

TOWN OF ROCKLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MEETING #5

Attendees: Robert Eggleton
Peter Manning
Russell Budd
Glenn Gabbard
Phil Vallone
Lisa Lyons
Peggy Johansen
Art Riegal
Harvey Susswein
Manny Zangers
Chris Andreola
Sheila Shultz
Tom Ellison
Chris Tcimpidis

The fifth Comprehensive Plan Meeting for Town of Rockland met at the Town Hall on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 6pm, led by Robert Eggleton, Town Supervisor, acting Chairman for committee.

Chairman Eggleton opened the meeting with presentation of the minutes from the Sept. 28th meeting. Motion was made by Sheila Shultz, seconded by Harvey Susswein to approve minutes.

Brief updates were given, most of these updates consisted of email correspondence according to Chairman Eggleton.

Peter Manning reviewed and discussed demographics. He stated this mostly involved the collection of data which was presented by overhead projector. These charts included changes within Town of Rockland as well as adjoining towns. Charts showed population, age cohorts, educational attainment, median household incomes, employment status, unemployment rates, top industries, property tax rates, housing (occupied and unoccupied), permits issued per year, poverty status, housing costs and gross rent costs.

Revisions were then discussed on the Vision Statement and Major Themes.

Overall input was to be sure to be optimistic of the town and what captures the essence of our rural area and how to maintain its character through specific wording. Suggestions to improve the downtown vitality included promoting tourism and the chambers as well as the general business development, be new business “friendly” by helping them beforehand with Code information, etc.

Concerns were expressed regarding housing going for Tax Sale which turns into “cheap housing” with no landlords.

New Business and next meeting date were discussed.

Next meeting will be held on November 30 which is the fifth Wednesday, due to Thanksgiving. Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

