous meeting and inquired if sub-committees had met. Two persons of the Promotion committee talked over the phone. The Design committee is planning to meet soon. Michael stated that no sponsors had responded to support the Harvest Market event and only five vendors had responded and that it was not likely that we would have a Harvest Market in October 2021.

Under Norms on the agenda, Michael Coffman stated that many members of the committee have voiced concerns that the Revitalization meetings have become dysfunctional, not working well, with committee members not maintaining order and decorum. He agrees with this assessment and is of the mind that the committee should disband and reorganize, along the Main Street principals, within one year. Input from all members was sought.

Cheryl Bell agreed with 65% of what Michael expressed and inquired if the Town Board had asked Revitalization to begin working on another Town Café. It was confirmed that the Town Board had not made such a request. Cheryl further stated that the initial Town Café was the result of a grant application and that both Cafés had been useful efforts. Feeling that the committee has just become a committee for festivals only, she would rather clarify than reorganize.

Rose Derring stated she had been working extremely hard over the years and did not want to quit altogether. The focus of Revitalization should be on promoting the town and its businesses. A paper should be generated for expectations of each member.

Michael Coffman stated that he is suggesting a reorganization, on a 1-year timeline. to create a clearer picture of the purpose of the committee. And with COVID restrictions returning it would be good timing. Rose Derring agreed on the timing.

Lisa Zweban offered the perspective of a new member, stating that it didn’t seem like things were getting done in the three meetings she has attended. If not getting results in the committee meetings it is not possible to accomplish anything, anywhere.

Cheryl Bell described the history of the Town Café and the entrance into the Main Street program.

Victoria Lehman stated that all-volunteer boards are inherently difficult to operate because of their volunteer status and difficult to hold accountable. She indicated at times it is good to take a step back. She also stated that measuring success in three months is not realistic.

Jereann King stated that Revitalization had made good progress in the last eight years: white lights converted to colored lights on the Christmas tree, movie nights, Christmas parades. She stated that the meeting style was the primary issue and that a reset was needed, but not for an entire year. Norms were needed for the time in between reconstituting Revitalization along with inclusion of diverse voices and new ideas, along with Main Street principles.

Cheryl Bell stated that an editorial in the Warren Record needed a response from the committee.

Robert Davie asked if it was appropriate for him to speak… and outlined how Main Street structure came to Revitalization in mid-stream, but that it had never been fully adopted, even though the Town had sent multiple people from the committee for multiple years.

Jereann King stated that Main Street was a good framework and agreed with Robert. One reason there was no follow through on the Main Street structure is that it was not clear what members had to do. She stated that the Café was a good way to engage the broader community.

Robert Davie indicated that the Main Street committee structure had been communicated often and in detail but that members were not listening.

Victoria Lehman asked if the members were the right people to be on the Main Street committees, and inquired if business owners with more at stake would not be better members.

Mike Kelley stated that he was ready to leave at the June meeting of Revitalization, outlining how conversations always were sidetracked in the year he had been a part of the committee. He was in favor of shutting down the committee and reorganizing it, making applications and the nomination process a priority. He asked about vetting potential new members. Several members mentioned the Statement of Interest to Serve application on the Town’s website.

Rose Derring spoke about budgeting better. She found it difficult to plan and make arrangements for events without knowing what the budget was.

Georgianna Weddington asked about a contingency plan if the committee is not reconstituted. Michael Coffman said that a motion could be made with contingency part of the motion.

Jereann King stated that group dynamics and conflict was the underlying problem and that there were ways of dealing with it and working through the issues, highlighting stages of forming, storming, norming and performing, the current stage of Revitalization being storming. She was not in favor of disbanding.

Michael Coffman stated that if the Board of Commissioners approved of a reorganization, Statements of Interest to Serve would be accepted, after the Commissioners on his committee had met with the Town Administrator to craft a process.

Mike Kelley motioned to shut down and restart the Revitalization Committee under new rules so that all understand what is expected. Roger St. Louis seconded the motion and with brief discussion a vote was held. The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 3, with Jereann King, Cheryl Bell and Rose Derring voting nay.

With no additional business the meeting was adjourned.