

## Danville Train Station Committee Minutes - DRAFT

*Meeting of June 8, 2021, 5:30-6:45pm*

Location: Danville Town Hall Meeting Room and via Zoom

*Attendees: Michael Hogue, Sally Fishburn, Rob Balivet, Kate Whitehead, Evan Oleson, Laural Ruggles, Ted Houle, Patty Conly, Ross Meaders, Alison Low, Lois Russo*

Meeting opened at 5:35pm by Michael Hogue, chair. The Danville Train Station Committee (DTSC) is a subcommittee of the PC. Michael took roll and submitted the agenda for approval. Agenda approved.

Minutes from the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed and accepted with a spelling change to one name.

### **Building/Land Team – Sally Fishburn co-chair**

Sally Fishburn reported that Rob Balivet has drawn up an AutoCAD floorplan for the station. Rob said they are still working on finalizing estimates for the restoration work. He has a plumber and is trying to set up an appraisal. Once they have reviewed the place together (he hopes by Friday), he can get an estimate on the restrooms and how to meet the ADA requirements. We also need to contact GMP and set up an electrical evaluation. Sally and Rob are also pursuing estimates from Tilson for fiberoptic, heating from Efficiency Vermont, and electrical from CFW. They have good estimates already for structural, windows, and doors.

Sally asked whether we needed formal drawings for structural work or needed an engineering review. It is possible that the VT Housing and Conservation Board grant for \$75,000 may require a formal engineering review. Alison Low asked when the pre-construction grants might be needed because there are a few grants available that will provide funds for structural drawings, permits, and other pre-construction work. She will forward these grant options to Kate Whitehead and Kitty Toll.

Kate mentioned that we will need to document the acreage of the wetlands involved in the project. So, we would need to know this before submitting an application. She will put together a list of the requirements so we can gather the pertinent information.

Michael would like to see if we can at least identify who will do the appraisals for each line item prior to the Select Board meeting.

### **Use Team – Kate Whitehead co-chair**

Kate reported that her team's preliminary thought for use is to partner with local organizations in town for such things as historic information displays by the Historic Society, a Chamber of Commerce informational kiosk, and event coordination with local groups.

Patty Conly noted that the Historical Society has a wealth of historical items and images to set up some interesting displays and would not require the entire space. She also said that she is in discussions to acquire the original ticket station desk. Patty will see about getting photos and dimensions for the desk so a decision can be made about whether to pursue it. She further reported that the Historical Society has a wonderful model of the original station. She is sure they would be able to acquire additional items.

Michael suggested that we should draw out where all the exhibits might be placed in the station and what time frames they might cover, so we can determine how much space is required and what else might be needed.

Patty will go down to the station and look and see what she and Ross can sketch out in time for the Select Board presentation. Michael suggested removing the V2V boards.

Kate introduced Evan Oleson from LINK, which is Build-A-Bike program for young adults and youth. Evan suggested that while the freight room is too small for a traditional retail bike shop, it might be feasible for a bike shop of the future, one for light repairs and such. Evan also joined the Northern Forest Center, which helps with outdoor activity planning so there may be opportunities for cooperation there as well.

Ted Houle reported that Ian Boswell, who has participated in the Tour de France and is an accomplished bike racer from Peacham, is very interested in the project and plans to meet Ted at the station on June 14<sup>th</sup> to review the plans and provide some insight on how we can involve the bike community better. Anyone who would like to meet them at the station is welcome. Kate suggested we try to get him involved in the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. Ted will ask.

Michael asked what we should plan for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, since it is likely that the recycle center won't be out of the station by August. Kate said we could do something smaller using only the station side. Michael liked the smaller idea but noted that we should focus on something new at the event that demonstrates the team has made progress since the last event held there.

Preliminary suggestions:

- Ross said that we know the precise time the first train came to the station, and maybe at that exact time someone reads the article about that first train arrival.
- Michael asked if we could find a commuter bus that we could use, fill with kids, give them balloons and ice cream, and have them come into the station at that exact time. (Could even do it as a hayride? Along with Ross's article reading idea...dressed up as a station master...and someone in the ticket window)
- Ross suggested even a 5K run or a bike race.
- Michael suggested kids all carrying a piece of a train and they walk in as a "train."

Michael asked everyone to feed ideas to Patty and Kate so they can plan this out.

Patty reported that the team will meet with the Chamber of Commerce about doing something on Danville Fair day and discussing our station plans with them. She noted that if we plan to do either of these things, we will want to get something in the North Star beforehand—which means getting this organized right away.

### **Funding Team – Kitty Toll co-chair**

Michael reported that Kitty Toll, who couldn't make it tonight, has had a number of conversations so far, including with Gus Seelig to help us with getting these grants done. She is also arranging a meeting with Ben Doyle (who replaced Paul Broom as head of the Preservation Trust of Vermont.)

### **Select Board Presentation, June 17<sup>th</sup> – Michael Hogue**

Michael suggested for the Select Board meeting we present three views of the station: as it was, as it is now, and as it could be. He showed an example of his thoughts. Ross will work to formalize this as presentation images mounted on a board that can be displayed at the meeting, so that the meeting can focus on the use and fundraising needs. Alison volunteered to help him print the images large scale. Rob has some additional drawings that are scalable he will make available on the cloud for Ross.

Michael also believes it is important to explain the reasoning for the Phase One and Phase Two split in the fundraising and restoration plans and get the Select Board's buy-in for the change. Restoration would not be to

original configuration, but more about adding back the station platform, the canopy all the way across, and added/restored apertures to increase light into the station. Ross noted that some options will require additional research so that it will pass state historical register and VTRANS approval. Michael will start some preliminary discussions with VTRANS to see what issues might become stumbling blocks.

Michael asked whether \$250,000 was still the working budget estimate for the restoration, with the fundraising goal at \$300,000. Rob and Sally agreed that it is. Michael asked Kate if she can put together a brief narrative of what the use would look like. Michael further noted that VTRANS approval goes right up to the clipboard, so we would need to know where a kiosk would be placed to get approval.

Michael asked for review and approval of the Select Board presentation draft document and requested team members carefully review it and send him changes as soon as possible. He would like to be able to submit it for the Board to review prior to the presentation. Kate suggested adding upcoming grant submissions. Michael agreed we ought to include basics of every reasonably possible grant in the next 12-24 months, but not to get into nitty gritty details.

Michael then outlined the priorities for this Select Board discussion and the goal:

1. That the SB give guidance as to how important future income is from the station's operations versus serve as a community asset funded by the Tow.
2. Approval of the Phase One and Phase Two approach
3. Commitment of Town monies.

Alison Low suggested that we need to ensure we have preliminary discussions with potential sources before they are brought to the Select Board, including grant provisions providing an easement for any future work. Alison suggested we have a meeting with Gus Seelig from Vermont Housing and Development Board prior to the Select Board presentation. She also thinks we need to have a conversation with Ben Doyle (PTV) as well. Michael agreed and will invite both to a zoom or in person meeting since they often work together.

Michael thinks it would be important to try to get the Select Board to meet in person and to have as many station project members as possible attend.

**New Business - None**

Michael thanked everyone for their efforts and adjourned the meeting at 6:42pm.

**Next scheduled meeting is Tuesday July 13, 2021. It will be hybrid – in person for those fully vaccinated and wearing masks, as well as available via Zoom.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Russo, Secretary