

Village of Rhinebeck Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee-Thursday, July 14, 2022

The June meeting was called to order by Matt Johnston at 7:02pm at CO. Meeting and Event Space, 6571 Springbrook Avenue, Rhinebeck, NY with the following members in attendance:

Matt Johnston, Chair
Jeffrey Cotter
Elijah Bender
Shea Dean
Steve Rosenberg
Eleanor Pupko
Lou Turpin
Ernesto Martynek
Rachel Covell

No guests present.

Agenda:

1. Approval of June 16, 2022 Minutes
2. Review and Discussion of Draft Communications Policy
3. Review and Discussion of Framework for Existing Conditions/Preliminary Plan Outline
4. Subcommittee Reports
5. Adjourn

Approval of Previous Minutes. Minutes of meeting held on June 16, 2022 approved by motion of Louis Turpin and seconded by Jeff Cotter. All in favor.

Review and Discussion of Draft Communications Policy:

Policy was circulated. Major points: subcommittee meetings not subject to open meetings law unless a quorum of steering members and planning consultants present. The policy will be set up as a Google Doc to facilitate editing by members as a group in the next month.

Concerns were raised by Steve R. and Ernesto M. regarding portions pertaining to ex parte communications. Some members feel that it will be a muzzle on participants and chill participation.

The Chair advised members that this is not a final document and is subject to edits in the next month and to feedback by committee members.

Discussion of Draft Table of Contents As Provided by Tighe and Bond:

The group agreed that this document is a possibility and should be treated as a sample and not as a draft document.

This document was circulated to members and a lengthy discussion ensued. Rachel C. commented that this is a Tighe and Bond document and not a committee draft and should be labeled as such.

Matt reports we will go over this in depth at the August meeting. Shea commented that arts and culture, intermunicipal cooperation and similar topics are found in other plans and feels this approach should be added to our plan.

Matt feels this document gives the committee structure and Tighe and Bond needs guidance. This is the role of the committee.

There was a lengthy discussion on intergovernmental collaboration led by Shea Dean. The members were all in agreement that the representatives of the Village and Town government should be speaking and coordinating efforts.

Approved Proposal: The group agreed to two recommendations: a working group and a task force on art and culture and intermunicipal collaboration and to facilitate intermunicipal cooperation headed by Shea Dean.

Questions discussed included the principles of intergovernmental collaboration and the aspirations related to intergovernmental collaboration as set forth in the 1993 Plan.

Committee Reports:

Civic Engagement:

Eleanor and members met with Sharon Rooney regarding timeline, survey questions, and values. June 3 was a tabling event. New members in July totalled 3. Multiple engagement activities have been discussed. Members would like tabling events at diverse locations. There was also discussion of neighborhood pop up events and conversations. There will be a community vision and values event by Tighe and Bond to be held in early September. This is an independent event and is not a presentation by the Civic Engagement Subcommittee.

There will be two separate 5 minute presentations by each subcommittee with the public weighing in. Tighe and Bond will physically put together the survey.

Discussion of the possibility of a mass mailing targeted to particular demographics, sandwich boards, and yard signs.

Shea mentioned a “science fair” style setup where the public can walk to various subcommittees and everyone received this idea well.

Business Ecosystem:

The members received feedback and invited members of the business community to the last subcommittee meeting. There was discussion of lighting, outdoor dining, striped parking, and the Farmer’s Market. The group listened to the concerns of retailers, merchants, and office tenants.\ Matt asked that the group look at gateway businesses and local businesses not represented.

Housing Subcommittee:

Ernesto reports that the committee met on Jun. 20th and that the group has finalized questions and forwarded them to Eleanor.

Historic Preservation:

Members met on Jun. 22 and survey questions were submitted.

Transportation:

Meeting was held on Jul. 6 starting with ideas of intermunicipal task forces and a draft plan of pedestrians/cycling, automobile, and roads. Members walked with Rick Lewitt along Route 9 with an eye toward bike lanes, crosswalks, pain points in walking, and other issues of mobility. Lou reported on traffic calming measures analyzed by the group.

Land Use:

Steve reports the brainstorming efforts of this subcommittee and the study of the Village in a more regional context. John Clarke was invited to present and report on the activities of the Business Ecosystem Subcommittee.

3 task forces were created including: Development/Zoning, Green Energy and Infrastructure, and Natural and Public Spaces. The group asked Michele Greig for an active map of land uses in the Village at present.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the Chairman made a motion for adjournment at 8:29pm. The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 18th.

