



Town of Falmouth  
Long-range Planning Advisory Committee  
Draft Meeting Minutes - June 25, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers

Members Present: Hugh Smith, Lissa Robinson, Karen Farber, David Chase, Hugh Coxe  
Council Liaison – Bonny Rodden

Staff Present: Amanda Stearns, Community Development Director

B. Rodden gave an overview of the CDC meeting yesterday. She was elected Chair. The Committee has a great deal of respect for the work LPAC has accomplished and would like to move forward with the amendments. CDC would like to have a public workshop and have a presentation with breakout groups and have groups develop a list of questions.

CDC feels that there is some misunderstanding among the public and that a public forum will allow an opportunity to clear up some questions and concerns. CDC also feels that a presentation should be in layman's terms.

CDC would like educational materials designed for the layman.

B. Rodden plans to report out the proposed CDC schedule at the July 13, 2009 Council meeting.

H. Smith offered that LPAC had asked for a document that would highlight where the final work differs from the adopted policy and why as well as highlight areas where the amendments are more or less than the state.

Will and Bonny discussed this project at the Council's organizational meeting. They discussed where this policy was going. They agreed to work together and get it to the Council.

B. Rodden suggested that after a public forum it was thought that the CDC, along with LPAC would go through results, look at comments and determine if any adjustments to the amendments. A tentative schedule included a roundtable forum the week of August 3<sup>rd</sup> and to present the ordinance to the Council on Sept 14, 2009.

LPAC and Liaison Rodden had a long in-depth discussion regarding the pros and cons of a public forum. The following comments are intended to capture the essence of this discussion.

- \* Concerns were raised about trying to do a public input forum during the peak of the summer when many families are vacationing and out of town.
- \* Some members supported the outreach process, emphasizing that using a forum to educate and identify items of concern would be valuable.

- \* Other members do not support taking this back to public. The same voices will be heard. It will be one more opportunity for those that want to publicly speak against the project to do so. Most of the work is not a subject of debate. The key issues are exemptions and dimensions.
- \* Before a public forum is designed the objectives should be clear
- \* History of the project should be part of an overview.
- \* History at this point is not relevant.
- \* Other CDC members are adamant about having a public workshop or some form of public input.
- \* No need to go back, the Council has agreed that the community wants resource protection and charged LPAC to move forward with amendment language under the adopted policy, not need for further discussion.
- \* CDC members have expressed concern that without public input, the Council may be inclined to gut the ordinance or not pass it if the only input is at a formal public hearing where individuals will only speak who have really strong opinions, usually in opposition.
- \* If amendments go directly to the Council the comments will be unfocused and it may be difficult for the Council to do anything other than table.
- \* A workshop would also serve to educate the Council, could be done separately or with the public workshop.
- \* Public workshop can be beneficial depending on how its designed and noticed, allows individuals to have more of a dialogue, needs to have rules of decorum, majority of Council should be present.
- \* First workshop targeted large landowners, if another is held, should be a cross section of community residents.
- \* Nothing will be accomplished by a workshop.
- \* Objectives might include educating the Council, educating the general public that has misconceived ideas about the amendments.
- \* Amendments should be presented to the Council at a workshop.
- \* Should have an educational session between LPAC and CDC first.
- \* Most important people to educate are the Council.
- \* If a meeting between CDC and LPAC is held, can discuss the tradeoffs, tough decisions, change in policies.
- \* LPAC would take work back after the Council presentation to work on specific items
- \* Staff should focus on presentation materials

B. Rodden suggested that she would take LPAC's comments back to the CDC and move forward from there.

The discussion then turned to future projects for LPAC.

LPAC+ is the group that will move forward with the Comprehensive Plan update. D. Chase indicated that he is not looking forward to working with such a large committee.

H. Smith indicated that there will need to be an organizational meeting to determine how the expanded group will operate. There may be subcommittees to work on different topics, will depend on how long the project will take might take and how many resources the committee will have, including in-house staff, as well as what the Council policies and expectations are.

B. Rodden mentioned that land use issues are a key piece of the Council retreat coming up in July.

LPAC adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.