

## AMSTERDAM-CHURCHILL PLANNING GROUP

Minutes of March 8, 2011 Meeting

ATTENDEES: Walt Sales, Warren Vaughan, Jim Potts, Brendon Beyers, Gail Weidenaar, Brent Sinnema

EXCUSED: Cindy Elliot

BUSINESS:

- Introductions
- Quorum was met? Yes
- Excused absences: Tim Van Dam & Leroy Logterman
- Minutes approved for 2/22/2011 meeting
- COMMITTEE REPORTS:
  - **Jim Potts / Sewer & Water:** The status of TSEP funding is still an unknown at this time—no good or bad news, just that the funding is still up in the air. The sewer project is estimated to cost in the range of 3.5 million, and serve 300 homes (roughly 200 in Churchill and 100 in Amsterdam). It looks like a \$100,000 grant from the DNRC will be available, but is not yet confirmed. Depending on how things ultimately play out, each household in the district could be looking at a cost of \$11,000, with payments spread out over anywhere from 20-40 years. Jim will also be meeting with the Sewer District soon.
  - **Gail Weidenaar:** Provided a completed copy of IRS form 1023 checklist.
  - **Warren Vaughan / Web Site:** Warren discussed the status of the website. He has been in contact with Reese but has received no response. Reese is in charge of setting up the site, providing links, community calendar, etc., and generally maintaining it. Gail also is checking with her son-in-law in Iowa to see if he might be able to help. He was just recently contacted by her and asked to possibly donate some time to establishing the site and enhancing it. Warren will forward an e-mail to Gail that delineates how he'd like individual items on the site to "pop out" at a viewer, and make the site more prominent on search engines. Ann Snowberger's name was also brought up as a potential resource. Ann works at the Manhattan Christian School and is well-versed in HTML authoring. She wouldn't necessarily host the site, but might know best how to utilize it, what to put on it, etc.

- **Warren Vaughan:** Warren briefly discussed the outcome earlier in the day with the Gallatin Gateway situation and it's boundaries. Basically, the boundaries of their district were reduced.
  - **Warren Vaughan / Sidewalk Project:** Allen Armstrong is going out Wednesday and Thursday of this week to meet with MCS and the Amsterdam School to talk to the classes about starting the sidewalk mapping projects. Taylor Lonsdale will also be contacting MCS towards the end of March about the "Walk to School" day activities. Leah will also be assisting. Carly Flandero (newspaper reporter) will also be contacted to provide coverage on the event and hopefully generate more excitement and general awareness of it. Rangel Construction has contacted Warren and offered to provide all labor for the sidewalk project, as long as he can post signs promoting his business during the duration of construction. This, of course, would make a huge difference in the overall project cost, and will need to be factored in to the final accounting.
  - **Warren Vaughan / Grants:** The group discussed several options for grant applications. Warren provided a nearly completed form from Zoot Enterprises, and a general discussion ensued as to minor revisions to it. \$2,000 was an amount that was zeroed in to ask for. The group suggested several revisions, including the "Summary of Project", but overall, the document looked good. Also, possible grants from Northwestern Energy, as well as the Yellowstone Club Foundation, will be pursued. The Turner Initiative is also a possibility, but they offer grants by invitation only. A short discussion followed as to how we might go about that (i.e. being invited).
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○ OTHER BUSINESS:

- **Ecton Property:** Since Cindy Elliot was not at the meeting, any discussion of her property was tabled. It's expected that a more involved discussion of the Ecton property will occur at the next scheduled meeting on March 22.
- A quick review of general zoning issues was discussed, including challenges with the Jack Vander Molen property. Also, the issue of getting information back out to the general community and the obstacles associated with that was briefly discussed. "Agricultural" versus "Core" zoning was brought up, and it's hoped that (best-case scenario) the zoning work could be completed by this spring. The possibility was also brought up of adding a "potential public hearing date" to the agenda for every meeting. Target dates for a public hearing (again, a best-case scenario) on zoning would be late-May to early June. The sewer district has to have, by law, a public meeting in a couple of weeks, and it's possible we could "piggy back" zoning information onto that meeting. We also talked about contacting 10-12 rural residents in order to

“bring them to the table” to delve further into agricultural zoning issues and gain their feedback. The next meeting of the planning group will focus more on zoning, which has been put on the back burner lately as the sidewalk project has taken precedence. The major issues right now are outreach to the community and distribution of information, and how might that best happen.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011, at 7:00 P.M., at the Amsterdam-Churchill Bank’s Community Room.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**