

**Meeting Minutes for Hardwick Downtown Commission
Birdsong Beer & Wine, Hardwick
Monday, December 20, 2021, 8:45 a.m.**

Present: Shari Cornish, Gary Michaels, Sandy Scott, Katie Tandy, Tobin Porter, Emily Hershberger, Gary Holloway, Alison Lowe, David Upson, Gary Holloway, Bethany Dunbar (via Zoom), Sally Anstey

Item #1: Motion to approve minutes from last meeting by Gary, seconded by Tobin.

Item #2: Banners

- It has been decided that the Pride flag will not be included in the initial banner design, in hopes of hanging an actual Pride flag in the future and also giving the Equity Committee the opportunity to feature a message of inclusivity on a dedicated banner.
- Tobin moves to accept the banner design; Katie seconds.

Item #3: Grants

- We have received the Municipal Planning Grant and the AARP Winter Place-making grant
 - An electrician will be needed to wire the lamp posts for holiday lighting (to be paid for with the AARP funds)

Item #4: Designated Downtown borders

- Alison brought a large map for visual planning
- Reminder that the primary purpose of Downtown Designation is to make tax credits and grants available to businesses and organizations within and adjacent to the mapped area. Designated areas are exempt from Act 250.
- Discussion around the necessity of including the Granite Shed/Atkins Field area within the downtown.
- Gary Holloway notes that the historic center of the village and walkability should be taken into consideration when creating the boundaries. Being adjacent to the designated downtown area can also open up opportunities for funding, mainly in regards to connectivity/transportation
 - Side note: Bethany would like to know if the Better Places grant would be available to Atkins Field if the area is not included in the downtown map? Gary believes it will and will double check.
- Preparing for presentation of application - look for similar examples of already existing/approved designations. For example, Newport has a multi-part downtown that includes the causeway and landing.
- Boundaries can be amended later, but it is best to have it set as we want it from the beginning.

Next steps: We must submit a request for qualifications prior to hiring a consultant with the planning grant.

- Grant should be ready to go in January.
- Award acceptance to be signed today.
- Grant must be used within 18 months.

Next meeting scheduled for January 17, 2022, 9 a.m., at Birdsong. Will conduct a full review of next steps.

Minutes submitted by Sandy Scott, January 4, 2022.