

Village of Rhinebeck Comprehensive Plan-Thursday, March 9th, 2023

The March 9th, 2023 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

John Clarke
Shea Dean
Louis Turpin
Rachel Cavell
John Traver
Ernesto Martynek

Guests: Mayor Gary Bassett, Lewis Ruge, Andy Imperati, Albert Cousins, other members of the public

Agenda.

1. Welcome (6:00-6:03 pm)
2. Review of February 9, 2023 minutes (6:03 – 6:05 pm)
3. Discussion with Rhinebeck School District (6:05 – 6:20 pm)
4. Discussion with Rhinebeck Fairgrounds (6:20 – 6:45 pm)
5. Review of Draft Comprehensive Plan Recommendations (6:45 pm – 8:45 pm)
6. Release of Survey Data (8:45 – 8:55 pm)
7. Other Business (8:55 – 9:00 pm)

8. Adjourn

Approval of Previous Minutes. Minutes of the February 25th meeting were approved with corrections by motion of Ernesto Martynek and Jeffrey Cotter.

Presentation by Mr. Cousins of the Rhinebeck Central School District:

Mr. Cousins discussed strategic planning and development of the School District. 1,001 students enrolled with 945 actually attending class. There have been meetings with parents, stakeholders, faculty and other community organizers as these discussions continue. The School District consists of a complex setup of 6 towns.

Teaching and Learning Goals: -Partnerships with BOCES.

-Belonging/Inclusion.

-Need for additional sections based on tuition paying students (Approx. \$26 k per year). -Note that the School District is not obligated to accept tuition based students but it is usually based on special circumstances.

Obstacles:

- Affordability for young families although there is no specific data on this through the School District.

-Burden on Taxpayers: each year sees a decrease in state aid.

Wishlist Topics:

- Safe places to hang out, community centers. Can be expensive to the District for teachers to get involved with efforts outside of their normal workday due to union contract obligations.

Mr. Cousins distributed an enrollment report broken down by race/ethnicity/demographics. He outlined how IEP program students and 504 students require additional staffing of teachers to accommodate.

Also, the number of homeschooled and parochial students has increased due to vaccination requirements and religious reasons.

Discussion: Steve asked about developing housing on the school property. Mr. Cousins believes this could possibly be feasible, but isn't sure there is enough room on the School District property. . Shea asked if the profile of students is changing. Mayor Bassett asked about Governor Hochul's Housing Compact and if there is any indication of help from the State? Albert has not heard of anything yet.

Presentation by Andy Imperati of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society:

Andy presented to the group and discussed his involvement with the Fairgrounds since 1995. There have been highs and lows with the Village with the current situation being positive. The Fairgrounds donates road cones, barriers and allows the Fire Department to do training on the Fairgrounds property. Some members of the CPC expressed appreciation for the Fairgrounds and what it contributes to the community. CPC members also shared ideas about ways that the relationship of the Fairgrounds and the community could be further strengthened.

Issues:

The open gate policy that previously existed has caused liability concerns. Example: during the course of replacing water line by the race track, Village residents walked close to an active construction site. Children would enter and walk close to men mowing, etc. There also has been issues with dog refuse.

Andy suggests that many of the demands for access to the Fairgrounds would be solved by the construction of a dog run in the Town or Village.

Shea asked about a sidewalk on the Mulberry Street Extension. Andy responded that he has long

contemplated this but issues exist with moving the power and utilities and the companies have not been cooperative.

Ernesto commented that many of the events (32 days of the year) take place on the weekend when Village residents are home and not working.

John suggested striping a sidewalk in. Andy will look into this.

Andy indicated that he was open to discussing and trying to work through the various issues that the CPC had raised by meeting with village officials and members of the committee.

Tighe and Bond Workshop Recommendations Discussion:

Tighe and Bond has written a letter on how we should proceed, given budgetary constraints.

Michele was absent from this meeting. There was broad consensus that Michele attend every workshop meeting to provide guidance as the group moves through the recommendations.

Lydia advised that she sees two options with respect to this project. The first would be to slow down the process and meet once per month or to have Michele attend fewer meetings. Both are designed to keep the project within budget. Lydia believes in a robust Comprehensive Plan and will look into this along with Mayor Bassett to be sure that the group receives adequate guidance.

Draft Recommendations:

The group discussed how they would proceed in Michele's absence and agreed to try to tackle the less controversial items and to table those where a quick consensus can't be reached until Michele can participate in the discussion..

1. Pattern Book: Not prepared to decide on this tonight as more information needs to be gathered.
2. Historic District Date: lengthy discussion on this contentious issue. Many differing opinions by Village stakeholders on the appropriate date (ie 1945, 1950 or 1970). Lydia asks that the Comprehensive Plan host a forum with Village Board and historic preservation experts to discern appropriate choices. No consensus was achieved regarding which date would be most appropriate for this purpose.
3. Sizeable Greenspace: there was a great deal of discussion about the nature and location of a village green and what it would take for it to be successful. The CPC focused on the the proposed wording "framed by active storefronts" from several on the Committee and the decision was made to strike storefronts for the sentence to read: "framed by active uses." There also was discussion about the best location for a village green, with interest being expressed in exploring the bank parking lot, which already is surrounded by active uses.
4. Rachel is against recommendation #5 to stripe and replace permit parking.
5. Steve suggested that because there was no strong support being expressed for a parking structure and in light of John's belief that the other proposed strategies should be

successful for the foreseeable future, that the proposed long-term parking structure should be removed from the recommendations

submitted by the Business Subcommittee. Broad consensus among the Committee to strike this.

Discussion by group: It was agreed not to release survey comments or a press release on the survey results to media groups at this time.

Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made at 9:01 pm.