

Transcript 3/17 Village Expansion Plainfield Selectboard

Dan Fingas 0:11

So we need to actually record. Did you record that? Recording in progress was the AI, probably. So you need to record the video as well, down where it says more, or maybe up there, up there. It's fine, yeah, oh, okay, recording, yes, excellent. So we

Karl Bissex 0:28

can see, okay, I'd like to open the meeting. Hello everyone. Thanks for coming out on this muddy evening. This is the special meeting. It's 602 March 17, to discuss, primarily the expansion project commission. But we're we'll go through our normal routine here of changes to the agenda. We do have a couple two things we're going to take out the discussion approved municipal planning grant and the reaffirm legal counsel there.

Frances Rose 1:09

There is still need to reaffirm counsel there is there is still okay.

Karl Bissex 1:13

I didn't know that okay, for what

Dan Fingas 1:16

reason? Since we voted, as long as the ethics came back that we could do anything that looks their counsel. I guess

Frances Rose 1:21

the question is, the Ethics Commission came back with a navy

Dan Fingas 1:25

Well, this, yeah, it is possible, if there's no

benefit, and so there, therefore we can have counsel for negotiations, whether we can do the sale, if that's inFrpretation, yeah, awesome. I think we're maybe

Karl Bissex 1:37

at another step. We'll have to do something more for me.

Frances Rose 1:42

One more change to the agenda. The Development Review Board requested that Jesse Cooper be added to be appointed to the development review review board.

Karl Bissex 1:56

Okay, we can do that. We'll add that we will be having an executive session at the end of the tonight to discuss real estate and possibly personnel issue, but mostly real estate. Uh, any announcements from the board? I it public comment. Anybody have a question? David,

Arion Timbourmery 2:28
name, please. There's the mic. Can you use that?

Karl Bissex 2:34
People online? Can hear you betFr?

Michael Birnbaum 2:36
Yeah. One second. He's got a slide with this. There we go. Okay,

David Scheckman 2:43
I think the Select Board to where we have this petition of people to put together a petition. Yes, kids. Now, regarding the committee, the expansion project committee, I wasn't sure whether you wanted presented now during public comment or during

Dan Fingas 3:10
the David if it's okay with rest of the board, given that it specifically speaks to replying to another document. I wonder if when we get to the the committee item, we hear about that other document, and then we hear about your response that might make more sense from like so people can track what's happening.

Karl Bissex 3:27
Yeah, thank you. Any other comments?

David Scheckman 3:33
Yes, there was an agenda question

Arion Timbourmery 3:35
that I talked with Yeah. You say your name variant, Boomer. There was an agenda question that I spoke with Karen Hatcher, the town grants administrator before, because it was originally born that there's a municipal planning grant item on the agenda. But Karen actually there, there is a planning grant item different than the one Karen had spoken to, and that is the ACC. There are two grants that are called the municipal planning grant, believe it or not, one of them the town is not applying for, the other one the town is applying for, and they'll be and it's on the April 7 Select Board meeting agenda. So just for clarity on that, okay,

Karl Bissex 4:13
we already removed the or we were talking about removing the planning grant tonight.

Arion Timbourmery 4:21

It's probably fine to say that that would happen in April, but I just, I spoke with Karen earlier today, and she said, oh shoot, can you make sure that this is clarified? So I just great.

Karl Bissex 4:30

Thank you.

Thank you.

Arion Timbourmery 4:34

I think because the other one had some specific, sorry, I think it was deFrmined by by Karen and others that the other one was was not appropriate fit at this time.

Karl Bissex 4:48

Yeah, yeah. There's limitations in some of these.

PeFr Youngbaer 4:51

What is the other one?

Arion Timbourmery 4:56

One of them is a community development block grant, plant municipal planning grant through the agency of commerce and community development. And the other one is provided by a different agency. And I'm sorry I don't remember the details because, but that's the one. The one we are applying for is the Community Development Block brand, okay, right? Yes. And the other one, I'm sorry that we're not applying for. I can't remember why the

Patti Jamele 5:23

agency is. It just didn't seem like we did this call, right? I

Arion Timbourmery 5:27

think that's right. Yeah. Thank you.

Karl Bissex 5:31

Okay. Any other comments? Okay, thank you. So next, we took out the next item, and discussion of the official committee to develop the official committee for the village expansion project. I just like to throw out a few thoughts here. We don't intend to appoint anyone tonight. We would like to get we like to know who's inFrested, and we'd like to discuss how we because it's our commission now, how we would like this to to what we would like the goals to be for this commission, and but we would leave it to the commission to establish who would the leader be, and reporting to the board and that kind of thing. So we don't want to get too deep in the weeds ourselves, but we trust that there's enough inFrest in this that we'll have a good condition. It is also our intention to have varying views from a lot of different people, butFrns and folks who are been working on this since July, and just different people on this commission, so we get a really good, rounded feel for what we need to do. And we did find at the town meeting that the town did support us moving to this step, and I wouldn't say the town is ready to do it. So we need to.

We need to get the feedback from this committee to tell us what, what they think we should be doing, and we can then decide. So given that anyone would like, anyone who want to start

Dan Fingas 7:21

you think we should start with the two proposals that we've

Karl Bissex 7:26

we received Yes. So maybe, yeah, someone

Dan Fingas 7:28

from the village expansion steering committee can talk about their proposal, and then yeah, either Dave, right, David, or someone else from the the other proposal could speak affr. Does that make sense? That makes

Karl Bissex 7:44

sense, yes. Who would like to okay, you have it

Arion Timbourmery 7:51

you need, and I have a copy of the proposal that was submitted on behalf of the 16 members of the steering committee.

Karl Bissex 7:59

Can you make sure you speak up a little Yeah? Sorry,

Arion Timbourmery 8:03

yeah. It's okay. Cool. I think you said we closed your mouth. Yeah. Thank you. As a little bit of background, I do want to preface that this conversation emerged immediately affr the flood of july 2024 and at the time was sort of a question that I asked the Select Board, what do we think about this? Is this an inFresting idea? Do we use the town the Select Board at the time, which was padding Carl runs like, what at that time? As was Jim Volz said, That sounds inFresting. Let's figure out a way to explore it. And there were several conversations that happened at various times, and it kept coming back up. Let's figure out a way to explore this and develop it into a viable plan. And I think that context is important, because that established a trajectory the group has been operating under since that period of time of how do we make this a viable plan. This is not a theoretical exercise. This is not, wouldn't this be nice? This is how do we really do this? And the group has been operating, I think, in good faith the entire time to make sure that we have actionable things, that we're not proposing things that are unfeasible. We're not proposing things that we don't have money for, and we're not proposing anything that we don't have a clear path of how it could actually be done on page. So within this context, this proposal is presented as a way of formally continuing the work that has been done to date. And I think should be taken very seriously at face value as that, because to somehow expand and rehash and take this project another direction, something I'm not personally inFrested to do this all over again. It would be, it would be disingenuous. We have had a design workshop in this room, attended by over 60 people who are regisFred voFr in the town of Plainfield. We've had

multiple public surveys with over 100 responses, speaking with a few other people, Sandy, who's not here this evening, and Rick flu have been I was on the committee. Have Been in Mullen Mellon. We have had more public input to date than most processes see ever in their construction. And so those responses, that input, that's from real people, and we also had a public vote, the vote of four to one in favor of this that's different from a survey or a petition. Those are the people who showed up and voted. And so I think we need to acknowledge that within this context, that there are voice that while everybody gets a chance to voice their opinion, we are not going to achieve consensus in this process, and that that is okay.

Michael Birnbaum 10:51

So

Arion Timbourmery 10:53

within that context, the group presented, that's my context that I'm bringing. I don't think everybody necessarily signs up for that, but I think it's signs up for that, but I think it's important. It's that background. Those were things that I lived the group proposes that the committee develop and implement a financially feasible plan create infrastructure and sellable lots for a new neighborhood east of the current lower village, on 23.9 acres of land currently owned by syringe investments and pigeon pond, with the following goals, which have been reiFrated throughout this process, rehouse those affected by the flood of july 2023 and july 2024 provide additional affordable housing amidst Vermont's housing crisis. Include a mix of single family homes, duplexes, tiny homes and apartments revitalize a town prioritizing flood, displaced and other Plainfield residents restore lost tax place with the goal of starting a place infrastructure in 2025 and homes as early as 2026 time is of the essence. There are some people who received preliminary notification that their buyout has been accepted as of last week. So this is happening right now, create public, common and open space and pass that enrich the lives of Plainfield residents. Generally, the advisory committee should buy your committee, because that would be the formal group it would be called an advisory committee, which is distinguished in state law from a non advisory,

Frances Rose 12:21

is there a distinction between committee and commission? Is one of the questions coming on the

Dan Fingas 12:27

I think, I think Carl is Miss speaking when he calls it a commission. It's a commission has very specific rules. This is not a commission. Oh, the group you're with is a group, yeah, I'm saying the new thing we're creating is not a committee, it's a committee. It's a committee. Yeah,

Karl Bissex 12:41

so I'm sorry about this, but then

Arion Timbourmery 12:43

Vermont statute, I believe it would be called an advisory committee, yes, which means it does not have, it doesn't make binding decisions, essentially, except on very limited items. Otherwise, it generates, that's the distinction between an advisory and a non advisory.

Michael Birnbaum 13:05
So the this

Michael Billingsley 13:06
the work of this new

Arion Timbourmery 13:08
committee should build upon the work of the village expansion steering committee, using draft neighborhood designs created at the February 8 Community Design Workshop and further refined through significant public input as a foundation this initial this initial site plan draft is currently in early review with the Plainfield Development Review Board to identify any significant issues or obstacles can be modified and deemed as necessary by the advisory committee, taking into account future input. That's actually what we wrote on the ninth I didn't want to say that was not formally submitted, that was going through what was called the sketch approval, which is just asking questions about feedback, about process, the scope of work. We're an advisory body. We do not, quote, have supervision, control, jurisdiction or legislative quad judicial tax or budget over, excuse me, legislative, quasi judicial tax for budgetary matFrs. That's from state statute about what distinguishes an advisory committee from a non advisory committee. So we don't spend money. We only recommend expenditures to the Select Board, as is the case with other chairs in on certain committees, if the Select board chooses, they may designate the chair as a purchasing agent for matFrs less than \$3,000 within a larger budget. This is consistent with the town purchasing policy effective october 14, 2019, which is still in place. We recommend contracts the Select Board, such as land agreements, testing, engineering and eventually construction. We make informed design decisions by soliciting feedback from local community members and development experts. We make process recommendations by citizens, such as how to sell parcels and pricing. We would initiate oversee all permitting applications on behalf of the town. We would develop an execution plan for overseeing day to day construction, recommending professional agents, and we would coordinate with other town committees and departments directly as needed, such as waFr and wastewaFr, roads, planning, RECs and public park

Frances Rose 15:09
there.

