

Village of Rhinebeck Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee-Thursday, December 8th, 2022

The December meeting was called to order by Matt Johnston at 7:00pm at Village Hall, 76 East Market Street, Rhinebeck, NY with the following members in attendance:

Matt Johnston, Chair

Jeffrey Cotter

Elijah Bender

Steve Rosenberg

Eleanor Pupko

Deirdre Burns

John Clarke

Shea Dean

Louis Turpin

Guest: Michele Grieg, 4 Corners Planning

Several members of the public were present.

Agenda:

1. Hellos! (7:00-7:03 pm)
2. Approval of November 10, 2022 Minutes (7:03-7:05 pm)
3. Schedule for Upcoming Meeting Dates (7:05 – 7:20 pm)
 - a. January CPC meeting
 - b. January/February workshops
4. Reports by Subcommittees (7:20-8:30 pm)
 - a. Historic Preservation
 - b. Civic Engagement
5. Community Values Survey Update (8:30-8:40 pm)
6. Other Business (8:40-8:45 pm)

7. Adjourn

Approval of Previous Minutes. Minutes of the November meeting were approved with corrections by motion of Jeff Cotter and seconded by Dierdre Burns.

There was a request to reschedule the January meeting to January 26th. This was approved and seconded.

Workshop: Tighe and Bond will be sending out a Word document with a redline of the recommendations. A workshop is scheduled for Saturday, February 25th.

Michele Grieg commented on the good work of the subcommittees in their capacities.

Historic Preservation Subcommittee Presentation:

Lydia Slaby presented goals and ideas put forth by the Historic Preservation Subcommittee (see addendum attached hereto). Some of the recommendations consist of:

1. Identifying, preserving and protecting cultural and historic resources, including buildings, structures, landscape elements, neighborhoods, streetscapes, viewsheds and archaeological resources.
2. Protecting historic neighborhoods.
3. Preserving historic resources to advance the Village's goals for housing diversity, affordability and environmental sustainability.
4. Building public support for historic preservation by making information on historic preservation readily available to the public.
5. Encouraging good design for proper village placemaking.
6. Lighting: avoid glare and use warm colors.

Comments from the public:

Christopher Tavener: would like to see metal fencing discouraged. Louis cautioned that it is often the case that cost goes up with more historically pleasing designs. It is something to be mindful of as we talk about affordability.

Steve Rosenberg: multi-family uses are good adaptations. Would like to see solutions to EV charging and solar.

Civic Engagement Subcommittee (see documents attached hereto):

Donna Warner presented the Kitchen Table Conversation report on behalf of the Civic Engagement and Community Values Subcommittee. The KTC committee consisted of Becky Tyre, Kathy Maryat, Eleanor Pupko, Stephanie Gunning and Roger Quon. There were 20 kitchen

table conversations consisting of 17 adult conversations and three adolescent conversations. They were all coded and counted. Many different comments and views.

Rhinebeck residents cherish the village's historic character, walkability, community and adjacent natural resources, and small-town atmosphere.

A good portion of the participants would like to see improvements:

Top issues include the poor state of sidewalks, affordability, lack of crosswalks, traffic speed and congestion, the difficulty in accessing Village Government information, and suitable gathering spaces for residents like a village green or other areas with benches. A desire for diversity came up several times.

The CVS property was often mentioned as being out of character with the village center. Residents would like to see the minipark in front of the building restored. Many of the younger people value CVS as a place to go given the limited alternatives despite generally opposing chain stores. Other sites mentioned for needed upgrades include Crystal Lake, the WPA Post Office, the Veterans' Wall, and the area around the Doughboy Statue.

There was a balancing of a desire to maintain a strong and vibrant community and an apprehension against tourism.

Eleanor Pupko reported out the Civic Engagement and Community Values Subcommittee recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan. She will work with Michele to make sure they are in a format that would lend itself to be easily incorporated into a Comprehensive Plan and share the report with the Main Committee. (This has been done.)

Deirdre raised concern regarding the community events that are tourist centric and how this can be reconciled with community fraying.

Donna commented that many of the younger people polled believe Mirbeau impacts or diminishes our community.

Sarah asked about the Hospital Auxiliary and whether it was still active.

Christopher Tavener noted that school and church were absent from the discussion.

Matt thanked the Civic Engagement Subcommittee for their efforts and dedication to hearing from every facet of the community.

Community Values Survey: Michele Grieg noted that a remarkable number of responses have arrived (493 total).

2000 mailers are to be sent out and 25 signs have been created for yards. The signs were noted as most effective.

Deirdre asked if there is a QR code on the signs and whether the mailers have also been translated. Outreach is important with the January 15th close date on the survey.

The group agreed to forward material for school distribution, to the Pilot and to the Red Hook Town Catch. The Chamber of Commerce mailing list and Rotary list will also be utilized.

Proposal: to increase the budget for mailings to \$1,081.00 for mailers and \$344.25 for signs.

Motion by John Clarke and seconded by Louis Turpin. All in favor and moved.

Members of the public asked how to fill out the survey without a computer. There is no easy way to do this. It was offered that they come to Village Hall and someone will fill it out for them as the survey is a digital communication.

New Business:

-Meetings will be on the second Thursday of every month for 2023. There will be regular meetings in addition to workshops.

-Steve would like to schedule a time to debrief on the survey process and host a conversation to evaluate the survey at the next meeting. The group agreed.

Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made at 8:57 pm.