

Amsterdam/Churchill Community Planning Group
February 11, 2008

Attendees: Carol Weidenaar, Robin Swanson, Carl Vander Molen, Glen Flikkema, Mark Kimm, Reese Miller, Ada Montague, Warren Vaughan, Walt Sales, Brenda Darby, Keith Venema, and Erika Braaksma

Meeting Introduction & Business:

- 1) Please note the amendment to item number 6 on the February 4th minutes regarding Nathan Crane's role in helping with the aerial photos. Nathan is a graduate student in architecture and will be working with Warren and Kestrel Aerial to do some photo illustrations of the Amsterdam/Churchill area.
- 2) Warren passed around an agenda for the meeting and asked everyone to share any rumors they may have heard. It appeared that there is still a lack of understanding in the community as to what the Amsterdam/Churchill Community Planning Group (ACCPG) is doing. It was suggested there be a web page created by the ACCPG to post information such as meeting notices and minutes. It was suggested that someone ask Gene Bennett about the possibility of hosting the web page.
- 3) The election of a chair for the committee was postponed for one more month. It was felt that more people from the community should be made aware of the biweekly ACCPG meetings and encouraged to attend before a chair is elected.
- 4) Keith reported on information he gathered regarding opening an account at the bank for the ACCPG. Money is needed for future mailings announcing upcoming community meetings, etc. After discussing the benefits of creating a non-profit organization (such as the ability to apply for grant money), it was decided that becoming a non-profit was the wisest decision. It was also suggested that Charlie Pipal be asked to be the treasurer and 2nd signer on the account, as well as apply for a tax I.D. number. He is familiar with this process after setting up the Amsterdam/Churchill Rural Fire Department's non-profit account.

Because the next community meeting is quickly drawing near, it was suggested that Charlie and Keith open up a joint account for now, and then change it to a non-profit when all the details are worked out. Glen moved to open up a 501 basic checking account at Amsterdam/Churchill Bank under the name "Amsterdam/Churchill Community Planning Group." Robin seconded the motion. Motion passed (All 5's).

Handout Discussion:

- 5) Warren passed around a handout entitled, "Low Hanging Fruit." Included were a number of items from the second community meeting that the community agrees on. He thought would be a good place to start.
- 6) The first item in the handout dealt in part with requirements for sidewalks in new in-town development. Warren asked for support from the ACCPG regarding a letter the planning department would be sending to the county commissioners, recommending to require new subdivisions in higher density, core areas in Gallatin County to build either sidewalks or trails.

After lengthy discussion, Glen moved that the ACCPG would be in favor of sending a letter to the county to require new subdivisions to build either sidewalks or trails. Robin seconded. After more discussion, the motion was amended to say it would apply to subdivisions in high density, core areas. Motion failed. After further discussion it was pointed out that this recommendation would not be binding to the Amsterdam/Churchill planning area, the motion passed. (5 High – 2 Low).
- 7) The date of March 17th was proposed for the next community meeting. The meeting structure would be a two hour workshop intended to discuss parks and trails, focusing on the core Amsterdam/Churchill area. Carl said he could get a map of the Ecton subdivision plans for informational purposes.
- 8) Next, canals and ditches were discussed. The standards in the handout would apply to the whole Amsterdam/Churchill planning area, with the protection of farming of highest priority. Gail moved to accept the concept for standards in canals and ditches. Glen seconded. Motion passed. (All 5's)
- 9) Buffering new development adjacent to agricultural operations was discussed next. Brenda moved to accept the concept of requiring setbacks specific to various agriculture uses. Keith seconded. Motion passed. (All 5's)
- 10) Sidewalks on Churchill road were discussed next. This is going to be a community project and will require many volunteers. Grants may be available once a non-profit organization is formed. Reese moved to start a committee for planning sidewalks on Churchill Road. This will be brought up at the March 17th community meeting. Brenda seconded. Motion passed. (5 High – 3 Low)

Planning Draft Discussion:

- 11) Warren handed out a draft of the table of contents for the Amsterdam/Churchill planning area document. Its purpose is to show the community what is taking

shape and what the end product might look like. Among the questions/concerns were:

- where do TDR's fit?
- what are the realistic expectations of the transportation network in relation to MDT?
- possibly try to recategorize Churchill road as a main street instead of a state highway.
- try to work in growth projections for schools, including funding.

12) An aerial photo of Amsterdam/Churchill was passed out. Each attendee was asked to draw in necessary roads and bring the map to the next meeting.

Closing Business:

13) The next meeting will be March 3rd from 7-9pm at the Fire Hall.

14) Warren said he would try to email any handouts prior to the ACCPG meetings so everyone can have a chance to read them first.

15) Keith reminded everyone to bring money to the next meeting to open up the previously discussed account at the bank. There will be a bucket for donations.

16) Glen moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:15pm. Mark seconded. Motion passed. (All 5's)