

# Danville Village to Village

Steering Committee Meeting  
Monday, August 19, 2019  
Town Offices

## Attendees

Kate Whitehead, Danville Planning Commission  
Richard Amore, ACCD  
Matthew Langham, VTrans  
Jackie Cassino, VTrans  
Sara Stinson, local property owner  
Keith Gadapee, Road Foreman  
Chris Sargent, D&K  
Julia Ursaki, D&K

## Agenda

- Review project timeline
- Overview of Draft Activity Center Master Plan
- Set public comment period
- Final Meeting Schedule

## Outstanding Questions

### West Danville

- Does the Steering Committee Support the proposed approach to reconfiguring the Park & Ride?
  - D&K outlined options for moving forward with P&R reconfiguration: agree on design, work with NVDA to submit to VTrans (both Montpelier and the District) for approval. The next time a maintenance project comes through, it is likely that VTrans will construct new design, based on safety and access mgmt needs in the area.
  - The Town will have to enter a maintenance agreement with the State for things like landscaping or the gateway improvements at the bus stop.
  - Note that there is a paving project scheduled for 2021 (Plainfield-Danville) but it likely does not go all the way to West Danville P&R. Otherwise, timeline for maintenance at P&R is unknown.
- Which approach to the area in front of Three Ponds is preferred?
  - There is support for a demonstration project in the near term.
  - Leasing the land from VTrans to make construction changes has some ‘baggage’: the State in the past has leased land for \$1 (or under market value) to businesses and has been criticized. They would be much more likely to lease it to the TOWN for a price under market value (as low as \$1).

- This area would be eligible for a municipal planning grant or AARP placemaking grant but chances of getting either grant would be much more likely if the Town were leasing the land (not a business/property owner).
- Need to clearly identify the benefits to the Town of being the lessee to justify this to the SB and voters.
- Also note that underground storage tanks were removed from parking area in front of 3 Ponds building and soil contamination was assessed. Sara will send environmental assessment to D&K for review.

### Economic Development

- Is the primary goal for the economic component of this project to support existing businesses or to encourage business growth?
  - Richard: in a rural setting, supporting local business and keeping them alive *is* economic development
  - Keith: there is anti-growth sentiment (and votes) in Danville
  - Noted that Danville can show success and show value with events at the Train Station/on the Green. Examples: pop-ups for businesses at the train station (local food producers, arts & crafts, etc), concerts at the train station

### Discussion of the Plan

- D&K to add options for funding sources
- Need to give “Top 5 Priorities” or actions for Danville to take from the plan. Based on meeting attendees, priorities include:
  - Train station redevelopment & activity programming (there is already a group in Danville supporting this with some momentum. Options for redevelopment funding include a MPG for a feasibility study--deadline is early Oct--and then NBRC grant for implementation). Programming at the train station (including events like music, business pop-ups) is “low hanging fruit” that is low cost and high impact. Need to look into options for relocating Town recycling.
  - Demonstration project in West Danville
  - Wayfinding signs along the LVRT (determine VAST buy-in—signs for fuel, etc is also very useful for snowmobilers)
  - Submit West Danville Park & Ride design to VTrans for review

### Next Steps

- Public Comment Period
  - Tweak draft and make available online for public review.
  - Push message about public review period out through email list, social media and FPF.
  - Close public comment period on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- Public Presentations (Local business owners, Historical Society, etc should be notified and invited to these meetings.)
  - Joint Steering Committee/Planning Commission Meeting, September 26<sup>th</sup> @ 6PM.
  - Selectboard Meeting, October 5<sup>th</sup>
- Submit Final Plan