

Village of Rhinebeck Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee-June 16, 2022

The June meeting was called to order by Matt Johnston at 7:03pm at CO. Meeting and Event Space, 6571 Springbrook Avenue, Rhinebeck, NY with the following members in attendance:

Matt Johnston, Chair
Tim Decker
Elijah Bender
Dierdre Burns
Shea Dean
Lisa Fountain
Louis Turpin
Jeff Cotter
John Clarke
Rachel Cavell
Ernesto Martynek
Eleanor Pupko
Lydia Slaby, Village Board liaison

Guests: Michele Grieg of Four Corners Planning, Sharon Rooney of Tighe and Bond, and Brandee Nelson of Tighe and Bond.

Agenda: Approval of Minutes

1. Presentation by Tighe & Bond/Four Corners Planning LLC and Discussion (40 min.)
 - a. Introduction to Project Team
 - b. Planning Process/Plan Content
 - c. Timeline
 - d. Consultant Role
 - e. Committee Coordination
 - f. Public Outreach/Engagement Strategy
 - i. Survey
 - ii. Other Tools
2. Communication/Coordination
 - a. Folder Structure
 - b. Committee Handbook
 - c. Meeting Schedule

- i. Publicizing/Notices
3. Subcommittee Reports

Approval of Previous Minutes. Minutes of meetings held on 3/24/22, 4/21/22 and 5/19/22 were approved by motion of Louis Turpin and seconded by Jeff Cotter. All in favor.

Tighe and Bond and Four Corners Planning Presentation:

Michele Grieg presented background material on Four Corners and the Tighe and Bond firm and their experience in the industry. Sharon outlined her engagement strategy of targeting diverse groups, going over community vision, outreach to Dylan Tuttle and Dutchess County Planning and seeking the SEQR necessary referrals. The planners will look at sidewalks, sidewalk inventories, schools and inventory of existing resources.

Sharon outlined the need to clarify and clearly articulate goals and an action plan. Photographs will be important. Intermunicipal cooperation will be helpful with issues to be discussed.

Louis Turpin asked to see examples from the planners of other comprehensive plans. Michele Grieg would like to see a web-based comprehensive plan for Rhinebeck with a focus on visuals.

Steven Rosenberg would like to clarify and deal with economic values and the cultural and socio-economic concerns associated with the same.

Michele provided a timeline through April, 2023:

3 workshops

Survey distributed

Engagement strategy created.

Sharon Rooney presented next. She is Cape Cod based and stressed the importance of community engagement and listening strategy development. She discussed that many of the concerns on Cape Cod are seen in the Rhinebeck project.

Sharon discussed the need to hear from constituents that are more difficult to reach. Example: Farmers Market pop-up events.

Eleanor Pupko outlined concerns and the need to take time to carefully craft questions. Steven Rosenberg asked how we go forward on subcommittees in the absence of survey answers on community needs/wants.

Tim Decker discussed the issues in survey answers and balancing answers from Village residents versus Town Residents and answers from visitors. Louis suggested a profile of the respondent as a preamble to the survey answers.

Deirdre Burns brought up the need to have surveys in Spanish language. At what point is a response significant or insignificant?

The planners as a whole discussed the input of schoolchildren outreach and workshops and postcards on “vision for the future.”

The planners then went over Survey123 program, QR codes and Storymap to show interactive ways to engage and organize data. New Bedford, MA was an example looked at. Historic maps

and slide bar can be used to show changes in land use. An example useful for our purposes is a tree count and species organizing tool.

Michele Grieg outlined the planners participation in the public hearing process and the creation of maps-access-vacant land-water and sewer.

Communications and Coordination:

Matt Johnston asked subcommittees to have the survey questions in by the end of the month as a goal. Matt also noted a committee handbook will be created.

Folder structure: there is a folder structure for all documents. Only members of the main committee can upload.

Ethics Code: A binder containing the Ethics Code as adopted by the Village Board was distributed. A discussion followed concerning ethical behavior while serving on this committee.

The committee turned down a proposal to post all subcommittee meetings on the Village website, making them open to the public. Only the Civic Engagement and Community Values Subcommittee will do so.

Committee Reports:

Civic Engagement: Many fliers given out and good turnout at the first community conversation event.

The goal is to keep the process open and transparent to the public. Eleanor would like to put all Zoom links website with the name and the point of contact and to add all community conversations to the calendar.

Lydia made an amendment to the proposal to protect the privacy of names and members.

Deirdre Burns mentioned how difficult it is to keep track of active and visiting members of subcommittees. Subcommittees are not subject to the Open Meetings Laws.

Business Ecosystem:

One member met with the Rhinebeck School Superintendent regarding census and school enrollment data.

Other members conducted surveys on ADA issues in the Village Center, sidewalks, outside dining and parking. The group discussed many projects including a narrowing of East Market Street and expansion of sidewalks, infill sites throughout the Village Center, lighting and the like.

Housing Subcommittee:

The subcommittee created as their purpose to determine the diverse needs related to housing for the present and future, adaptive reuse, examining the cost of living for full time and weekend homeowners, research on the number of rentals, school enrollment and policies to allow for affordable home ownership and rentals. The group further discussed landlord incentives and recommending policies for mixed uses and the like.

Historic Preservation:

The group discussed the need to create a more diverse history of the Village from a pre-colonial point of view.

The group is anxious for the Village to adopt the historic district expansion. Questions raised include how do we update what we consider historic? Where has our Zoning Code failed? What is considered historic?

Transportation:

A discussion concerning transportation and mobility data was conducted by the members at the Starr Library. The group is in the picture and information gathering phase and will adopt an action plan on what needs to take place to make Village streets safer for pedestrians and bicycles. Further discussion centered on a bike path from Rhinecliff, traffic calming measures. The group also met with Michele Grieg to discuss preliminary matters.

Land Use:

One committee member consolidated draft survey questions. Discussions of the group centered around the Village's relationship with the Fairgrounds, environmental concerns and Business District expansion.

The main work of the group has been identifying issues. The group needs a current conditions land use map.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the Chairman made a motion for adjournment at 9:04pm. The next meeting will be on July 14th.