

Village of Empire
New Office
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 11, 2024
Remote

Present: Chris Webb, Sue Palmer, Maggie Bacon with Renovare staff and local planning consultant.

Reviewed Renovare Assessment of Properties. Committee reviewed with Renovare team the assessment of properties. Copies of those documents can be found in the committee meeting “folder” online. Renovare assisted the committee in talking through issues on properties to take off the list:

- a. **Vacant Lots.** Too many unknowns about the one lot.
- b. **Shalda Park.** Great recreational area. Off the beaten path.
- c. **Current Village Office and Garage Complex.** Concerns about space needed for DPW equipment, off the beaten path, has no historical significance, would not have the added benefit revitalization.

Agreed to focusing in on two specific properties: Old School House and Hardware Property. Renovare will continue their vetting process – site reviews. Brad Lonberger, planning consultant out of TC will reach out the county for GIS mapping info for specific parcels and some general SHP data for streets and soils in the Village of Empire as a part of creating the digital graphics they will produce related to site suitability, existing conditions and feasibility analysis.

- One additional “area” remains on the list. Three properties in that area will be considered for various reasons:
 - Current Village Office/Garage. It is known that work needs to be done to those structures and the DPW is expected to remain.
 - State Saving Bank Building. Offers immediate income generating renters (Dentist, Bank). Changes to the façade make this viable.
 - Additional property nearby could be considered as an option in relation to affordability. Renovare will do some investigation.

Renovare mentioned that a developer had been in touch with them related to the Old Hardware property.

Assignments:

Provide Renovare with the Asset Map discussed at the December 2023 VC Meeting

Locate any paperwork on the Storm Hill wastewater system
Provide list of people for Renovare to interview in the coming months. Committee asked Maggie to provide them with the list to review being sent to Renovare.

PC and Asset Map Task Force. Committee discussed with Renovare adding Planning Commission and Asset Map Task Force members to the list of possible interviewees for Renovare. They agreed.

Site Visit. Renovare is likely to arrange additional site visit in February.

Submitted by,

Maggie Bacon