

Planning Committee Meeting Notes June 3, 2014

Only 2 of the 4 Committee members (Ian Boni and myself) were present, therefore we did not have a quorum

1. Short Environmental Assessment Form for Water System Improvement Project
 - a. Jim Sprague submitted an application to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to install 2550 linear feet of piping for water distribution system improvements in three separate locations within our City. The DEC is requiring the city to complete a Short Environmental Site Assessment before approving our application.
 - b. The scope of the project consists of replacing existing water main piping and intake valves in our current water distribution network. There are no changes to customers. The project is included in the 2014 budget.
 - c. We will be reviewing the Assessment (SEQR) with all of council
2. Strategic Plan
 - a. After five months of review and meetings, we have a final version of the 2014- 2015 Strategic Plan. The whole council has contributed to the plan and selected 16 goals to will focus on. The final plan will be posted online on our website next week!
 - b. Thank you to everyone for their ideas and help in crafting our plan!
3. Speaking of Strategic Plan... the next 2 items we discussed are priority goals on our plan
4. Development of vacant properties. The objective of this goal is to monitor vacant commercial properties and make sure the city is doing all we can to help redevelop them.
 - a. Alison Grems gave us an update on several empty properties around the city:
 - b. Labelon building: Is still owned by Greg Stahl and DHD Ventures is still working towards developing the property. The Environmental work still continues on this Brownfield site. The Asbestos in the building needs to be removed before any cleanup can proceed
 - c. On a good note... The old car wash property on Parrish St. has been purchased by locals Lisa and Joe Kurz. They are currently remodeling on the existing building and hope to open "Cheshire Farms Creamery" soon!
 - d. Vacant Kinney Drugs building on South Main will be undergoing some remodeling by the owner and hope to open health related offices in the near future.
 - e. The Meridian building on North St that has been vacant for a long time. We now have a group interested in purchasing the property and will be writing a contract soon. This property is now owned by the city due to failure to pay taxes for many years. We look forward to seeing this property redeveloped. *(Correction inserted by City Clerk: The City of Canandaigua does not own this property. It currently is in bankruptcy which has prevented the City from collecting the back taxes.)*
5. Downtown Redevelopment and Rehabilitation. The objective of this goal is to encourage downtown property owners to improve their buildings. We are looking at some of the many ways to do this including code enforcement, working with property owners to get their buildings up to code and education, enlightening owners about the grant opportunities when they improve their properties.

- a. Some of the buildings where code enforcement has made an impact are
 - i. Tris building on south Main St. and the Outhouse building on Ontario St – have both been sited for multiple code violations after many years and are in litigation. We are hopeful the buildings can be sold or renovated so they are in use again.
 - ii. Another example of the positive effects of code enforcement is the Bemis Block. We have seen several positive changes in the exterior of the building and hope to see more structural improvement.
 - iii. We are very lucky to have so many of our original downtown buildings and take pride in our beautiful downtown. With care we hope the buildings we be in use for many years to come.
6. Next meeting: Tuesday August 5th at the Hurley building. The July council meeting has been moved to Tuesday July 1. The agenda is not finalized yet.