Arion Timbourmery 15:11
At this point in the process we have we're pretty close to wrapping up a \$30,000 engineering contract that has developed the preliminary designs for roads, waFr and sewer layout. So the notion that somehow we would want to redesign roads at this point would be pretty crazy, in my mind, based on how the land is laid out, based on the fact that independently, 10 groups during the design charette came up with remarkably similar road designs. Again, independently, there

are contours of the lay of the land, there are wetlands, there are slopes, there is really a kind of logic that fits up there on that site, and that's just it keeps coming up over and over again. The proposal would be for a limited Frm and a time commitment. So the committee would dissolve when either one in the committee's opinion, the project is deemed.

Delivery of a project execution plan to the Select Board. The Frm is expected to be less than one year from the date of creation. All members will be expected to join at least once, one subcommittee and put in time contribution, I believe, three hours a week every week. This is a substantial time commitment for a limited Frm, because time is of the essence, and the goal is to get this done. Actually, there's a number of decision making process with both regular meetings and conduct itself, according to 24 PSA section, 4433 on advisory committees and submissions. It's not a particularly enlightening section of the code, it basically means it functions like most other committees in town, um, final decisions and formal recommendations would be made by majority vote, following the relaxed version of Robert WIs quarFr as followed by the Select Board and other town committees. Essentially, it functions very similar to other committees of town. Membership committee, we suggest to committee of up to 21 people with an odd number of members, anyone may apply. An application should be posted online. This is all known the committee. We recommend that that preference will be given to one current members of the village expansion steer committee, because of their in depth knowledge of the project and its various complexities. We have done a lot of work to date. Um, there will be a tremendous learning curve getting up to speed, and that's that's important. Also, people have been putting months and months of work into this and have a brainstorming commitment to the project. Deserve a certain amount of priority, I believe, up to two butFrS and/or immediate neighbors who understand and agree with the goals of the project. We make this distinction between people who are opposed to the project as a whole, versus those who have specific concerns. While it is important to include dissenting voices, a committee that is designed that sets itself up to be acrimonious out of the gate based more on philosophical distinctions, is not a successfully created committee in my up to two prospective buyers from the current list of people have submitted inFrst online, which is currently around 40 people, one member of the Select Board and potentially one one Marshfield resident residing within half a mile the proposed new neighborhood, as probably most people know, it's very close to the town. And there are people who live in Marshfield that are essentially members of Plainfield. Thank you. There's some suggested ground rules. Sorry, this a little bit of a lengthy proposal, but it was worth thinking about commitment to conceive a viable settlement on the property. Use, elect, utilizing the foundational work that's already done by the ad talk village expansion steering committee and guided by the eight goals that I stated earlier, a willingness to listen and put oneself in other shoes, a willingness to work hard on this committee because the work is time sensitive. Willingness to complete the project without grant funding while getting grants is great. We have had some grants that received the date, but to say that we could count we need to count on something that we have not successfully been awarded, would be to put ourselves in a foolish position, willingness to compromise, willingness to be respectful and take Frm speaking and to demonstrate integrity. We propose some work groups, but that sort of way of breaking up work across the committee and making sure that things get done by small groups of people. But that is much more of an inFrnal committee discussion or discussion that the committee can

have if and when it's formed. So that's a that is the overview of the proposal. I don't know if there's any clarifying questions from the Select Board or others

Karl Bissex 20:11

you've had a chance to read that. Any. Okay, David, do you want to maybe pick up on the things that you feel we should add to what

David Scheckman 20:29

I guess we have a petition please. Yeah. David

Karl Bissex 20:39

Scheckman, there we go. Yeah, that betFr. Yes.

David Scheckman 20:43

There's a group of us put together a petition very recently, somewhat different parameFr, okay, for the committee, I can read it as a well. You know, I have my own commentary, my own reaction to what Arian had to say. I'm going to hold off. I'll do the petition first. I think, if that makes sense, because I I can't speak for the people I could, I could read the petition. We can give you a list, I think, of the people who signed it.

That'd be great. Yeah, it speaks for itself. Have a brief commentary of what I think. And there's other people, I think, who were part of the petition,

putting together a petition that might say something I know, Janice. I don't know if anybody else, I'll start, yeah.

Karl Bissex 21:43

Why don't you go ahead and petition read that

to

David Scheckman 21:58

the Plainfield select board regarding the prospective town Advisory Committee On East Hill housing the drafFr of this position are responding to a memo, memo to carry provided to the Select Board from the village expansion steering committee. The drafFr feel that while the memo makes many good recommendations, alFrations are necessary to betFr embody the affirmative democratic spirit that appeared at town meeting when voFr approved an article to establish a reserve fund. We the undersigned believed that the yes vote on the reserve fund indicates a willingness to proceed with the town plan to enable construction of new housing between East Hill and Main Street in the article, more than discussion proceeding at the meeting necessarily support the wholesale adoption of what is known as the village expansion plan. It is the stated intention of the Select Board to appoint an advisory committee of Townsville the suggestions of the SP village expansion are quite specific, and we feel they contradict the spirit of the discussion during town meeting, residents did not vote to expect explicitly approved

the village expansion plan, yet the memo specifies, and this is quoting the memo the steering committee recommends explaining one member committee with a preference given to current members of the village expansion steering committee because of their in depth knowledge of the project and its various complexities, up to two butFrS and for immediate neighbors who understand and agree with the goals of the project, we make a distinction between people who are opposed to the project as a whole versus those who have specific concerns, up to two prospective buyers from the current list of people who have submitted inFrest online, one Select Board member, one Marshfield resident resided within a half a mile of the proposed neighborhood. We believe that the steering committee, despite both its hard work and the knowledge it has gathered, has no right to deFrmine the composition of a town appointed group. We do not feel that the vote on March 4, gave the Select Board a mandate to privilege the sole vision of the steering committee, but rather to open the conversation, to allow other voices and perspectives into the visioning and implementing process, including including residents. Uh Sorry, including residential support and those who have been critical of the vision of the steering committee up to this point. Judging by front porch floor Plainfield people and discussions at various meetings, it's clear that there is a very large, at least comparable number of residents hardly acknowledged by the committee, who are critical of how the project has proceeded up to now. For the democratic process to be representative and effective, both constructive and critical, voices need to be included. Thus, we believe is the role of the Select Board to establish an equitable selection process that ensures diverse representation. The project itself will require a great deal of input and oversight from the Select Board, and it should move forward with the committee that is responsible to that board, not to the current steering committee, while we appreciate the desire on the part of the BSC to proceed as quickly as possible in order to provide housing smooth they also feel that a project of this size and scope, especially if it helps to with approval by a majority of residents, requires more time and more careful consideration and also a more meaningful attempt to compromise with residents who may not share share the steering committee's particular vision and plan. While it might seem moral to favor housing as many people as possible, as fast as possible, it is nevertheless undemocratic push through an agenda that has not yet been democratically endorsed. Therefore, based on the prior work of the DSCC, we recommend the following alFrnative guidelines to establish an East Hill housing advisory committee to explore the feasibility of creating infrastructure for new housing on East Hill within the 23.9 acres of land currently owned by syringa investments LLC and pigeon pond LLC. Purpose East Hill Advisory Committee. East Hill housing advisory committee shall explore the feasibility of creating infrastructure for new housing on East Hill with the following goals, possibly expand tax base, expand waFr waste, waFr use, user days, deFrmine a timeline according to what makes the most sense, logically, ecologically and financially spare, Plainfield taxpayers, all costs enrich the lives of those affected by the flood, as well as existing and future Plainfield residents. Membership up to 15 Plainfield residents, the Select Board shall publicly discuss the reason for any appointment decisions, while the committee members and supporFrS should certainly make up some proportion of the new committee. The Select Board should strenuously avoid what seems to be the steering committee's recommendation of a committee makeup that stacks the committee ahead of time in favor of the steering committee's vision of how things should proceed, thereby biasing the outcome the necessary, problematic selection process must ultimately aim for a comprehensive recommendation, representation of all the

Residents of Plainfield, decision making process committee that we're proposing, we're proposing and any subcommittees there shall hold meetings consistent with Vermont's Open Meeting Law. The and and and may adopt supplemental rules of procedure as needed. Decisions will be made by majority voFrs. Dissolution. H H, H, C, will dissolve when the Select Board decides by majority go to dissolve the committee. So that's what we came up with. I think there's now 56 or 57 signatures, which we got over a relatively short period of time, and then I think somebody has a list to expand, to give, to give to the Select Board. Okay, so that's that my personal take. And you know, I'm not not generally someone from speaking in front of a group of people. So keep that in mind, I have a very different view from areas, view of a very different view of how the committee has operated. I was watching the meeting where area, and I don't think the committee flatly refused to allow open meetings and allow for more people to participate in in making a plan. I know there's been a design charrette and all of that stuff. I have a very different view of the value of that and what it came up with. And in that way, I agree with Aaron, because I think it's, it's the land and engineering that is the most defining feature. So, you know, it's a great participation event, great for the people who were into it. I don't think it, I don't think it shows that the town of Plainfield is behind this project. I also don't think to vote at town meeting showed that only the people who can come to town meeting, which is by no means everybody in town. So, you know, I'm not going to go much deeper than saying I have a really different view in Frms of the committee and how you appoint the committee, how the Select board chooses to appoint the committee for somebody like me to consider participating. There needs to be very strong guidelines about what the charge of the committee is. It couldn't be anything like what area is describing, because that's been me enFring into a situation where I have no power or it's going to be nothing but confrontations. There's been people already posting on Facebook about how much they're going to push for as many lots as possible, and if it means breaking some eggs, that doesn't matFr. That kind of thing for me is, like, intimidating and inappropriate. So, you know, I think it's a tough position for you guys to be in. You know, you'll decide and so other folks who want

Karl Bissex 31:55
to Denise, thank you. David,

Genese Grill 32:03
okay. Sonia,

Alicia Weiss 32:04
thanks, everybody.

