

Village of Rhinebeck Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee-Thursday, October 13, 2022

The October 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

Rachel Cavell

Deirdre Burns

John Clarke

Guest: Michele Grieg, 4 Corners Planning.

Several members of the public were present.

Agenda:

1. Hellos! (7:00-7:03 pm)
2. Approval of September 22, 2022 Minutes (7:03-7:05 pm)
3. Revised Comprehensive Plan Process/Schedule/Roles (7:05-7:30 pm)
4. Launch of Community Values Survey (7:30-8:15 pm)
5. Reports by Subcommittees on October Community Meetings (8:15-8:55 pm)
6. Other Business (8:55-9:00 pm)
7. Adjourn

Approval of Previous Minutes. Minutes of the meeting held on September 22, 2022 were approved with corrections by motion of Dierdre Burns and seconded by Jeff Cotter. Eleanor Pupko abstained from voting as she was not present.

Announcements. Matt acknowledged the resignation of Tim Decker from the committee and thanks him for his contributions while serving.

Matt also acknowledged that John Traver has been appointed to serve on the Main Committee by the Village Board. John could not be present at this meeting. Eleanor mentioned that no interest group has been appointed by this committee as of yet and that we need the representation of the community as a whole. Deirdre echoed these same concerns and noted that it was a 3-2 vote of the Village Board. Steve Rosenberg feels the Committee should have been consulted in advance of the vote. John Clarke reported that John Traver has been a very active participant of the Business Ecosystem Subcommittee.

Community Engagement Sheet and Calendar. An updated sheet consisting of dates and deadlines was distributed to the group and discussed. Many of the dates have been pushed forward. The public workshop has been added for the draft policy and the public hearings have been added. The contemplated date of completion has been moved from September to October in 2023.

Steve commented that his subcommittee is not meeting until November so the October 31 deadline for feedback is untenable. There was discussion of the confusion that some of the subcommittees have concerning whether they are to make policy recommendations. It was clarified that the Main Committee is responsible for policy recommendations and the job of the subcommittees is to brainstorm ideas. Steve remains concerned about time with the subcommittees tasked with the survey results and hashing through the material.

Deirdre raised concerns on why the recommendations are set to be drafted before the survey goes out.

Michele advises that the timeframe has already been extended by several months and the work has to be completed by a set date.

John Clarke further advises that the work can be done in time and before the deadlines set. Subcommittees can meet twice a month in a few instances and a weekend day can be set for a workshop. A few of the members were against this.

Resolution: January workshop will be set and another meeting in November (November 10th) either in person or on Zoom. Deirdre asked for a specific agenda for the November 10th meeting.

Community Visions and Values Survey. Feedback is being reviewed. Any final objections welcomed. Eleanor has shared some general thoughts and the notes are as follows:

1. Introduction. Should the survey say how it will be used?
2. Did others test this out before it was launched? We have a different frame of reference and it should be tested on another random group.
3. Is a question asking about residency required?
4. Have we confirmed that one survey answer for one person will happen?
5. Spanish language version? [discussed in further detail, infra].
6. How will we reach the population that is not computer literate? [It was commented that signage will be posted at the Library, there will be QR codes around the Village and the

group will reach out to the Red Hook Catch, School District and the Rhinebeck-at-Home group].

7. Have we checked for grammar?

Lastly, Eleanor does not feel the survey is ready to be launched in its present form.

Spanish Translation of Survey. Sharon Rooney reports the cost will be \$1400.00 for translation. The survey might have to be reentered again. Lydia will look into the logistics of proceeding with the Village Board. Deirdre Burns asked whether the translation will be accurate and asked about the quality of the translation.

There is currently no survey format in the Spanish language.

Subcommittee Reports.

Historic Preservation: Rachel reports that the committee is not functioning and she is currently the only member. Lydia feels as though the work of this committee has been completed. It was noted that a revised history of Rhinebeck will be completed by an intern from Bard College. There was discussion around ideas of parks, walking tours and adaptive reuse or adding stories on buildings. Lydia would like to look into all of this and make recommendations to the Village Board. Sarah Miller commented that she feels there would be a conflict if Lydia were to make recommendations to the Village Board while she sits as a Trustee. Sarah also acknowledged all of Lydia's hard work across many of the committees.

Housing Subcommittee: Group has spent many hours on data collection and has also met with Michele Grieg. Discussions have centered around the Bulkeley School Project and a meeting will take place of this subcommittee next week. Michele will provide the audit list again and circulate to this committee. Deirdre noted that it was important that all subcommittee documents have dates attached to them.

Civic Engagement: Kitchen Table Conversations have been a huge success with 92 people participating. All results have been consolidated into one document. One discussion was canceled due to the recent Covid scare. Eleanor detailed the two forums held at the Library and the results. A document summarizing the notes will be released shortly.

Land Use: Discussion at the last meeting centered on infill parcels and larger parcels. The group discussed how issues discussed in the plan would be presented using stronger graphics. A Zoom call was coordinated with Christopher Tavener, Steve Rosenberg and Michele Grieg.

Transportation and Mobility: Discussions continued on crosswalks, intersections and safe passages to schools. A preliminary chart has been created by Shea and will be uploaded to the Drive.

Business Ecosystem: Group meets again next Wednesday. Policy recommendations are now the issue that the group is focusing on with 20-25 currently drafted. The group will next look at issues of franchise businesses and revisions to the zoning maps, particularly the Village Center and Gateway Business Districts.

Adjournment: A motion for adjournment was made at 8:45pm.