

MINUTES
Phillips Revitalization Steering Committee Meeting
May 26, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Margaret Cosenza, Nancy O'Toole, Dick Stovall, Dick & Pam Matthews (Absent: BJ Bangs, John Stinchfield)

Discussion about make-up of steering committee: BJ has said she can't attend our meetings; she was chair of the visioning committee, which completed its task and has disbanded. We should invite those members to become involved in other committees. Pam will bring list to next meeting. We can invite Matt Sharp to join as the 7th member of the Steering committee, since he is chair of the Train committee.

Committee Reports from the chairpersons:

Grants – Nancy's been working on the Downtown Revitalization Action Plan, an off-shoot of the Comprehensive Plan already approved at Town Meeting. Nancy took language from the Comp. Plan to formulate a vision of what we want for the future: something we need to apply for federal and state grants. Dick M. began an edit of Nancy's document, which we discussed and refined. Everyone will read and send comments to Nancy, who will finalize it, speak with Teri Ann Stevens about the next step, and publish it for input from the public.

It was discussed that any money concerning the town, whether to accept money or spend it, needs to be approved at a town meeting. (\$22,000. in sidewalk money has already been approved, which we can use as matching funds for sidewalk grants.) Letter of intent for the Main Street USA grant is due in June. Nancy will write and collaborate with Dick M.

Branding – Dick M. remarks that we've accomplished a lot during the past year. He would like to make up a special edition of the *Vitalizer* to be handed out at Town Meeting, detailing some of our accomplishments.

Events – Pam reports the 15th Alabama Re-enactment event on May 20-22 was hampered by pouring rain during the morning, but the event had potential. All of the presenters showed up and enjoyed the day sitting under tents out of the rain. When the rain stopped in the afternoon the soldiers drilled while the Narrow Gauge String Band played. This could have been a great success if the weather had been good. We did lose money, but donations from Margaret, Todd Olsen, and the Matthews made up the loss.

Discussion ensued about funding for activities. Pam wrote a letter to the town Budget Committee asking them to put a request on the warrant for \$1000. so we'll have money to work with; we'll try to replace expenditures by fundraising. As an ad hoc committee appointed by the selectmen, our budget should run through the town.

Margaret will check with the town's insurance agent about our coverage for events. Ideally, we will implement new ideas and then pass things along to other organizations to carry out.

Planning – Dick Stovall reported that the lights are up on the town flag and that the Farmers Market will begin this Saturday, May 28 (10-4 this week). We advised him that 10-2 would probably be long enough in future, and he agreed. The Market is now a project of the Franklin County EDGe.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 23 at 6:00 p.m. at Phillips Town Office

All meetings of the Revitalization Committees are open to anyone interested in attending. New members are always welcome. To get on our mailing list, please contact Pam or Dick Matthews at 639-2630.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Matthews