

**MINUTES** of the Village of Montgomery Master Plan Committee meeting held in the Conference Room of the Village Hall, Clinton Street, on Thursday, December 18th, 2014 at 7:30 pm.

**ATTENDANCE:** Chrm. Conero, Mbr. Wallace, Mbr. Steed, Mbr. Freeman, Mbr. Daley, Mbr. Blake, Mbr. Romano, Alan Sorensen

**OPEN:** Chrm. Conero opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**A MOTION** was made by Mbr. Freeman and seconded by Mbr. Sneed to accept the minutes from September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014, and carried 7 Ayes 0 Nays.

Following the agenda, Mr. Sorensen discussed the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Grant Opportunities. He took the implementation tables from the 2008 Comprehensive Plan and went through the various recommendations and where he thought there would be grant opportunities, he merged. On page 114, #7-Hudson Valley Greenways Community Grant Programs, deadline is coming up Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, and in May. They are planting grants, so it's best to come up with a tree preservation and conservation plan. It is fundable and runs between \$5000-\$10,000, but can be 50/50 match. This is for inventory and assessment of what is already there, and a replacement plan for trees. They are straight-forward. The DEC has an Urban Forestry Grant for replacing trees but Mr. Sorensen says that they are more complex. He can write the grants if the Village Board retains him to do so. The Chrm. states that as an advisory board, they can recommend that the VB preserve the trees in the Village. Mbr. Freeman said there has to be a way for the Village Board to be reminded of the dates to be able to apply for grants. The Chrm. said that was part of what was lacking when they submitted the Master Plan in 2008. There was no follow-up.

#8 was another area for funding, to encourage leadership in energy conservation and design in newly renovated buildings through NYSERDA. There would be funding for Village buildings and also for residents. Through the CFA process, the Village might be able to apply-for various lighting districts-to converting to LED fixtures over a period of time. This would be beneficial in the long term in terms of return on investment. The CFA process is announced in April with the applications being due in June. Now is the time to think about potential applications. Notices do go out to notify municipalities of the upcoming grants. Mr. Sorensen explained the grant process.

#26-Hudson River Valley Greenway Community grant depends on priorities; tree preservation plan or pedestrian circulation master plan (planning & preliminary engineering). Cost estimates are good to have on hand. He discusses how he assisted Walden with their rail trail. Identify the project you want and then find the grant to fund it. Some grants will match 50/50. Mbr. Freeman feels that the Committee must decide what is important in the Master Plan so they can properly advise the Village Board in prioritizing what grants to apply for. Records Management Improvement would be in relation to the Village Museum/records. Those grants are announced in January and come out every February and March. This would also encompass software and archiving.

#42-Complete Historic Resources Inventory for the Village of Montgomery. Mbr. Freeman feels strongly about this as there needs to be an inventory of the historic buildings/homes in the Village. Mbr. Freeman says there are buildings that are not in the historic district that can be defined as historic buildings based on when they were built, how much have they been changed over the years and if they have a historic significance. There are buildings that are within the historic district that are not historic buildings. A building built in 1980 in the historic district may not be historic but it still falls in the line of what's in the historic district. There are still things

that they can and can't do. Certain architects from early days, their buildings are historic. There are three historic districts in this Village and there are areas outside of them that are historic, including line of site. A complete list would help to protect these buildings, along with limiting what can be done to them.

#56-NY Main Street-when these grants become available, apply for them, advised Mr Sorensen.

\*\*The tape was flipped over and the beginning of this discussion was missed, although they were discussing a grant for Cultural. Mr. Sorensen mentioned a Downtown Anchor category that can be used.

#59-There is no longer an Empire Zone.

Expand the need for walkable communities/complete streets. This will better tie into the funding opportunities that are available. Not all committee members promote sidewalk eating. In the event of an emergency, it can be a hazard. There must be 5ft unobstructed leeway. There is further discussion of the sidewalks in the Village that can accommodate it. Mbr. Blake mentioned closing streets down, during scheduled times throughout the year, for businesses to promote outdoor eating, selling things. Mbr. Freeman said that it was brought up to the Mayor but it's difficult due to the residential people living in those areas.

Regarding the Alden Link property, the committee does not believe in changing the zoning. They feel that with the PDD process, there are many things that can be done with the property. Mbr. Blake said that the Links were asked to present what they wanted to do, and they haven't. They seem to want the Committee to make suggestions as to what they could do. Mbr. Romano feels that another environmental review should be done. It is decided that Mr. Sorensen will go back and look at the zoning and special permit conditions on the property, as most uses will require a special permit. Inaudible...too many people talking at once. Chrm. Conero suggested adding some of the newer permitted uses into special exception permits, such as a solar farm, storage facility or showroom distribution; to have something in the zoning for future use.

The Chrm. would like to allow revisions to the Comprehensive Plan to include Land Use Policies for Renewable Energy. He has information that was given out to the committee from a meeting that he attended, from NYSERDA. NYSERDA has over \$900 million dollars that the state puts toward renewable energy. Our Village does not have any zoning for solar, or any control over where it can be installed. NYSERDA has recommendations for what to put in the zoning. It also encourages the Village to put it on their own buildings (Village Buildings, such as the Senior Center, DPW, Village Hall). Inaudible...too many people speaking at once. In the Historic District, it would interfere with lot lines and the Historic look of the Village, if they are placed on the ground. In changing the zoning, it should include cell towers and wind mills.

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 15th, 2015 at 7:30 pm.

**RE: ADJOURNMENT**

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting by Mbr. Romano and seconded by Mbr. Freeman at 9:05 pm.

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Tina Murphy  
Deputy Village Clerk