Genese Grill 32:07
Can you share? I'm Genese Grill

Alicia Weiss 32:11
and Paul.

Genese Grill 32:12

What are you? Are you? Is there something I'm doing wrong?

Karl Bissex 32:17

Speaking Carl just did yeah. I just said, Yeah. I just

okay. Oh, you had your hand up. Okay, yeah,

you're gonna have to make sure I see it

Genese Grill 32:32

okay. I guess I want to make a little bit of an emotional appeal. There's been too much emotion, but a number of people who haven't been in haven't experienced what I've experienced. Don't really understand, I think, how we got to this point, perhaps Aryan speech that he just gave gives a little bit of a glimpse of Welcome to my world. But I want to sort of explain, and I don't I'm hoping, I'm still idealistically hoping that we can move forward with this project, despite what he just said. But if it doesn't happen that way, then we'll, we'll figure out, you know, at the bond vote, what happens, or whatever. But So basically, I was hoping that this would be meeting where we could move forward, not look back and sort of lick our wounds. There's been a lot of bad feeling on both sides and but I feel I need to sort of explain why I got where I am, and that does mean licking a little bit of wounds, in the sense that, you know, I started out being inFrested in this project. I was actually asked to be on the committee because I was inFrested in the project. Then when I saw how many plots were planned, I didn't like it, and I was pretty quickly shown that that sort of idea wasn't even welcomed, the idea that we could have fewer lots. So I it sort of put me in a place where I was like already a naysayer, as opposed to a contributor or someone in a conversation. And I became frustrated. It seemed like it was public, but it really wasn't, when it came to matFrs of how many, lots, matFrs of how it would be funded, matFrs of the timeline at one meeting, and I want to apologize that I actually blurted out that I wanted the project to fail. But the reason why I said that was because at that point I was so frustrated, and what I meant was this particular project at this particular speed, in this particular discourse. And okay, I so the question was raised on Facebook the other day in response to the petition, what's undemocratic about a group of really motivated people getting together, being on a committee and then having a vote about it? And I've been thinking a lot about that and what I meant by democratic. And it's democratic in a basic sense, but I don't think it's democratic in the deeper, deeper sense, in that sure people do more work, get more have more influence. They deserve it. Maybe you could say they're there, they show up, they do the work, but if that committee doesn't actually incorporate or consider the views of a large group of the community, if and you may, you know you may disagree that this is what happened, but this was how I felt, if the committee treats questions and concerns as things to refute, as talking points, rather than to really consider them. And I, unfortunately, I didn't just make that up. I mean, I was there was an email chain that I wasn't supposed to see, that I saw where, you know, there were things that people were concerned about. In this case, it was particularly how many plots and the density and the committee was discussing. Oh, I know how to refute that. We know how to show those people, those people, your neighbors, your community, community members, that they're stupid, basically and wrong, and that just that felt that didn't feel right to me. But I get it. I know I've

been inside of but it was, it's more like a political campaign than a community discussion, to me, so the committee has felt to me like a group that already knew what they wanted, with a silo of supporters around them, and only those people's voices matter, the people who didn't agree were seen as, you know, unenlightened, selfish, backward. I happen to still believe in democracy, at least small town democracy, and I think that we can do better. So what I'm hoping, despite what Arian just said, and I see, you know, and really, this isn't personal, you know, it really isn't. And I, you know, said to a lot of people, I'm sorry that it felt personal and thought personal. But what I would hope and what I ask you to do, and if it doesn't happen, fine, you know, it's okay. I'm not gonna I would hope that whoever is on this committee will take the concerns and the voices and the ideas of their fellow community members seriously, respect them and listen to them. But you know, and I wrote here, is it too late for that? And it sounds like maybe, it is maybe, and I don't know what everyone on the committee really feels that Arian was very clear and said he wasn't speaking for everyone, but maybe it's too late for that. And if it is too late for that, and the committee is going to just to go ahead with their map and their timeline, I fear that one the project won't be as good as it could be if they've been taken more slowly, if other views had been taken seriously into that, if it doesn't do that, if the committee doesn't listen to the other people in the town, oh, I had something really important to say that I left out. Just I understand and I respect the fact that people on the committee care passionately about this, but just because you feel that this is good and right and holy and that it's good for everyone in town, that shouldn't be enough. It's not your decision what's good for everyone in the town. So my last point, then, is, if the committee doesn't seriously, earnestly, whoever's on this committee, try to hear what people say, I am afraid that you will not succeed. And that's not a threat. It's not I'm not saying, oh, you know, if you don't do what I say, you know people are going to vote against you. But it just, it just doesn't work that way in a small town like this. I don't think it can so, thanks.

Michael Birnbaum 39:21

Thanks, Chase.

Dan Fingas 39:25

No, you're waiting for to call on people.

paule emery 39:30

Thank you for recognizing Paula Emery. I'm curious about the purpose of this meeting. What I'm hearing is, what I'm concerned about is that I'm not sure I'm hearing that there's recognition that that there was a vote on town meeting day, and select board has been charged with choosing a committee. Is that, am I? Is that correct?

Karl Bissex 40:00

This committee will be reporting to the Select Board, yeah, and we will be appointing people for the committee, right? So, and part of this is to figure out the mix and who would be want to be on it, and hope of the committee and the scope and the and the function and what we're hoping to achieve and receive from this committee. Okay, you do want to go ahead, so we won't do that tonight. Well, we won't do the

Dan Fingas 40:22
appointment tonight. We won't

Karl Bissex 40:24
be the appointments we want to have. We want to flesh out what, what collectively we feel is going to be the most effective way to get this project to either go or not go, and how we're going to do

paule emery 40:37
it, to get to get clear on whether it's going to go or not go, and how to go about doing that. Yeah. Okay, thank you. Okay, so that's pretty much it. I'm concerned that there's a lot of backtracking right now. We made the decision at town meeting. That was decided at town meeting. I also want to say that I trust you

Unknown Speaker 41:01
to choose the

paule emery 41:04
composition of the committee. The steering committee made a recommendation, a suggestion. You don't have to accept that, right? You get to decide how and how it's set up and who's on it. That's that's out of our hands. I think we can try really hard to persuade you tonight, okay, but, but essentially, it is in your hands. I think, okay, yes. And finally, I have to go back to something that Mr. Schechtman said, which is that the purpose is to explore the feasibility of the infrastructure that's been done. It's been done pretty extensively. More can always be done. The committee has a lot to do this. I mean, whatever it is, commission, committee will have a lot to do. I have a lot more to say, but I'm just going to stop there.

Karl Bissex 41:54
Thank you. Who do you want to follow on your you were in next Would you go up here?

Frances Rose 42:04
What's your name, Michael,

Karl Bissex 42:07
and name please, when you're and talk close, we can hear you.

Jared Birchmore 42:10
Jared Birchmore, I just have a couple of things that I want to say as a member of the current steering committee. I do want to echo some of the things that Arian had said, particularly around adopting and utilizing the foundation that the steering committee has spent hours and hours and a lot of resources into developing, I think that you know, trying to to backtrack and and disregard the work that has been done thus far will put us back and also potentially make it so that this project would not be viable. I think being conscientious of the timing that we have right now is

really important. Those of us that have been already been displaced by floods that want to stay here are looking at this project and wondering when it will be coming to fruition, if that is a feasible option for us. And there are also people who are actively in the process of FEMA buyouts, and when those go through, we'll have to make a decision about whether they can stay in Plainfield or not. I think that it's really important to reiterate that the guiding foundation of this group of volunteers, when we gathered in July and August was to allow the members of our community that are already here to stay here that is at the core of this project, and I think that that needs to be really given the weight that it should, and that's also why I think the suggestion about allowing members of the current steering committee that are invested in being on this new committee to really prioritize those voices, because we have put in a ton of time and energy and dedicated passion to this project succeeding, and that, in my mind, is what this committee will be charged with doing, is seeing if this is a project that can happen in real life. I also have a lot more things to say, but I'll stop there for

Karl Bissex 44:32

now. Thank you. I think we have a lot of folks. Lauren, you want to

Lauren Geiger 44:38

Michael sure he's right there. Okay, I just wanted to say I'm Lauren Geiger. I live at 36 Hudson Avenue in Plainfield. And I believe that there is a very, very vocal, deformed minority that is trying to defeat this project. And I don't find it to be a coincidence that many of them are the people that live closest to the project. And I think that one of the things that I would say is that I believe that our architect has spent many, many hours and personal meetings with the abusers and the neighbors of the project to try to listen to their concerns and address them as well as possible. And I think that that has been almost, you know, it's been a lot of time and a lot of energy that we have spent trying to address these concerns, I think, almost disproportionate to the amount of time that we have spent trying to address the concerns of those who are unhoused or who are renting or who are looking for housing. Now, in the village, I know that this, you know, FEMA buyouts are on the horizon. And I know that there are people who have moved from the heartbreak, excuse me, move from the heartbreak to, you know, out to Barry to other towns, people who are trying to figure out what they're doing. There are renters and to be the idea of just, you know, trying to replace, trying to build an infrastructure near the village that you know, would cost a considerable amount of money to house only the eight people who were just housed who have expressed interest in buying is, you know, absurd, frankly. I mean, so I also think that if anyone is familiar with the process that we have to go through in Vermont to build new housing, and the fact that so many housing creative housing solutions have been turned down throughout the state, there is a very, very lengthy process of public comment. There is review by the Design Development Review Board. There is review by the planning commission. There is the presentation of a preliminary plot. There is a public comment period. There are numerous, numerous hurdles to go through. And I think that the steering committee itself has gone through many, many hurdles and thoughtfully tried to address, you know, and balance the needs of the neighbors and the abusers with the need for housing. So I would say that people are going to have many, many opportunities to comment and weigh in on this, including state officials, etc, etc. And I also think that the architect at the last DRB meeting specifically said that,

you know, through the the process of public comment, this would become a betFr plan. So I that's those are my comments. Thank you very much. Thank you, Lauren.

