Mont Vernon Strategic Advisory Committee

Minutes of the October 18, 2022 Meeting

Following the last meeting Stephanie Vore Apple sent the following notice to the Department Chairmen:

"The Strategic Advisory Committee, commissioned by the selectman, have been tasked to review the Town of Mont Vernon’s Master Plan, last updated in 2018 and the Capital Improvement Plan last updated in 2007. We know it is a busy time of year and we want to include all relevant information before presenting to selectmen in early November. Our question to you is…

**Do you have any expenditures that you foresee in the next 10 to 15 years over $25,000?**

If **‘Yes’**, please reply to this email so that we can schedule a time to learn more.

If **‘No’**, please reply to this email “*Thanks for asking but nothing identified as of this time.*”

We are looking for feedback from all committees/departments by **Friday**, **October 14th**.

They were sent on 10/7 to the Chairman/Director of the following departments:

Fire, Building, Health, Police, Building Inspector, Highway and Library, *Cemetery, Conservation, Beautification, Heritage, Historic, Lamson Farm, Patriotic, Planning, Recreation, Supervisor of the Checklist, Trustee of Trust Funds and Zoning.*

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The October 18, 2022 meeting was called to order at 7pm by Pim Grondstra, Acting Chairman.

Also present were committee members: Tim Angulas, Chris Blunt, Andrew Stokinger,

Eileen Naber, Secretary and John Quinlan, Selectmen's Representative.

Absent were: Sean Yamamoto, Heather Allain, Stephanie Vore Apple, Paul Lavertu, Chairman

7:05 First order of business was to interview Rebecca Schwarz, Chairman of the Heritage Commission (HC). She stated that the primary concern of the HC is the preservation of the Mont Vernon (MV) Town Hall. They had a Historic Building Condition Assessment done by a certified preservation architect in 2022 and found that the building is not leaning but the sides are bowing out. However, the clock tower is leaning toward the street. The estimate for complete preservation & upgrade is: structural repair $500,000, life safety $214,000 and access $286,000 - TOTAL $1,000,000. To preserve the building these upgrades should be completed within 20 years. The Heritage Commission is recommending that the town put $50,000 in a Capital Reserve (CR) account in at least each of the next five years. At that time the HC will have the funds to apply for a 50% matching grant from either the State or the Feds.

Becci's complete report can be read on the Capital Improvement Questions Form (CIPQF).

7:30 Ben Crosby, Director of the MV Public Works Department, appeared for his interview.

Ben reported that most of his vehicle charges are covered through his operating budget. However, he does see the need for a purchase of a road grader in about 5 years and another truck 10 years out. He recommends establishing a CR with yearly additions to cover the foreseeable large purchases.

Ben also suggested a large road bond that would enable him to repair/upgrade all areas that need fixing. This would allow him to schedule work on all needed projects rather than just doing the most needy each year.

Ben's complete report can be read on the CIQF.

8:15 Our regular meeting then began. The October 4 minutes were approved.

PM then went over some of the concerns Jay Wilson, MV Fire Chief, presented during his interview on Monday. Besides a new fire truck, Jay listed many future equipment replacements such as the air compressor and turnout gear.

Jay's complete report can be read on the CIQF.

Scheduled interviews are: Mark Slavin, the MV Police Chief, on October 25 by SY and SVA.

Cindy Raspiller, MV Library Trustee, on October 27 at 5:30 by AS and EN.

EN asked if the Selectmen should be interviewed as they control all MV town building maintenance.

No definitive agreement. Discussion followed as to the needs of the town. The opinion of the group is that through growth and neglect MV has a lot of expensive projects in its future. Thinking outside the box: JQ suggested using the current library building as the police station. EN suggested preserving the town hall, move all offices into the McCollom building and building a new police station on the Center Town Parcel.

PG will send everyone the updated CIQF.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm. Next meeting November 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen E. Naber, Secretary