

ARPA\$ Community Engagement Meeting #6 - 9/14/22 at the Senior Center

Present:

Merry Shernock (facilitator)

John Stevens

Lydia Petty

Carolyn Stevens (note taker)

Leslie Striebe

Francis Bell

Chris Bell

Phyllis Clough

Maryann Beaupre

Marilyn Peace

Meeting convened at 6:30 pm, after Merry Shernock had distributed paper copies of the survey questions.

Brief explanation of the process and purpose by John Stevens and Lydia Petty, followed by introduction of each participant.

Suggestions proposed:

Fran –

- a. aside from providing property tax relief (not allowed under the guidelines) uses of the funds should benefit most people in town.
- b. Replace proposed dog park with general-purpose park, peaceful and quiet
- c. What was original plan when the parcel of land was acquired – apartments, police, fire, ???what other uses?

Leslie –

- a. Improve entrance to the village center – make more visually inviting, as proposed in previous plan (1988?)
- b. Put a small hotel where China Star was; other lodging for visitors to our community
- c. Develop interesting things to draw people to Northfield – perhaps a museum to showcase Northfield's rail history, using part of the old depot building
- d. Use train station as a train station

Maryann – agrees that use should be a benefit to the widest segment of community.

- a. Improve the look of the Common, extend the train station to facilitate arrivals being able to walk around to the Common, extend the station building to allow better use
- b. Enhance area behind the police station, fire department, since GM apartment residents use that route to walk to the Common – work with Railroad to make a safer crossing on that trail
- c. Cites the restoration of the train station at Brighton as an example of what could be done

Phyllis – believes Northfield is in a downward trend, with few stores and jobs; becoming a 'bedroom community'

- a. Enhance the area behind the fire station to make it more attractive

Marilyn – Improve Common area, especially the fountain

- a. Make a safer walk from Green Mountain Apts to the Common – believes most senior residents use the back route to Fernandez because it is shorter than coming out to Wall Street to use the designated walkway.