Karl Bissex 47:45

Amy, yeah, we have Amy on the Amy.

Amy, go ahead. Oh,

Amy LesFr 47:55

okay, thank you. I just want to say thank you to David and Genese for commenting earlier. Yeah, David, I don't think I've heard you in a public meeting in the 30 years I've lived here. So thanks for speaking out, reminding us that we need to follow a democratic process. And I also want to thank considerably the group of people that have been working on this for so long and worked so hard, and have worked for me because I haven't been able to to do the legwork I have I was working and couldn't even attend the any of the sessions. And as a renFr who has lived in Plainfield for 35 years. I'd also like to speak for the 3028, or 30 people that live just on Main Street, that rent and honestly, having an opportunity to stay in this town and, uh, excuse me, it's emotional, um, to stay in this town and be able to to actually own some land is is huge. It's really big. And I just appreciate all the people that are working so hard on on making this a reality, honestly. Thank you.

Karl Bissex 49:21

Thank you. Yeah, we'll need the mic Michael, first I think, Michael, oh, I'm sorry, I didn't see Michael, okay, go ahead.

Frances Rose 49:27

Sorry, Ethan. And then, oh, yay. And

Dan Fingas 49:31

just before, folks for the record, Amy. Amy LesFr, right,

Amy LesFr 49:37

yes, thank you. Sorry about that.

Karl Bissex 49:40

I pick you up if you're

Dan Fingas 49:41

standing there. Well, it might be for the rich, for the

David Scheckman 49:44

room, the room, it's

Dan Fingas 49:45

for the room. Yes. Okay, so I'm Michael Burnham. You have to talk louder

PeFr Youngbaer 49:51
right here. Yeah, okay. I'm

Michael

Michael Birnbaum 49:53

Michael Birnbaum, and I thought the meeting was starting at seven, so I missed some critical stuff. I didn't hear what Aaron had to say, I'm sorry I did, didn't I am in that so called vocal minority that is so called, opposed to the project. I want to clarify. First of all, we don't know if we're going to we don't know what all the townspeople can make it. We haven't had enough government. We're not going for a long time. In a short time, a small number of us, organically, ad hoc, got together and put together a petition just to express our concern about the process of choosing this committee. We support the vote from town meeting. We support the Select Board is going to create a committee. Each of us has a different viewpoint. We're not monolithic. We don't have we haven't been working together for months as this steering committee passed, we all have different points of view of why we're concerned. So I heard Denise, I heard David. They didn't they spoke for me, but they didn't speak for me, and I'm not going to give you my individual opinions about this. What I'm trying to say is that there's a good number of people in the town who either haven't expressed themselves or have who are concerned with how the process has evolved. We appreciate a lot of the work that's been done. We appreciate the energy and effort and time being devoted to trying to make something betFr with the county love. We would like to see the Select Board choose a committee and charge that committee I unbiased towards the work that's been done so far, recognizing the work that's been done so far, taking into account the work that's been done so far, but not representing it until the new committee thoroughly evaluated, consider other possibilities and possibly managers that plan and possibly alFrnate. And the committee will be an advisory committee to the Select Board. The Select Board is whom we elected to make decisions. So I agree and disagree with Bill politics, absolutely, we voted to support continuing exploration of this project, or of a project lease to find housing for people who were displaced, and find housing for people in general, because it's good for the county. That doesn't mean that everything about the project was endorsed in the town vote, we voted for the reserve fund, and we voted to give the Select Board the endorsement continue exploring and to continue on its track, but to not be limited by what was developed by this group of wonderful volunteers. We didn't have everybody. I spoke inFresting of others who dispute what is being said about them, having been fully listened to, I have not been familiar to those conversations. I can only hear. I heard their side of the story. I don't know what the truth is, but I think they should be very small, if that's their feeling. Okay. I think, I think that's enough. I'm

David Scheckman 54:09
just going to acknowledge that

Frances Rose 54:13

there's a six person stack right now, and there is, what I'm feeling is like kind of a repeat of town meeting, and I'm as I don't know if I'm speaking for the board or not the I want to honor and acknowledge so the staff right now is Alicia, Ethan Ray, peren, Natalia Betsy. Here we are. I would love to know why the alFrnate proposal for the committee. Why, for example, six people less. I was hoping to hear more about the why that the change, the changes made from that which distinguishes it from the proposal of the working group,

Dan Fingas 55:02

well, and also, why 21 on the first proposal. Why 21 in the first proposal? Yeah, we feel like we're rehashing the argument about the village project and not talking about how we create a committee.

David Scheckman 55:14

I would

Dan Fingas 55:15

Yeah, that's the way it feels to

Karl Bissex 55:17

us. I think we need to decide that what we're going to call it, and I think we need to decide how many members at the very basic we should have on this, and then maybe we can come to a vision of what this committee will do. We have an executive session affr this. So we'd like to keep things

Dan Fingas 55:35

moving well. And I wonder if we, since the Mr. Chair, since the agenda item is the actual creation of the committee, can we ask folks to keep their comments to the creation of the committee and the structure of the committee.

Karl Bissex 55:50

I think we can do that. You stood up before that was suggested. I think we should do that.

Alicia Weiss 56:00

I'm Alicia Weiss, and I wonder,

Karl Bissex 56:04

could you hold it first? Please look at

Alicia Weiss 56:06

my papers. Sorry, and I want to falsify and honor what you've asked. And I think that you know there are explanations about why numbers that need to be equally asked at both groups, but I want to go back to something, and that's why I unvoted No at town meeting, and that was because I was not clear about what we were voting about. To me, it was amorphous. It was ambiguous. We had a lot of spirited discussion before that motion was 13. 13 came forward,

and if it was just to say, let's move ahead as the motion was written, we wouldn't have had that discussion, I think, for anyone who has a question about whether we were forming the committee that might have been envisioned before that discussion, I would suggest looking reviewing the tape of the town meeting day i So I've spent my life in some, most, a good portion of my life, in scientific Research and other research traditions. So I need operational definitions. I needed real clarity. I wanted to vote yes. I take exception to the fact that a butFr is there. It's not no chance that butFr's are against the project. I'm not against the project. As a matFr of fact, I was thinking last night about being really excited about having new vitality, because I remember when Plainfield, it was really a kick ass place to live.

Karl Bissex 57:52

Should we stick to the committee? The committee, okay, yeah, let's feel absolutely, I appreciate that. A lot of emotion in here, but we have to get this done.

Alicia Weiss 58:03

There is a list of people who signed the petition. It's about 60, but I have to say that a lot of people asked to be anonymous because they felt that they would be attacked for signing it, and I think that's significant. My request to the Select Board is that you independent of either group essentially constitute a charge, deFrmine the composition, what's a workable number, and look to establish a committee that, while not throwing away food, work that's been done, will in will balance urgency with thoughtfulness and come forth with the best plan for our town.

Karl Bissex 58:57

That's that's our intention. Yes, thank you. We had said that.

Dan Fingas 59:03

So can I ask a question before we go? All right, so we're 52 minutes into a 25 minute agenda item, and we have done none of the work of the agenda item. I I just wonder, Mr. Chairman, I know we don't always follow this, but I know that at some point we can turn off public comment and just have us as a board discuss and try to, like, work through the issue. And I'm wondering at what point we're going to do that this evening, so I don't know if comments are ever going to stop, and we haven't talked about specifics, like, you know both anyway, there's lots of things I could compare the two proposals. There's a lot of actual common ground in the two proposals, and there's some non common ground. And so I just wonder when we're going to get to that portion. And I think we as a Select Board all know that there are a number of people who are very passionate about the project happening and wanting to happen with urgency. And there are, and there are people that are passionate about it slowing down and being less specific, and not being the the village expansion steering committees project. We know that we don't need to hear more about that personally, I don't, I don't, I don't know if anyone else on the Select Board does. I just would love for us to talk just about, should there be 11 members on the committee? 1521, what's the name of the committee? What scope that is? The questions for this evening not what we think happened on town meeting day. Yeah,

Michael Billingsley 1:00:32

go ahead. I would like to know I don't need, think I need, okay for this. You'd like to know what use it, please. Michael Billingsley, what I wanted to know is, would you give

PeFr Youngbaer 1:00:40

him the microphone, please? Okay,

Michael Billingsley 1:00:45

quickly. If amongst the people who are in queue, there are people who would like to directly address the question about how the Committee be formed, and what is charge be, and what some of the things might be. For instance, I have something to say that hasn't been said yet about just that. Will we be given an opportunity to do that?

Karl Bissex 1:01:03

I think, I think Dan's point is well taken, we should start this discussion about the committee itself.

Michael Billingsley 1:01:09

So can we, which is what I said, Yes. Let me

Dan Fingas 1:01:11

reset the queue and then bring up a specific topic and then get feedback on that topic. So maybe it's the name of the committee. Yeah, we'll get feedback. That's how many members will get feedback. What's the scope we can get feedback? We can hit them piece by piece, rather than we don't. We can. I think that's a betFr way than getting general pieces. So I think we start with the, this is just a functional No, I know. No, I understand. Yeah. Do you have a comment about the name of the committee? I do not. Okay,

Karl Bissex 1:01:36

okay, let's, let's start with that. You you refer to it to the as the East Hill housing on your petition,

Dan Fingas 1:01:44

he's telling the binary committee you've

Karl Bissex 1:01:46

been using the expansion project with your all the times you discussed it. So, so this is kind of a board discussion here. Yeah. Is there any board members who have a have another idea for a name of a committee? We need to have a way to reference this I

Frances Rose 1:02:08

compromise and call it the East Village expansion. Yes.

