



Tim Sharpe, center, of Great Village was recently recognized by the Municipality of the County of Colchester for 35 years service. Making the presentation at November's council meeting were Deputy Mayor Bill Masters, left, and Mayor Bob Taylor, far right. (Rees Photo)

Committee Formed to Find new purpose for St. James United Church

By Maurice Rees

Thirty four people attended a meeting to discuss the eventual usage of the St James United Church, Great Village now that the property is listed for sale. The meeting held on November 25th commenced at 7:00 p.m with Vernon McCully introduced John Patterson, the meeting chair.

John explained his connection with St. James and Great Village and explained how the meeting would proceed - group brainstorming sessions focusing on a list of predetermined questions, sharing and discussion of results of group sessions, and then an attempt to reach consensus on how to move forward.

Before breaking into groups John outlined some of the characteristics making Great Village special - proximity to a highway exit, a destination for antique buyers, home of Elizabeth Bishop, important agricultural area, located on a designated tourist route and possesses an inherent charm.

There was consensus the meeting was not about saving the church for the Congregation of St. James, but rather saving St. James for the community as an architectural and historical landmark and that the ultimate goal was that of long term sustainability of the building.

Some of the ideas from the brainstorming sessions on What Great Village needs included: restaurant, park, general store, walking trails, signage, daycare, hostels, museum, farmers' market, young families, public washrooms; more businesses - maybe craftsman, furniture repair, uphol-

stery to tie in with antique businesses and traffic control because the planned two lane bridge will make for faster moving traffic

Ideas on creating employment to keep people in the community included: daycare, senior care, co-operative or micro-enterprise, store/restaurant /cafe. Terry Francis advised that several studies had been completed in the last decade regard-

ing the feasibility of Great Village as a site for entrepreneurial business ventures and that these studies are available at the public library in Truro.

A committee of six individuals was formed to begin to investigate the soundness of the building and feasibility of these ideas - Margaret Congdon, Bruce Gray, Cameron Gunn, John Patterson, Maurice Rees, Charles Thompson.



THANKS, VOLUNTEERS!

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