

10-30-07 LTPC meeting notes

Attendees:

R Teel
R Randall
W Burnham
M Dyer
A St. John
G Marsh
J Corcoran
T Guertner
E Howard
E McGilligan
P Silva
M French

The meeting was solely taken up with a visit from Sam Cleaves, the regional planner for the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC). Sam reviewed the process and results of the "visioning workshops" held here in 2002 and the development of the CDP, finalized in 2004. The main points of his initial presentation were:

- Strong interest shown by the Town in preservation of open spaces, but less shown (judging by attendance at focussed meetings) in housing, economics, and transportation.
- His feeling that Essex as a community has had a strong interest in improved planning, but has not added a number of important, and commonly used, tools to the toolbox. (MAPC has templates for all of these)
- Essex should protect its quality of life --> suggested talking with Ipswich officials about the positive planning steps they've taken, and also people in Hamilton, where they face the same problems.
- Essex should approach economic development with the "destination" concept in mind, that is, tourist services, restaurants, shops, etc.

Next came discussion and questions between LTPC members and Sam, the important points of which were:

- General agreement that the LTPC should lean strongly on the Vision statement and the CDP we have in hand, and use them as guides to revisit the prioritization of major areas of focus that we should address. This process should include outreach to people in the Town. G. Marsh pointed out that many people in town have forgotten about the CDP and need reminding.
- Ray asked Sam to suggest the first steps that we should take, to which he responded:
 - "Check plan with public, thru: public meeting, web survey, master planning map copies displayed around town, 1/2 day brainstorming meeting
 - Recheck population/jobs/etc. data
 - Revisit and lean on the completed Open Space Plan
 - Be sure to have multi-board involvement, including BOS, Planning Bd., ?others?
 - A caution to "use people's time once", that is, don't ask them repeatedly to different events and wear them out
 - ***** **Go to Town w/vision and 5-7 priorities and get buy-in** *****
 - The go to work on objectives and strategies

- P. Kellerman suggested that LTPC should shoulder some of the load of developing new by-laws to facilitate the Planning Board's work, help writing grants, etc.
- Mike suggested that the group submit their thoughts as to what the vision statement should be (the CDP statement is a good start) and for individuals to articulate their ideas as to the 3-5 top priority focus areas. This idea was adopted; these will be e-mailed to Pam Witham, who will collate them and send out for our inspection in advance of the November meeting.

Submitted respectfully,