Dan Fingas 1:02:11

Well, I my only, my only, my only thing is that we had a specific name for the reverse reserve fund. And if this committee is theoretically related to that item, we should probably name it

related to it was the village expansion reserve fund or something on the east reference. Well, yeah, but you can't get the whole, I don't think it said the East Hill. I think it's at the east side of something,

Michael Birnbaum 1:02:35
right, East Village. I can pull it up, yeah. So

Dan Fingas 1:02:40
I think the words advisory should be in it, yes, to be clear, it's an advisory committee to the Select Board.

Karl Bissex 1:02:52
You're looking up the I'm

Dan Fingas 1:02:53
looking up the town meeting day

Michael Birnbaum 1:02:56
articles. Mr.

Chairman, that's very good.

PeFr Youngbaer 1:03:06
Yes. Sorry. I just wanted to thank Dan for focusing us here and referring back to the Select Board Rules of Procedure and to remind the public that all Select Board meetings are meetings in the public, not of the public, right? Not a public hearing. This is the only time that we can deliberate, and we need the time to do that. That's why we build in public input at the beginning. We can always expand that. And I think the suggestion to that specifically by topic is helpful, but you must let us deliberate.

Karl Bissex 1:03:45
Thank you. Thank you.

Dan Fingas 1:03:51
Sorry. The link on our website is broken right now, so I couldn't click on the warning,

Karl Bissex 1:03:55
so I'm trying to find it somewhere else. So that would be a suggestion, is that we follow the reserve funds name. I

Frances Rose 1:04:07
any other thoughts, I'll put forward again the East Village advisory committee.

Karl Bissex 1:04:15

Okay, I don't

What do you think? I think we've been using the Frminology village experience for so long it would be confusing to change it at this point.

Well, we want to make sure it's distinctive from what's been

Yeah, village experience expansion advisory,

PeFr Youngbaer 1:04:35

yeah, and I have the language great. The language of the article was to be called the reserve fund. To be called the be called the village expansion reserve fund for the purpose of expanding the east side of the village by

Michael Birnbaum 1:04:51

acquiring land, etc.

Karl Bissex 1:04:53

So, so what would that suggest for a name? I mean the East Village advisory committee that rose suggests is possible, yeah, it's not matching. Or if,

Dan Fingas 1:05:03

yeah, I do. I do think I agree. And I know it gets confusing with the steering committee name, but I do think we, since everyone is kind of Paul's at the village expansion project in town, for us to not to have village expansion in the title. For people who are looking for information about this, they may not queue into it the same way, if the title is different, and we want people to have access to the information,

PeFr Youngbaer 1:05:26

and I would offer friendly amendment that would be the East Village expansion Advisory Committee. Thank you.

Karl Bissex 1:05:45

We're going to expect this committee as well. Well, first of all, does that sound reasonable? Everybody? I don't think we have to vote on it. We have to decide collectibles

Frances Rose 1:05:56

there doesn't there need be a motion if we're going to name it

Dan Fingas 1:05:59

Yes, but we also have to say how many members and stuff. When we do it, we'll do it all together. Yeah, yeah. I'll put it in the notes all together, and we can do one motion at the at the end

Michael Birnbaum 1:06:07
of our deliberations.

Karl Bissex 1:06:12
Let's, let's hold off on that. Unless, as PeFr said, this is primarily at the time we get to talk. So go ahead, PeFr. In Frms of

Michael Billingsley 1:06:21
this, I don't think

Dan Fingas 1:06:23
so. Might be on the mute let me Is it red or

Michael Billingsley 1:06:26
green at the top, slip the switch up so you see it right there in

Dan Fingas 1:06:30
the middle. Is it green or red in the middle? It's green

PeFr Youngbaer 1:06:34
up to South Park. Yeah.

In Frms of the number, when I saw the initial proposal of 21 I thought that my initial reaction was that is way too huge, very unwieldy. If you had 21 people and they each spoke for three minutes, that's an hour already, I don't think you're going to get anything done. I think this committee needs to get some things done, and my personal bias would be more in the seven to nine range, quite exactly.

Karl Bissex 1:07:08
And I'd like to, can I get that as a follow up to that Dan had a had a suggestion that the committee could be made up of a smaller number, but there could be subcommittees that do specific work on a specific task, and to me, that is probably more effective, and we find on the board now that we're five, we can have two people work together on certain things, and it's it helps us with that decision. So 21 felt big to me, a lot, real big, even 15, but it should be an odd number. So any other thoughts from the board?

Frances Rose 1:07:58
Consideration that I'm carrying is the amount of labor required to carry forth this work, 15 has probably not felt like too much. Am I like casual thoughts? Thumbs up. Has it felt like too much about 15 people on the committee, on the excuse me, on the working group so far. Okay, so in Frms of like sharing labor to continue to see a thing through. I think at least keeping it level is my feeling. Thank you.

Karl Bissex 1:08:33

Okay, so that'd be 15 from your perspective.

Dan Fingas 1:08:37

Yeah, I just have to push back. And I, I think with the use of real subcommittee, and so thinking like one or two members from the committee would be on a subcommittee, and then they would draw in expertise from people. So if it's the permitting process, finding people have more expertise with the permitting process to be part of those subcommittees, then those one or two committee members go back to the whole I think, I still think, I mean, I think for me, for my own comfort level, based on being on a lot of committees in a lot of different situations, 11 is the largest committee that I would be comfortable with. Personally, I think we could find a good diversity of perspectives of 11 people. You can have five or six committees with one or two people on the our subcommittee's, and just to have everybody you know coming back to report, it's a manageable number for those bigger conversations when you need to have everyone weighing in and and also, six people is a quorum, which is a number that's easier to get to if you have to have meetings. And you're worried about quorum because it's summer vacation or something else is going on. So personally, originally, I was thinking in the seven to nine range that that PeFr was but I think 11 is about as big as that I would probably vote for personally.

Michael Birnbaum 1:09:50

Well, I know it's just awesome. Is this

Karl Bissex 1:09:51

related to this number? Go ahead

David Scheckman 1:10:02

by subject. So in this case, something

Karl Bissex 1:10:06

you're on, it's up to Carl

Michael Billingsley 1:10:09

at the end of the speaking specifically to the number of people. And the reason I'm doing it now is because to accomplish just looking at the range of tasks. Now, there are tasks involved with making a project of this complexity and size happen closer.

Dan Fingas 1:10:31

Yeah, you just have to have it closer. Just

Michael Billingsley 1:10:34

okay, for for a project of this complexity and size, which I certainly can say as a person who's been looking and and participating sometimes with the steering committee. It's way beyond. It's way bigger. When you look at the permitting, when you look at the architecture, when you look at the engineering, when you look at the waFrshed, when you look at things that need to be addressed on a regular weekly basis, in some cases, it takes a lot of focus and human power to

do it. Most of the committee meetings that I've observed or participated in. Up to now, there have been focused on tasks and quickly as possible, dealing with actual headwinds that come from the permitting process or from the the state of the place. I mean, I will just say quickly that there are things that come up that nobody envisioned. For instance, I am a group of near, abutting, or abutting neighbors at the bottom of the hill, below the meadow. Five of us together absorb the runoff of 60% of that meadow. And therefore, I took it on myself to try and figure out the impact on our households of having that waFr come down the hill in a different way, because there was a neighborhood there that's just one tiny little project that needs

Karl Bissex 1:11:48

to be addressed. How many people would you see on the

Michael Billingsley 1:11:50

recommend? 11 to 15. Okay, in other words, the minimum being okay, yep. Several people had their

Unknown Speaker 1:11:58

hands up if he was chosen, speaking the other people

Karl Bissex 1:12:00

are he was addressing the number of people, if you want to Okay. If Michael was here,

Dan Fingas 1:12:08

I've been you gotta use the mic. You gotta say your name.

Michael Birnbaum 1:12:11

I've been on lots of committees. Michael Bram, most recently, the CB fabric board. We had 20 delegates, 20 alFrnates, and some others. It was so unwieldy. Too big. Way too big. Okay, I've been on committees with six or five like you are very effective, but when the task is complex and you don't have outside help, you need more. You need more bottles. I endorse Dan's number of 11, and the reason is because this committee should be charged to be able to reach out into the community and bring others onto their subcommittees, so that each task, each complex task, can be addressed, and the Central Committee of 11, or even less would be able to handle that, because they bring in other experts,

Karl Bissex 1:13:09

and they can, yes, they can bring in community people as well. So did you have a number suggestion?

Okay, noted. Who's that is?

Natalia 1:13:29

I name name, please. Natalia. I feel like the people who've been on the current steering community understand the breadth of this work that I will never understand, and I'm super

grateful for that, and the fact that they're saying the number that they're asking for has been working for them. It doesn't matter how many committees I've been on. They're very tuned into this particular project, and I would encourage that they actually be seen as experts in knowing the number that that's going to be useful and helpful to them.

Karl Bissex 1:14:04
So that's, that's 50, so

Speaker 2 1:14:07
I would support that. And they felt like, no, actually 15, that's great.

Karl Bissex 1:14:11
Okay, and did you have another thought on the number? Okay, thanks.

PeFr Youngbaer 1:14:21
Were you supporting 15 or 21

Natalia 1:14:25
I was saying that if this current steering board is asking for 15, that is what I'm so they're asking for 21 yes. And so right now

Dan Fingas 1:14:33
they're at 15 Correct. No, they're absolutely well, they're currently at 15. They're asking for 21 they're

Natalia 1:14:38
currently asking 15. They're currently at 15, asking for 21 and I would support them, knowing that they need more support, not

Karl Bissex 1:14:46
less. Thank you. Thanks.

Number questions, yeah, go ahead, yeah.

Dan Fingas 1:14:56
They can come up here

Michael Birnbaum 1:14:58
for us to control.

Jared Birchmore 1:14:59
Yeah, just Jerry Birch more, just going off of what Natalia just said, as a member of the current steering committee, I do think that going any lower than the number that we have now feels like it would put a really, really heavy strain on those individuals who are chosen, I think more than

the three or Four hours time commitment for a week that we suggested in our proposal. So my suggestion would be, at the very minimum, maintaining the same level that we have been operating as at 15. And I personally think that more than that, up to the 21 number is reasonable, but I don't think that going below the number that we've been working with is a good idea in Frms of sustainability for the individuals on that Okay, thank you.

