

Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Subcommittee meeting
Downstairs meeting room at Franklin City Hall
9/18/14
5pm

Members in attendance: Mayor Merrifield, Elizabeth Dragon, Dick Lewis, Todd Workman

Others in Attendance: Councilor Desrochers

Todd Workman explained that he had sent out an email expressing his feeling (after the last council meeting) that the need to withdraw the TAP application is a foregone conclusion. In order to have a competitive application in such a short amount of time a great deal of work would have needed to happen the very day after the council meeting. He stated that instead we need to focus on the larger Downtown project. Todd explained he would like to discuss his proposed MOU and the city's response. He would also like to discuss the code enforcement letter for the Buell block. Todd stated while he realizes the time has passed for us to be able to put together a competitive application for the TAP grant he feels that it is still worthy for consideration in the future.

Mayor Merrifield asked if there had been progress made on the necessary easements. Todd explained that he felt comfortable that the property owners would have come around. However, it was not necessary to have the easements done before submitting the grant.

Dick Lewis agreed to draft a letter to Lakes Region Planning commission withdrawing consideration from this round of TAP funding but leaving the door open for future applications.

Elizabeth Dragon reminded the group that the charge for this subcommittee was to discuss the TAP application and make a determination about submission. It seems everyone is in agreement.

Mayor Merrifield stated that he would like to hear Todd's thoughts on the proposed MOU and the city's response letter. The Mayor had previously received copies of both. The group discussed Todd's proposed Downtown Development Authority and other possible configurations of a development authority modeled after NH Communities. Todd indicated his proposed DDA followed a model used in Colorado Springs & a community in Tennessee. Elizabeth discussed the possibility of a subgroup through FBIDC because they are a nonprofit already in existence that is charged with economic development for the city. This group would be able to apply for grants necessary for development projects not only for the Downtown development ideas as proposed by Todd but other businesses as well. Todd thought this could also work. Elizabeth & Dick are planning to meet with Jim Aberg of FBIDC next week when he returns from vacation to discuss this idea further.

Todd indicated he is scheduled to present for Choose Franklin at their November meeting. He stated that he would love to be able to report agreement with the city on how we are moving forward. Everyone agreed and felt it was positive meeting.