West Concord Advisory Committee,
a subcommittee of the Planning Board
February 6th, 2019

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the West Concord Advisory Committee (WCAC) was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Clock Tower Room at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center.

**Members present:**
Tim Alexander
Jeff Collins
Karen Currie
Peter DeRosa, Chair
Steve Irza
Amy Kaiser
Susan Mlodozeniec

**Members absent:**
None

P. DeRosa called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Item No. 1: Approve Minutes**
January Minutes were unanimously approved with edits to fix name spelling errors and clarify a discussion about meeting times.

**Item No. 2: Complete Streets/Sidewalk Survey**
J. Collins gave an overview of the CPW program which is coming in the spring and is to include public forums. It was mentioned that WCAC can help publicize the events, participate in online surveys and potentially schedule a village area walk with the public.
A. Sussman from the West Concord Junction Village Cultural District Committee distributed handouts highlighting some takeaways from previous village walks earlier this winter. She also handed out some ideas for “Front Door” Guidelines for Junction Cultural District (look and feel of entrances).
S. Irza mentioned that Cottage Street should be included when considering pedestrian/other access to the village.
J. Collins will bring more info to the March meeting.
A. Kaiser will continue to coordinate with WCJCDC on this.

**Item No. 3: Planning Board Smart Growth Analysis Debrief**
P. DeRosa gave a brief overview of the planning board presentation by CivicMoxie on their “smart growth analysis.” Included ideas around creating more density and growth closer to town centers, transportation and other services giving different scenarios based on example zoning adjustments. Key areas of West Concord
included Commonwealth Ave (residential/commercial), Baker Ave (commercial) and 2229 Main St (commercial). Details can be found in Appendix D of the 2018 Comprehensive Long Range Plan.

Sue Felshin, Sunnyside Lane, commented on efforts to create a Regional Rail (http://transitmatters.org/regional-rail-1) to improve mass transit. She suggested we might write a letter or otherwise express support for the initiative.

**Item No. 4: Open House**

It was decided the WCAC would target May 8th for an open house. P. DeRosa to attempt to book the auditorium. Potential information themes included:

- Complete Streets (potential to partner with CPW)
- Gerow Land (Rec Dept.)
- Bruce Freeman opening (BFRTC)
- West Concord Junction Art Week (WCJCDC)

**Additional Business**

The committee briefly reviewed WC related items from the Town Meeting warrant including hearing from M. Rasmussen on what projects were and were not recommended for funding by the CPC. The following were discussed:

- Warner’s Pond Dredging
- Junction Village Open Space Task Force/Landscaping
- BFRT funds
- Wheeler/Harrington House
- Pedestrian Bridge

The committee planned to put a review of 2020 CPC priorities on the agenda for the summer (submissions due September). There were no items requiring input/comment from WCAC for 2019 Town Meeting.

**Item No. 5: Liaison Reports**

Housing – M. Rasmussen gave an overview of the housing related boards and committees. S. Mlodozeniec will plan on being a liaison for housing activities. Liz Rust (https://www.rhshousing.org/about-rhso/pages/rhso-staff) from Regional Housing Services Office was offered as good contact as well as she works with Concord and several other neighboring towns advising on affordable housing programs.

Town Manager Search (J. Collins) – Consultant is engaged to screen candidates and generate a group for interviews in March. First round will be private interviews on 4/25 and 4/26. Finalists will be recommended and interviewed during Select Board meeting on 4/27 in an open meeting.

BFRT (S. Irza) – Will attend, Feb 7th meeting. There was discussion of issues reported with the fencing next to the Woods Hill Table parking lot. M. Rasmussen explained that at this point, changes will have to wait until the state hands off maintenance to the town at the conclusion of the project. At that point, the town will
look at improvements that can be made including signs and potential access adjustments. Sue Felshin, Sunnyside Lane, commented that the fence as implemented does not conform to the 100% design plan posted.

It was also discussed that while there will not be official access from the 2B bridge over Route 2 to the fields and trails below, the design “does not preclude” this access in the future.

Business Owners (K. Currie) – Reported on topics discussed at the newly formed Retail Committee at the Concord Chamber of Commerce:
- Safety, crosswalks, speeding cars
- Sidewalks, parking
- Parking – cost/location
- Snow Removal
- Rent Problems

Taste of Concord happening May 14th, Nashoba Brooks school

West Concord Laundromat Welcome Ribbon Cutting, March 4th, 5-5:30 (1214 Main)

New jewelry repair store in West Concord has opened.

Parks & Recreation (T. Alexander) – Final sketches of Gerow should be available shortly. Received answer to last month’s question – no, the land is not currently accessible (though there was debate about what signage existed).

Received word that the bikes for the bike share program are in and they are working on locations.

3 more concerts have been planned for West Concord in July (11, 18, 25). There was some discussion about the existing location (Harvey Wheeler parking lot) vs. other options. T. Alexander to ask the rec department if they are interested in discussing other location options.

Social Media (P. DeRosa) – There was discussion of the use of our existing Facebook account and the option to utilize the town’s information officer to publish info through the Town’s accounts instead. P. DeRosa to discuss with S. Mlodozeniec and A. Kaiser and report back.

**ADJOURNMENT:**
The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**
The next meeting will be held March 6, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter DeRosa

Minutes approved on: 3/6/19