

TOWN OF ROCKLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MEETING #2

Attendees: Robert Eggleton
Joann Ryder
Tom Ellison
Chris Andreola
Sheila Shultz
Art Riegal
Manny Zangers
Chris Tcimpidis
Lisa Lyons
Harvey Susswein
Russell Budd
Peter Manning
Caroline Devoe

The second Comprehensive Plan Meeting for Town of Rockland met at the Town Hall on Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at 6pm led by Robert Eggleton, Town Supervisor.

Supervisor Eggleton opened the meeting with introductions for members not present at the first meeting.

Minutes from the June 29th meeting were approved on a motion made by Sheila Shultz and seconded by Art Riegal with all in favor.

Supervisor Eggleton discussed the appointment of committee members, stating the commitment involved and that a quorum of at least nine members in attendance each month would be optimal. The meetings are set to be held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6pm. The calendar will be reviewed for any holiday or other conflicts and dates will be changed as needed. After discussion about appointing a Chair for the committee, a motion was made by Art Riegal, seconded by Sheila Shultz with all in favor to appoint Robert Eggleton as Chairman.

Peter Manning took over using power point and reviewed some responses to the visioning exercise given last month. He also received and has available the visioning results done by Helen Budrock with the hamlet workshops in 2007 and 2013. Mr. Manning first stated that the public will be kept notified as we go along, allowing them to participate at any time by sharing thoughts. Updates will be posted on the Town website. It is hoped that second home owners can get involved as well.

Visioning results for the town were reviewed and Mr. Manning stated that it was no surprise for the many assets listed. Example – Natural Resources (water, scenic views), Fishing, Camping, Ease of Highway access, Institutions such as Art Society and Fly Fishing Center. The Challenges, Improvements & Liabilities also were no real surprise such as Flood Mitigation, Employment Opportunities, Older Housing/Abandoned Buildings. Though Drug Use was listed, Mr. Manning stated that the Comprehensive Plan is not able to tackle an issue like this directly though it is a growing problem in many towns. There was discussion as to blame relating to lack of activities or recreation in the town. The committee will be on the lookout for ways to promote that area. Rob Eggleton mentioned a change in the town Zoning for length of motel stays. Currently it is one month in, one hour out, then they are allowed back in again.

The town would like to change the zoning to two weeks in then two weeks out in hopes of discouraging drug related situations long term.

Lisa Lyons brought up her concern about discussions for uses of Rotary Park and The Lazy Beagle lot. She felt that since they are privately owned entities that their use should not be discussed solely by the Comprehensive Plan committee. Russell Budd stated that though they are privately owned, the public is allowed use, therefore this allows our input. This includes the school and by putting this into the plan, it makes it possible for future grant funding for that location if it becomes available. Lisa suggested contacting the owners when their location will be discussed allowing them to share their intentions of the land use. Mr. Manning said they will be doing an inventory of all the town assets. Lisa suggested going to a Rotary meeting to involve them. Mr. Manning stated that these comprehensive meeting can be held at any location and encourages the communities involvement that way as well.

Review of the essays for visioning exercise were discussed with overall excellent in-put and community spirit. Strategies for jobs, building use (ex: school if it were to merge) due to population decline and ways to make communities attractive to encourage families to move in will all be looked at further as we go along. Chris Andreola suggested looking at trends of transplants and we should focus more on what is already here than to "wish" for a different type of community. He compared it to the Jewish Catskill Summers in our area, how they boomed then waned. He also stated that he felt a recreation center was not in tune to what our area does well or has naturally available.

Russell Budd stated that looking at the 2010 census data will give good in-put and by next meeting he hopes to have a sample structure document, section by section.

Manny Zangers suggested extending proposals to neighboring towns to see if they are interested in joint projects on some items & issues.

Peter Manning presented the 2007 Roscoe Vision list and has it available online. Sheila Shultz questioned home based businesses stating they should be better emphasized since many have an accessory use. Harvey Susswein questioned the economically challenged part of the population as seeing this vision "too rosy" of a picture. Tom Ellison stated that when we have the final vision statement we should share it publicly first in order to get feedback from diverse sections. The vision statement is broad range.

A list of major themes were listed for review. Art Riegal discussed the Montreign Casino impact after attending a recent seminar. He stated they are planning to "send out" activities such as horsebackriding and others, to local businesses rather than have it all "on site" to encourage families to visit, not just the one member who gambles.

Lisa Lyons asked if there is a map available of our area that we can view and work from.

Peter Manning continued with showing charts of the Socio-Economic Snapshot. The chart included more than just our town, but the county as well, giving a wider view of where we are with population, Town of Rockland decline, median household income and second home ownership between 2001- 2007. This chart is available from the County Planning Dept.

It was suggested that members look at the Shepstone Document of the current Comprehensive Plan to become familiar with it for discussion so we can walk through it as a group and have an idea of what to keep and what to toss.

Next month Comprehensive Plan Meeting will be held on August 31, at 6pm in the Town Hall. Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.