

Village of Rhinebeck Comprehensive Plan Committee – April 21, 2022

Notes from meeting at Village Hall, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Approved 6/16/22

Core Committee Members Attending

Matt Johnston, Chair	Tim Decker	Elijah Bender	Shea Dean
Louis Turpin	Jeff Cotter	John Clarke	Deirdre Burns
Steve Rosenberg	Ernesto Martyneck	Eleanor Pupko	
Lydia Slaby, Village Board liaison			

Absent: Rachel Cavell (appointed by the BoT to replace Heather Cassano), Lisa Fountain

Meeting Roles

Faciliator, Matt Johnston

Liaison, Lydia Slaby

Timekeeper, Louis Turpin

Notetaker, Shea Dean

Coordinator, Sarah Miller (absent) – Eleanor Pupko agreed to share action items

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.

Welcome

Matt has an idea of generating a dataset that tracks “hours of care” given to the CPC process (a bit like fundraisers have big how-much-have-we-raised thermometers on the side of buildings). Matt invited participants to reflect: how many hours a week have you worked on Comp Plan work since appointed?

4 said 4-7 hours

3 said 7-12 hours

3 said 12-20 hours

5 said 2-4 hours

Matt called this an “ethical acknowledgment of hours put in.”

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Updates (45 min)
 - a. Overall process
 - b. Consultant selection
 - c. Subcommittee updates
3. Community Conversation topics (25 min)
 - a. Outdoor and sidewalk dining
 - b. Ideas for new themes
4. Other items

Comp Plan members Tim Decker, Shea Dean, and Louis Turpin introduced themselves to one another as Louis and Tim had not been at the previous meeting.

Updates

a. Overall Process:

Matt

- discussed the history of the committee and subcommittee
- discussed the interviewing of the consultants and said that 2 or 3 interviewed were viable. He said the village board needed 2-4 weeks to draw up the contract for the chosen consultant.
- Said that community conversations would happen once a month around topics like outdoor dining

Vanessa Bertozzi would be submitting a natural resources inventory of Rhinebeck.

High School students led by Scout and Jen Breslin would be doing a “mock planning” day on May 14.

Deirdre Burns asked how subcommittees would share information or handle overlap

- What’s each subcommittee’s relationship to the consultant?
- Who is doing the community survey and how?

Matt said that there would subcommittee folders within a shared drive that Sarah Miller will coordinate.

Eleanor suggested publicizing a calendar with meeting dates on the website.

Tim said we need two sharing systems: one for the public and one for committees.

Steven suggested that delegates of the subcommittees meet prior to consultant coming on board to figure out overlap.

Eleanor and Deirdre mentioned a video about comprehensive planning that Lydia or Matt shared that was helpful.

b. Consultant selection process:

- i. Steve Rosenberg, one of the committee members who worked on the Request for Proposals and interviewed consultants, talked about what he liked about Nelson Pope Voorhees: that key staff were nearby and accessible, willing to facilitate subcommittee work, “energetic,” “good at translating planner speak for a lay audience.” He said that the day-to-day person is less experienced and more involved, and the senior person is more experienced but less involved. The risk, he said, is that the firm has relationship to Rhinebeck government, but this could be “fresh eyes.”

- ii. John Clarke talked about Tighe-Bond and listed as pluses that they have a local office/team, that they employ the village engineers, Brandee would be 10%. The team consists of three people and community engagement person is in Cape Cod; the others are in Tivoli. He said they were prepared, that they're a known quantity, that they already have a contract with the village, and that they stressed the collaborative model. They also presented their budget as a monthly fee rather than a lump sum.
- iii. A request was made to see the firm websites. Generally the Committee said that they trusted the subcommittee (Steve, John, Matt, Lydia) to choose the consultant.

c. Subcommittee Reports:

- i. Eleanor reported on community engagement and civic values
- ii. Deirdre reported on housing. She said there were 8 members; that there is interest in preserving affordable housing and rental stock; that they are concerned about rising home prices. She said they need data: which homes are 1st homes, which are 2nd homes? What's the turnover? How many rental and accessory dwelling units are there? What are other communities doing to preserve affordable housing?
- iii. John Clarke reported on the business ecosystem. He noted that the population has decreased 12 percent since 2000 and that the number of people per household has dropped. He said the number of elderly people is up and the number of kids under four is down. He said they need to look at weekend residents. He also shared that he has organized his committee to perform a parking survey.
- iv. Shea reported on the transportation and mobility subcommittee.
- v. Tim Decker reported on the Historical Preservation subcommittee
- vi. Steve Rosenberg reported on the Land Use subcommittee

Community Conversations

Matt suggested that the May 3 outdoor dining conversation happen at Co, cohosted by local restaurant owners

- Community member said it was the same night as the planning board meeting
- Steve Rosenberg raised the question about the location's walkability – is there anywhere else in the meeting to have it.
- Someone also noted that an outdoor dining event shouldn't necessarily be sponsored by the comprehensive plan committee which has no decision-making power or restaurants that have a stake in the issue; this compromises its integrity.
- Decision made to table Community Conversations for the moment.

Meeting ended at 9:03pm. The next meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2022.