Karl Bissex 1:15:59

At any I just have a question at any given meeting where you have 15 members, how many people come?

Arion Timbourmery 1:16:11

I would say, Yeah. I would say there's usually a couple people that Miss and okay, we probably more in the 12 to 10 to 10 to 14. Okay, I think there's a lot of you know, people who live in the same household, who've been on the committee as well. So it's easy for them to show up.

Karl Bissex 1:16:25

Okay, so the idea is that it does. Having more allows you to have people miss on occasion without

Arion Timbourmery 1:16:34

real problem. Yeah, and to have more than one person who goes to attend various specific tasks is really helpful for it's hard to pay attention all things at all the time. It's hard to report on all things at the same things at the same time.

Dan Fingas 1:16:47

It's 100% volunteer group.

Arion Timbourmery 1:16:51

It you know, of course, there are trade offs, but it has seemed a bit larger and has been more effective.

Dan Fingas 1:16:56

Okay, my only push back, and I'm one of the 15 names listed, and I think I've probably been to two meetings, so probably wasn't 15, very many times, and those were both on community engagement. Community engagement. I i Just think, if we create a if the committee creates a subcommittee, where the subcommittees are doing the task work, and then the committee is hearing about that and looking at the bigger picture like I think it would work much betFr, because I have, you know, I am on the email list for this group because I'm listed here, and I the amount of talking past and catching up and things that happen because there's so many people and like, three or four, like, this is a good idea. Let's start doing this, and then like, another like, what's going on? Like, it just feels like throttling it down a little bit, making subcommittees that have specific tasks will be more organized, and then you actually have more people, because each of those six subcommittees could have one or two people from from the committee, but then could have three or four other people who are just have an expertise and an inFrest in that

part of the project. And so you end up having 345, times as many people, than the actual committee itself doing the work. So that's my personal opinion, and unless the chair yells at me, I'd like to, like, not make a motion. So we're going to do all the motions, but I'd like to suggest 11 be the number that we we go with and get the input from the rest of

Michael Billingsley 1:18:21
the group. Okay? The information

Dan Fingas 1:18:23
you don't have to recognize it.

Karl Bissex 1:18:24
Yeah, great. PeFr, was you had a

PeFr Youngbaer 1:18:26
thought? Yes to 11.

Dan Fingas 1:18:28
Okay, 11. Jim Patty, what do you think

Karl Bissex 1:18:32
I do have any I have a hard time seeing no people that have been doing the work. You know, how many who they need? So, what number do you support? Well, they're seeing 15

Michael Billingsley 1:18:47
nomenclature question.

Karl Bissex 1:18:51
What's the question? The question

Michael Billingsley 1:18:53
is, you're using the word subcommittee, and I believe someone maybe PeFr could clarify whether a subcommittee is required to have minutes and notice, or whether it should be called a working group. Is, which is another way of

Karl Bissex 1:19:03
defining, okay, Dan, you have experiences.

Dan Fingas 1:19:07
I don't know the current state law subcommittees versus working groups, but what I will say is we, I don't think we as a Select Board, unless somebody else changes their my mind. Are going to be setting up those things statutorily here. The committee is going to gather and decide what they what, what makes sense to them, and they report back to us, because it makes no sense for us to say you're going to have a permitting subcommittee, and then two weeks from now,

you realize you don't need a permitting subcommittee, and then they have to come back and say, Okay, now we need to select board to vote to remove a permitting second select subcommittee. So I don't want to get us into that kind of bureaucracy. So it whether we can call them working groups, subgroups, whatever we need to call them. I think we can look that up. But parallel,

Karl Bissex 1:19:49

yes. And then just one other thought is that we're hoping to have just one or two people from this committee report to the Select Board. We don't need the whole group come in. So that would be another reason not to get too fussy with the subcommittees. I'm going to keep moving. And did you have a motion? Did you have any think

Dan Fingas 1:20:11

we're going to do one motion for the whole committee, like a strawb hole. Okay? On who is okay with

11? Yep. PeFr. PeFr.

PeFr Youngbaer 1:20:25

Both of the steering committee and the petitioners agreed that that the committee, the advisory committee, should abide by the Open Meeting Law area. I know you made some statements at the beginning about what Vermont statute calls for advisory I would have to do some research on that. I I'm not particularly wedded to that. I would like to see our advisory committee meet the standards of open meeting laws or select board does. And just as our working Task Force go off and do things at the Select Board that's not done with Open Meeting Law, we're not noticing anything like that. It's like it allows two of us to get together with a potential project manager on the Mill Street Bridge without having a whole public meeting. The contract has to come back here and has to be voted on this subject all that. But if you tied the subcommittee's up on that, you know, he would take forever,

Dan Fingas 1:21:20

yep, so Well, we wouldn't, yeah, we don't have to zoom it. We don't have enough Zoom account.

Karl Bissex 1:21:25

So so far we have, we have the the name the East Village expansion Advisory Committee, and the 11 seems to be a number that's being used with the understanding that there'll be subcommittee, subcommittees that can expand that to a great, much bigger number. So is that where we are standing right now board you have something else

Frances Rose 1:22:02

I wonder about the I welcome the inclusion of those who are critiquing this project. We when the intention here is to welcome, to include folks who have been critical in this project, if we're dropping the number from 15 to 11. Granted, as Carl just stated, each one of those smaller

working groups. Can you know that number can balloon? That number can bloom to 25 and I wonder, then each voice becomes that much more critical to support the exploration, the continued exploration, of this project. And I guess I'm asking the board, you know, then if we, if we say 11, then we have to also choose a number of those critical to the project. I think, I think this is our time to clarify that as well.

Karl Bissex 1:23:04

Okay,

any other thoughts on that? PeFr,

PeFr Youngbaer 1:23:16

I interpreted the town meeting vote as and a flying at 35,000 foot level approval of continuing with the development of an East Hill expansion project. If you go down from 35,000 feet, there are details upon which people disagreed, and there were votes in favor of and some opposed to the motion at town meeting who basically were coming from the same place, like they liked the project, but they didn't like part of the process or some of the details, whatever. I think from there are logistical reasons for why a working number like 11 is a good number, etc, the subcommittee's I also think it's important that we look to when this project will go before

Michael Birnbaum 1:24:12

the voFr's,

PeFr Youngbaer 1:24:14

and that

those votes are going to need to be earned by this committee and By the Select Board, and it is going to require an expansion of the current support this project has, and I think it's important for not just internal dynamics and functioning of The committee reasons, but external message to the broader Plainfield community, people who are concerned about what this project may mean to their property taxes and don't have particular concerns about how many dwelling units or how many roads or trees are planted, and I think that our

biggest first step

in creating this committee

Alicia Weiss 1:25:17

and its mission,

PeFr Youngbaer 1:25:19

what we are asking it to do even more important than the number or its name, but what we're asking it to do is going to be probably the most important step we take.

Karl Bissex 1:25:35

You have a recommendation?

PeFr Youngbaer 1:25:38

I'm sorry. I'm having a hard time speaking. Sorry that,

and I'm trying to get to your question about inclusive and exclusive. I think it's important that this committee, that we come up away with this committee, appointing a committee that has a different face than the current committee, that doesn't mean we don't acknowledge the work that has been done. That doesn't mean that we don't include those members in the committee, but I do think that in order to build long Frm support for this project, we are going to have to have a different look. And the first step we take here is going to be very important. And Carl, to answer your question, I think, you know, we're not going to make those appointments tonight, right? But I would hope that as we look to who has stepped forward, who has volunteered, there's a list, you know, that's been created. I've been reading through. I've been calling a couple of them to, you know, probe a little more about, you know, what are their skill sets, because there are some things that need doing here, you know, what is this project going to cost? We don't know yet, right? You know, that's one of the most important things. We need to find out as soon as possible, because that will guide what we warn for a vote, it will, you know? And so I want to charge the committee. You know, as a top priority is get us real hard numbers. And how do we go about doing that? I think there are other things that we need to talk about with this committee and its charge as well. For example, in the in the I had an hour long conversation with will COVID About a month or so ago, and an hour long conversation immediately following with Mike zumin, we were talking about the zoning at the at the at the at the particular time. And you know, what were the components of that zoning? And some of the components of the zoning that we adopted were specifically geared towards obtaining a NDA Neighborhood Development area designation and will COVID. Said to me at the time, oh, I'm hoping we can do that and include Goddard and the whole rest of the village, et ceFra, et ceFra. I mentioned that to Mike zunner In the next hour conversation I had Mike said, I'm not sure you want to do that. You may be way betFr off expanding your village designation, because the benefits of a village designation far outweigh the benefits of an NDA. I don't know the answer to that question, but that's a legitimate question that I think we should look at as a town. And I don't know if it's this committee's chart or if it's the Planning Commission's charge or both, but I think we as a town looking towards the future would be well served to ask that question, research it, and answer it, because there are things like fundings for elevators that Mike Davidson might want to use in expanding up their daughFr college. I think one of the most understated things that we did in adopting zoning was including that daughFr college campus in our village. And I don't think we want to ignore that, right, so I do see overlap here. Anyway. I think you know, the money getting that, getting those numbers back here, looking at that designation as the way to go, and potentially attracting funding. Here are things I would like to see this committee do. Okay,

Karl Bissex 1:29:22

I wrote down a few things that you mentioned, cost has always been a been one, getting hard numbers is really critical, especially if there's ever going to be any kind of voting by the

community for bonding. Representation of the community is really critical of various points of view. Reporting to the to this can to the board. You know, how is that going to be done? Reporting to the community needs to happen with agendas and minutes and so forth. The fundraising is going to happen regardless. And what was the other thing, last thing you mentioned, I guess, but, but those are the, some of the key items you mentioned. And I think those are exactly what we're looking to do. So the question is, how do we form this? This committee and and the numbers like you say is we can go back and forth on that. We could compromise at 13, if people aren't superstitious, but I do agree that if it's too big, it's going to be unwieldy and probably not as effective.

Councilor, coaches, about the number. You have a thought on the on the number of folks?

Michael Birnbaum 1:30:51

Yeah, go ahead.

