

Town of Geddes
RFP Sub-Committee Minutes
May 15, 2017

Members Present

Daniel Krawczyk – Chairman
Tim Toomey – Vice Chairman
Bill Morse – Town Engineer
Pasqualina Testa – Secretary
Derek Baichi

Tracey Baum-Wicks
Khris Dodson
Chris Maroney
Andrew Obernesser
Josephine Thomas

Meeting commenced at 7:04 pm

Dan Krawczyk:

- Info packets were distributed to the group (sent from Kristin Hychka)
- Adoption of May 8, 2017 minutes
- Introduction of 2 new committee members:
Derek Biachi and Khris Dodson

Derek Biachi:

- On village of Solvay board
- Running for Solvay mayor in this upcoming election
- Interested in the idea of shared services, new growth and development for Solvay
- His participation in this committee is NOT on behalf of Solvay board, he is acting as a village resident

Khris Dodson:

- Works for EFC – Environmental Finance Center and is available to answer questions pertaining to village/town relationships
- NYSERTA in Allegheny County (NY) has a comprehensive planning school for 17 nights
- Issues between the town and village working together are not new
(Ex – Alfred & Wellsville have no shared gov't. but DO share a comprehensive plan)
- A comprehensive plan helps put a town in a good position for state funding
- NYSERTA & DEC (Climate Smart Communities Program) offer grant funding

Andrew Obernesser:

- Grants have advantages & disadvantages
- May come with strings attached (ex-need a recorder which costs admin \$)
- Grant could be 50/50.

Chris Maroney:

Can the county or state supersede town desires? (ex- sidewalks)

Khris Dodson:

-State agencies are subject to smart growth

Tracey Baum-Wicks:

- Distributed information packets on pollution
- Excessive traffic causes pollution and is harmful to residents 500-600 feet from roadway
- There is a need for natural buffers to protect neighbors

Khris Dodson:

- Syracuse Metro Transportation Council (SMTTC) would have info on transportation trends
- EFC works with varied communities
- EFC can help with RFP for Geddes
- EFC may not be the right company for Geddes but they can provide info for a consultant
- EFC can assist with public surveys and public hearings
- Suggestions:
 1. Complete RFP (Rank 10 goals)
 2. Find a consultant

Timothy Toomey:

-Inquired about the number of public questionnaires EFC has performed

Khris Dodson:

- EFC has completed 5 – 6
- Getting the right questions out to the public IS IMPORTANT

Tracey Baum-Wicks:

Inquired how our group should engage

Khris Dodson:

- If the town decides to pay a consultant, a citizens group will need to be formed
- It is suggested to keep the group the same size as what we have now
- Examine other RFPs as a framework for a focus (ex-New Castle and Woodstock)

Andrew Obernesser:

- Scope of work in an RFP is important
- There is a difference between clear and precise
- There is an RFP difference between the town of Woodstock vs. the town of NewCastle (Ex. - Woodstock – RFP is too general & needs more detail)
- We need to decide ‘What we want’ or scope of services
 - Support studies, graphics, renderings, land use plan, etc.

Derek Biachi:

Our town/village has 3 issues that need to be tightened up to save money and make the town GREAT:

- Westvale (West Genesee St corridor)
- Solvay (taxes)
- Lakeland (feels left out)

Chris Maroney

- Agrees with Derek Biachi that we must bring the community together
- Suggested adding a member of the NYS fair to participate in our group

Tracey Baum-Wicks (specifically addressing Khris Dodson):

How do your concerns parallel with ours?

Khris Dodson:

- Business and residents connect
- Long process
- Decades to unfold
- Fiscal responsibility
- How you phrase it
- Explore opportunities
- Research needs to be done first
- Can't complain about traffic and want business

Derek Biachi:

- We pay too many taxes and need more business
- Solvay pays 3 sets of taxes

Timothy Toomey:

We need to compare taxes in Camillus vs. taxes in Geddes and also compare crime rates

Bill Morse:

Solvay School District needs to improve

Khris Dodson:

Invite school board members (Solvay & Westhill) to participate in our group

Andrew Obernesser:

- We need to remain focused by knowing what a town can/cannot do
- A town has jurisdiction over
 - Land use, transportation, community services and infrastructure

Dan Krawczyk:

Each member may state 2 issues to be addressed

Josephine Thomas:

1. Designate areas of growth
2. Designate areas of preservation

Bill Morse:

1. Examine changes in demographics
2. What services need to be provided and how can they be obtained?

Andrew Obernesser:

1. Transportation Safety
2. Community dialogue for change (What change means?)

Tim Toomey:

1. Why are we doing this and what do we hope to achieve?
2. What problems does Geddes currently face and how & what might they be 5 years from now?

Pasqualina Testa:

1. How do we lower taxes and raise growth within the town?
2. How can we encourage spending within our own town as opposed to losing it to neighboring areas (City of Syracuse/Camillus)?

Tracey Baum-Wicks:

1. What are some ways to provide relief from pollution in high traffic corridors to the residents that live within 500 feet of them?
2. How are other communities using mixed use buildings in areas to meet the lifestyle needs of their residents?

Chris Maroney:

1. How can we bring the community together? (ex-biking from Terry Rd. to Lakeland)
2. Bring in business to unite all three areas (Lakeland, Solvay and Westvale)

Derek Biachi:

1. How do we bring new young professionals to the village of Solvay?
2. Area of interest – brownfields

Dan Krawczyk:

1. Park improvements
2. Athletic parks

Andrew Obernesser:

-In order to write an RFP, we need to know if Solvay would like to be included in the comprehensive plan.

-Mayor of Solvay may want to be involved

-We need an outline and should categorize our ideas

Dan Krawczyk:

Send all ideas in bulleted form to Dan Krawczyk by email by Thursday 5/18/17

Public Comment

Mrs. Palerino