

COMMITTEE REPORT – Town of Rockport

DATE:11/14/22
Force

START TIME: 4:30PM

COMMITTEE: VPI Task

CHAIR: Doug Cole

LOCATION: Richardson Room

IN ATTENDANCE: Doug Cole, Denise Kennedy Munger, Orion Thomas, Clare Tully, Sally Cook, Mary Jane Young , Kimberlee Graffam. ABSENT: Michelle Gallant, Jon Duke, Mike Young.

ITEMS DISCUSSED: Review of MaineDOT Planning Partnership Initiative (PPI) template and how to incorporate letter of intent into it, hiring of consultant, traffic shortcut considerations.

After Chair Cole called the meeting to order, Orion Thomas shared the MaineDOT PPI template with the members. Extensive discussion ensued as the members did a quick review of the entire document and then returned to editing it line by line, deleting boilerplate which seemed irrelevant to the proposed traffic study, and noting places where letter of intent content could be integrated.

Chair Cole noted that some of the information requested in the PPI template would need to be obtained from a consultant. Other members noted “the chicken and the egg” issue of not being able to hire a consultant until the PPI application is accepted and matching funds are made available. Sally Cook remarked that we need to find a “Terry DeWan” like consultant for this project when funds are made available. The members agreed that it would be best to reach out to Steve Cole to request a meeting between him and the Task Force so he could provide more clarification and direction about how to successfully complete the PPI template.

Chair Cole mentioned the MaineDOT study about the impact of the stop sign at the intersection of Union and Route 1. Orion Thomas indicated that he had tried several times to get more information from Camden but to no avail. Clare Tully suggested reaching out directly to MaineDOT for the information.

Noting that the template proposed looking 20 to 30 years out, Sally Cook suggested that we should look for alternative shortcuts across more open land that is near future developments. She mentioned that one of the roads that cut off Main Street could potentially be widened for this purpose. Kimberlee Graffam noted that Meadow, Park and Cross Street are often used as shortcuts. After Orion Thomas confirmed that economic development is an important criterion for obtaining federal funds, Clare Tully noted that

references to future economic development on West Street and Route 90 could be helpful, given that Rockport's small and largely residential downtown has little commercial space left to develop.

Orion Thomas noted that he was compiling a list of consultants in anticipation of obtaining funding. He noted that the next step would be to schedule a meeting with Steve Cole. Chair Cole adjourned the meeting at 5:20PM.