Thank you. This is EasFrn O'Hara um,

whatever the number is, where there's 11 the 15 or 21 Um, I'd like to ask the board to include one or two additional seats for a committee member, members, or a and, or a subcommittee tasked with listening with what, especially to voices that don't feel heard, voices that are critical of this project, with the idea of listening with our hearts to these voices, incorporating their ideas and making this project even betFr, and something that more of us okay, are happy

Karl Bissex 1:31:49

together. I think that can be an inFrnal decision by the committee once it's established, and it sounds like a great idea. Thank you.

Dan Fingas 1:32:01

I will just say we already have, and I know there's some folks who reached out to me and said, When do I have to apply by? And I don't think we've set that yet, but we wanted to hear this discussion before they apply. But we already have 24 or 25 applicants. So whatever size committee we choose, we're not going to be selecting everyone who applies. Yeah, so I think, you know, we should just realize that, and realize that we have to try to a representation of voices without knowing that we're going to bring all the voices in. I was trying to find from these two proposals, the suggestions of who would be on it, I think proposal to just ask for diverse voices.

Karl Bissex 1:32:38

Yeah, there's a seem to be a fair amount of overlap, and the two

supporFrS Select

Dan Fingas 1:32:43

Board, yeah, avoid just period. So I very roughly, and this is a starting point, so not led to it, but I was just trying to think if we, if we do 11, and we can change the number using some of the steering expansion proposal, and just thinking through everyone else, if we had two butFr slash neighbors, keeping it a little bit more open to prospective buyers, to folks from the leadership of the village expansion to folks that were specifically looking at technical experience, two folks who are just general. We have some folks that are just like, I've lived in town for a lot of years, and I've seen different versions of the town. And want to, you know, bring that historical perspective. That's 10, and then Marshfield up to the Do we have a Marshall person? I don't even know if we're allowed to appoint a Marshall person. I don't know if you've ever figured out if you can appoint a non town resident to a town committee. They could

Karl Bissex 1:33:36

be, they could be on one of the group. But also, there's an idea that a Select

Dan Fingas 1:33:39

Board member might be on the committee, which we haven't really talked about, but So, right? Something like that is what feels good to me. Where we're we're we're thinking about what's happening like directly in this right now, but also just pulling back and saying who has technical experience, who's just general residents, who aren't put in so that that kind of mix of voices and like a prospective buyer, might also be part of the village expansion there, but they're there to try to represent perfected buyers. So just to put it out there that it wouldn't only be potentially two village expansion folks, it would just be two explicitly village expansion folks, and then other folks, based on, you know, what perspectives they're bringing. And I will say from the 24 or 25 of these we have, we have folks that hit all of these categories in those applications already, and I'm sure we will get more folks to

Frances Rose 1:34:33

me too, in the realm of technical expertise, seems insufficient. So the amount of technical expertise required to move this project, a project of this size and scope, forward document and my noting hands in the back of the room. But I'm wondering we are,

Karl Bissex 1:34:52

yeah, is this Jake? Is this a?

Michael Birnbaum 1:34:56

Okay? Go ahead.

Karl Bissex 1:34:58

Come up, please.

Speaker 3 1:35:05

My name is Taylor, Jake McBride. I am on the steering committee, and I just, I understand, not wanting it to be too big, you know, because it would be unwield. But to be completely honest with you, there's, there's so many, 16 of us, I think. And it's been a ton of work on the individual

level for 16 people, and that's just been in this initial these initial phases, not once we're really getting into the nitty gritty. And so I think we would be remiss to reduce the number of people on the committee. I think that's what Fr rose just said. Makes absolute sense to me. I think two people with technical expertise on this, on this team is not enough, and I think it should be closer to between 15 or 20 people. And like Dan just said, you know, we have 24 applicants, so people who have expressed inFrest. And so there is, we have the numbers to support that. As a as a town, we're already understaffed and overburdened. And so my goal for this number would be to be able to hold the project fully and to try to not have that burden fall into town something else that happens an area. I mean this with all due respect, but certain people become the face of the project if they have the time, energy and resources to give to it. And so if you have 10 people, and three of them can show up regularly, that's that's the Facebook project, whether you like it or not, and that's something that we've experienced and has not worked in our favor, despite those people having the best intentions. Becoming a Facebook project is not what they wanted, but that's how it became. So I think as many people as we can, while making it manageable is the smart move here.

Karl Bissex 1:36:46

Thank you. Thanks for the input thoughts from the board. I want to keep things moving. We're going to have a really late night tonight, affr we get to do this.

Dan Fingas 1:37:00

We saw the items on the agenda. Yeah.

Karl Bissex 1:37:04

So I'm hearing, I'm hearing that this group of 15 has has gotten a huge amount of work done, and seems to have done it pretty well. I'm also hearing the 11 number as being seeming to be betFr. But if we as a as a Select Board, ask the committee, whatever size it is, to have a representation, representatives who come to us with reports, who can talk, tell us what the various committees are doing, it feels like we could have a little bigger committee and and have it function. But the committee has to organize itself once we establish it. But we do have to decide what we feel comfortable with, with the number. I'm just I'm just hearing more more because of the amount of work to do, the the diversity of it might be smarFr

PeFr Youngbaer 1:38:13

talking about the technical expertise issue. I'm not sure I was looking at all of the comments that people, of the people who would sign up. I'm not sure the technical expertise we're going to need is actually with among those committee members. It's going to be, I think, when we get into engineering and stuff, we're talking about people outside, I'm looking, I would be looking for people who could ask the critical questions of those experts, which might imply, you know, do you have planning commission background, do you have experience with act 250 background, do you have experience with public financing? Background, and that's, there's a shortage of that in the people who signed up on the list so far. That doesn't mean it's not there, but that would be if there are people who haven't signed up who would like to and have that expertise, I encourage you to do so. But I think when we get to that technical stuff, we're going to be

needing professionals. You know for sure, how much is the sewer, the waFr, roads, you know, the tree planting, etc, going to be. We can all have our opinions on that and what looks good on a drawing and stuff, but that's different than having an engineer, for example. Anyway, my comments, I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, if we need to fully define the mission tonight, or whether we take the input that we've gotten here and maybe a subcommittee of two of us prepare a proposal for the full Select Board and we come back to that at our next meeting.

Karl Bissex 1:39:59

Well, given the time and the fact that we're not going to resolve it tonight, I believe, I think that makes a lot of sense. What are the other board members feel we next, the next meeting, we have a plan. Who would like to be. We have a we can have two people. So we could have a committee of two to look at this. You're pretty tied up. You're in the highlight of your season. I

PeFr Youngbaer 1:40:28

could meet next Sunday, realistically, because I know you and I have a meeting Wednesday night.

Karl Bissex 1:40:36

We were Wednesday I have a Thursday night meeting. And, yeah, it's good thing I'm not making maple syrup this year. I never have anything to we can also, I think we can also exchange emails too. Yeah, okay, you know I, well, I would be, I would be on that group, that committee, and if anyone else is inFrested,

Frances Rose 1:40:55

we only have two, yeah, I would be on that table.

Karl Bissex 1:41:00

Okay, well, if you want to, if you want to, if you want to theaFr, that

Dan Fingas 1:41:05

would be great. Was PeFr saying he doesn't have time?

Karl Bissex 1:41:08

I was saying he doesn't have time, but he said he did. I

Dan Fingas 1:41:12

thought you said you didn't until next Sunday.

Karl Bissex 1:41:14

Until next Sunday, that's correct. Would you? Would you have time? You've been busy? I don't

Dan Fingas 1:41:18

know i It's legislative session. Yeah. Okay, a lot going on.

PeFr Youngbaer 1:41:23

I'd be willing to, you know, put some thoughts down and send them to the two of you. Sounds

Karl Bissex 1:41:28

good. That'd be great. Why don't, why don't you and I do it. That's if that's approved, if that's okay with everybody. So the next meeting, we're going to Rose and I are going to work on a format that we think is going to be workable, and try to come up with a number that everyone will support, and a mission primarily. And we would ask the community who's inFrested in being on this commission committee to think about what, how you could contribute to it. And if anyone's inFrested in leading that committee, you should work that out so we can save time. We don't want this to be a two month process. But this is this feedback for the board is very helpful, and we do appreciate it. We're going to have to close it there, because we are going to be going into executive session momentarily.

Dan Fingas 1:42:28

Not, not yet we got, we've got that, then that, Oh yeah, okay, then that, before we go into Executive Session,

Karl Bissex 1:42:35

right? Okay, it's going to be a late

Unknown Speaker 1:42:39

night. All right, what was

Karl Bissex 1:42:41

the discussion of the traffic study was that have, was there a traffic study done that can get Okay, really, yeah, but was there still work? There was work done on a traffic

Michael Billingsley 1:42:51

will be there. Presumably there will be one for the DRB,

Karl Bissex 1:42:56

okay, we're going to, we're going to return to the traffic study.

Frances Rose 1:43:01

Can I, can I speak to the the the energy of this meeting, it's a little funny, and I want to take responsibility for it in that I didn't schedule a special meeting of the Select Board entirely to discuss the committee formation. And because the committee formation discussion has lasted the duration of the entire average Select Board meeting, we now have an entire meeting to get to there afFr so if you have felt constricted in your ability to speak, I apologize there is a long agenda here, but lots of juicy articles of discussion And so thank you for offering us any Grace here as we try to facilitate this meeting to completion, while getting our attention on that which is calling for it. Thank you. Thank you.

Karl Bissex 1:44:00

Thank you all for coming. You're welcome to stay until we're Executive Session. We have a DRB appointment to make. Jesse Cooper is offered to be on the DRB. Do I have a motion

David Scheckman 1:44:13

for him joining?

Karl Bissex 1:44:20

Permission? Is there a second

Michael Birnbaum 1:44:23

be on the planning commission? Yes. Facility.

Dan Fingas 1:44:26

Sorry, I'm trying to get the notes, yeah, that they know you're doing that I thought you're doing at the end,

Karl Bissex 1:44:32

so I moved it to in front of the Executive

PeFr Youngbaer 1:44:36

Session. Is there a motion

Karl Bissex 1:44:38

made by Patty? Patty, motion, second, second.

PeFr Youngbaer 1:44:42

I just have a comment. Yes. There was a question raised as to whether someone could be on both the Planning Commission and the DRB, and the answer is yes,

Dan Fingas 1:44:54

okay, and most a lot of towns have people on both.

Karl Bissex 1:44:59

That's a good thank you for that. So we have a motion and a second all those in favor of appointing Jesse Cooper to the DRB, say, I, I?

PeFr Youngbaer 1:45:09

Does that make the DRV an even numbered board? Now

Karl Bissex 1:45:12

I do not know. It might. It might. I think there's three active, and there's now would be four. So anyone inFrested, step up. Okay, discuss.

I'm not sure what discuss the I wasn't

David Scheckman 1:45:36
involved in this one, the timeline.

Michael Birnbaum 1:45:39
Yeah,

Frances Rose 1:45:41
is anyone from the working group prepared here now tonight to discuss the timeline of the project. Behind, behind you. Aaron is Sandy raising.

Arion Timbourmery 1:45:56
I think we briefly

PeFr Youngbaer 1:45:57
timeline is extensively

Arion Timbourmery 1:46:01
dependent upon what the overall mandate is coming from the Select Board, because there just everything is turning on, that the number and all these other things, they don't resolve this issue. And I think substantially that everything hinges on that. Okay, unless you just make Sandy may have other things to add. Yeah, yeah.

Michael Birnbaum 1:46:21
Jake can't consider

Speaker 4 1:46:24
I made the first My name is Sandy Vinton, and I'm working as the architect on the expansion

Alicia Weiss 1:46:30
project.

Speaker 4 1:46:34
There are a number of elements to the overall project that are not specific to design. There are a lot of supporting aspects, and the one of them is traffic, and the other is all of the elements that go into the timeline for the project. So I have been really putting some effort in the last week of thinking and talking to various people about how the timeline would go for the project, and at a very high level, with major aspects to consider are the Select Board itself, the DRB process, how fast the engineer can design, whether the design is known, and wetlands negotiations, other state permits, and then how the construction bid might work, how the homeowners fit in, and getting to the finish line. Okay, so that's I when you are ready. I don't know That tonight is the night to get into details whatsoever, but we are working on that, and we have made significant progress on the budget. Right now, an estimator is checking numbers because we

really want to be accurate. Likewise, I have started to talk to contractors in general about sequence, and we've discovered a number of ways to make the construction more efficient, so that that affects the timeline. So I wanted to just report back that all of these various aspects, they think they connect, and we're working on them in the background.

Frances Rose 1:48:20

Thank you. Fantastic.

Karl Bissex 1:48:22

Yeah, Jacob on this point, I assume, yeah, Taylor J McBride,

Michael Birnbaum 1:48:28

on the timeline front,

Speaker 3 1:48:31

I think FEMA buyouts are another big thing that needs to be considered, same reason that she met her earlier. But this isn't a hypothetical, like, this is something that is in the process of happening and, like, really accelerating now. I'm not trying to talk about things that I shouldn't be talking about, but that is happening, and I believe there is a time limit on how long people have to accept their offers. I believe it's a year. And so if we you know, I'm all for being thoughtful, and sometimes that means moving slowly, but part of being thoughtful right now means moving relatively quickly, because that's a lot of money that is coming into our town in many times, in anything form of FEMA buyouts, that will, that will, that will go the other time. So just that's another piece of timing that I'm considering that people are going to start receiving offers soon. Some of them may have already and are going to be making decisions not they have a year to

Michael Billingsley 1:49:31

accept, speaking, just a timeline.

Karl Bissex 1:49:33

Yeah, just a timeline. Yep, exactly.

Michael Billingsley 1:49:39

Follow quickly on that. I made a phone call yesFriday to a person who accepted a buy up in March here, and their timeline was that between the time that they were approved, which has just happened for 10 families here, timeline between when they were approved when they closed, was approximately five months, which involved the engineering study about how it would be demolished, and arranging the contracting for that, having the House raised, etc. So if you think the buyouts are being offered last week or this week, then we're talking sometime in August, the earliest payouts would occur, or people would actually have the money in hand. So that's fairly soon.

Karl Bissex 1:50:18

Thank you. Okay, I'm going to have to move it along. So does that answer the questions on the timeline that you have in

Dan Fingas 1:50:31

mind? Can I just want just Yeah, and Michael, maybe. So what happened? Because not everybody knows all the things that happen, and we get emails about a group of 10 folks that were affected by the 2024 flood got inflammation that they were accepted into the program for the buyouts. They have not gotten the appraisals. They have not gotten figures of what the buyout would be. But 10 houses, and my understanding is it's a number of those houses are the ones we thought were kind of on the margin about whether they would be accepted or not. A lot of the other ones are much more clear cases of bio. And so it makes us as a town feel confident that all the folks who went for buyout are probably going to get by out. We don't know that for sure, but based on this information, and they're doing them in groups of 10, so we may find out about 10 more tomorrow or next week. We don't know, but that's how they're doing it, just to get some

Karl Bissex 1:51:16

information that's good information, and also, the homeowners can decide if they're in the bio program to not take it up to the last minute if they aren't offered enough money, or if the costs are too high them, they don't have to take it. So that's important to

PeFr Youngbaer 1:51:37

know too PeFr question.

Michael actually has the bio coordinator for the 2023 the property is along Route two. Where are they?

Michael Billingsley 1:51:53

All? Three of the properties along Route two or schools three are approved. The homeowners are just poised to start getting appraisals. Now. They haven't gotten appraisals yet. They haven't gotten appraisals yet. I spoke to one I spoke to one of the homeowners. I met with them, actually three days. Any

Karl Bissex 1:52:14

other questions on the board? Okay? We'll move along. So we did. We did Jesse Cooper, and then Executive Session. What

am I missing? Talking about this

Dan Fingas 1:52:38

agenda?

Karl Bissex 1:52:39

Yeah, it's on the agenda, the discussion of the offer from unsecured \$150,000 loan from the Vermont Community Foundation. Can you address what that's about? And yeah, go ahead, Mike.

Michael Birnbaum 1:52:57

Thank you.

Arion Timbourmery 1:53:01

In preliminary conversations with Lawrence Miller, he runs the Vermont investment portfolio of the Vermont Community Foundation. He has expressed an inFrest, and his committee has expressed inFrest in moaning Vermont town Plainfield, \$150,000 to continue with engineering studies for the village expansion project in an unsecured fashion, meaning that we don't have to put down collaFral or other things like that in order to get that money, with the intention that the money would either be paid back with grants and or by proceeds from sales of the project of land with projects moving forward. So that this is just more of an informational at this time, they have not written a firm letFr, but it's to sort of ties into the question of timeline, because if the project is to move forward, there are some significant would need to go into a whole other phase of engineering. That is, we spend that \$150,000 on along with engineering and permit easement. So this is saying, this is the mechanism, at least, that our informal group would propose to keep the project going, along with additional grants. So that's, that's kind of an FYI. There is no action item on that at this time because there's no public

Karl Bissex 1:54:19

proposal. So what's this new committees forum that would be part of a what they would have

PeFr Youngbaer 1:54:24

to consider

Arion Timbourmery 1:54:25

Yeah, yes, whether yes to pursue that, but it would be in select, I

assume, a select Word, yes. Okay,

PeFr Youngbaer 1:54:37

thanks, Andy, just a couple of questions. Amy just referenced, you know the fact that there's nearing the ending of engineering numbers for budget purposes, like, if we're nearing the end, then what is this 150,000 for? And specifically, how is the 150,000 arrived at?

Arion Timbourmery 1:55:03

Those are both great questions. So what we're finishing the engineering, or even Sandy Craig is the wrong words here is that we're finishing the schematic phase of engineering, which

Michael Birnbaum 1:55:12

are sort of struck.

Arion Timbourmery 1:55:15

How would this look, generally, how would the specific concepts work? The next phase of engineering has to go with getting into the construction documents. So it's one thing to say a road is going to be here and it's this wide, and it's wide here, and there's a culvert there. It's another one to say, this is the actual specification for every material that's in here. Here's exactly how it goes. Here's how it gets played down. Those are the four construction engineering documents, water, sewer too, with water and sewer as well, so that. So that's that would be the next stage. So to go from schematic, which is more, which is pretty accurate, but it's still conceptual, to actually like, here's the set of drawings that you give to contractors that they bid and that that is a whole nother level of detail, and the 150,000 would be bid for. There would be a phase of engineering, an RFP for that. We would be the that would be bid. The estimation is the bad engineering of itself would come in somewhere on \$130,000 between additional aspects that would include additional wetland work, which we have to do some delineation to date. But we would need to have concurrence on some parts that have been delineated with state they stopped doing work in October. They were just going to be a little bit of money in there, probably for some legal because we haven't covered some legal fees with Brian Amy, who was on the call for a little bit. I'm not sure if he's still there, but and then there also would be some permitting fees. So for example, to even go through the wetland permitting process, we're looking at around \$5,000 fees to just even keep that going. So that is a rough approximation, great. So to

Karl Bissex 1:56:54

answer your question, okay, thank you. Thanks. I have an important additional quick thing to add. Just quick fact, yeah, go ahead.

Michael Billingsley 1:57:10

Back quickly to the question Michael here, back quickly to the question about the buyouts and the sequence to buy us and how many households are approved. The 10 households that have approved have a allocated amount of money between federal and state funds to put into the cost of buying out the properties demolishing the houses and doing all the legal work that's involved. I just thought it would be helpful for people to know in terms of the influx of funders that the first 10 households represents about 7007 Three.

Michael Birnbaum 1:58:22

AI summary. Oh, okay, yeah, it's just

Karl Bissex 1:58:25

all, yeah, thanks. Okay, time for me, yeah. I think we're moving on to the Executive Session. This is a closed session with invited guests only. Thank you all for coming and bringing your input. We will be working on that, won't we? We'll get them. Don't worry about chairs.

Dan Fingas 1:58:49

Thanks. And so far rose, other than Brian A Brian, you can just

Michael Birnbaum 1:58:55
move everyone else out of the

Alicia Weiss 1:58:58
meeting. Just do it individually. Probably some of them will probably leave themselves. Yes.