



Long Range Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC+)

Thursday, January 27, 2011 Minutes

Attendance:

Name	Present	Name	Present	Name	Present
Rebecca Casey	√	Bud French	√	Hugh Coxe	√
Paul Bergkamp	-	Kurt Klebe	√	Jim Thibodeau	-
Steve Hendry	√	Sandra Lipsey	√	Julie Motherwell	-
Rachel Reed	√	Sam Rudman	√	Steve Walker	-
Claudia King	√				

Council Liaison: -
Staff present: Theo Holtwijk
Others present: -

Sam started the meeting around 7:09 PM.

1. Review of Draft Minutes of January 13, 2011

The draft minutes of January 13, 2011 were upon a motion by Kurt, which was seconded by Claudia, unanimously approved.

2. Discussion of Draft Survey

Sam started the review of the “bucket” draft that Sandra had prepared. It was clarified that the intent was to submit a revised draft of this to Market Decisions, along with suggestions for questions with each “bucket.”

Kurt clarified the Natural Resources scenario he had tried to convey earlier. As the status of Maine’s environmental laws becomes more unpredictable, he thought it would be good to test the interest to provide regulatory stability for natural resources within Falmouth. This issue goes into the 5th bucket.

The group then started to review the memo from the beginning.

There was a sense that the first part of the first bucket could go to the fifth bucket. The tension seemed to be to be proactive and help guide development versus being reactive to development. Sam felt that a basic question may be: should government be involved in these matters?

On the second bucket the “expectations” aspect of the sentence was unclear to some. Rachel felt that adding sidewalks and bike lanes could result in wide roads. Becca was not sure of that. There was a suggestion to use “the Falmouth we know” for “small town feel.” The questions under the bucket will clarify possible expectations that people may have. It was asked if the questions would be answered for the community as a whole or for a particular neighborhood. This needs to be clear in the final draft.

The idea behind the third bucket is to focus on physical facilities. The reference to cost would be deleted in the heading as that is addressed in the seventh bucket.

Rachel had to leave and wanted to bring up an issue in the seventh bucket. In her role as school board member she has heard a small group advocate to spend more on education and not be penny-wise and pound-foolish. She was concerned with that and wanted to make sure that issue was incorporated in the survey. The School Superintendent did submit two questions pertaining to all day kindergarten that may be reflective of this issue. Sandra stated she liked the idea of testing trade-offs with this bucket. She saw it as a way to ask factual questions that establish benchmarks for the future. There was some discussion on the “low mill rate” and “high property values” that resulted in “perceived high taxes.”

There was extensive discussion on the fourth bucket. Kurt explained that he saw it as an issue of providing for changing energy technologies and planning for it. He noted that these issues have been divisive in some communities. The master planning idea was moved to the first bucket. This is now becoming more a “sustainability” bucket. Suggestions from the Green Ribbon Commission report can be tested in the questions. The concept list should be revisited to make sure it includes what should be included. Some concepts fit better in other buckets. Kurt noted that there were some sewer scenarios that may be applicable here. Claudia felt that the transportation still made sense as a concept here as it pertained to electric cars, for example. The bucket is becoming an “alternative energy” bucket.

Various tensions were noted in the fifth bucket: the idea of acquiring open space by purchasing it versus acquisition through required ordinance set-asides; the idea of how much regulatory protection to have in place for natural resources, such as vernal pools; the of acquiring more open space versus increasing the use of the open space that is already acquired; and, the idea of pursuing open space protection based on an articulated vision versus acquiring open space parcels when and where development occurs. There was a suggestion to have several maps with this bucket, one showing open space “jewel” properties, another showing potential build-out of the town. The sense of the group was that since this was a critical topic in the current comprehensive plan and that lots of work had occurred in past ten years, a comparison to the situation ten years ago was appropriate.

The group discussed the sixth bucket, which is what culture is present in Falmouth. Sports culture, sailing culture, and outdoors/trails culture were among the suggestions for current culture in Falmouth. Sandra stated that the described scenario assumed a shared culture and shared history in Falmouth that she felt was not there. She advocated that a community’s cultural heritage was important, and that it needed to be cultivated and celebrated. There was some question as to the importance of this bucket compared to other buckets. In the

end the group agreed to keep the question stated in this section and move it to third bucket and to eliminate the bucket itself and the scenario.

The eighth bucket seemed to place an inward attitude versus an outward attitude. It suggested that if the community were to focus on its own identity, it does so relative to its neighboring communities, and could be considered an outward orientation. The notion of “cultural” will be eliminated from this section. The services under review are general as well as environmental, such as focusing on shared resources such as Casco Bay, Highland Lake, as well as roads. It was noted that the school merger that did not happen did play into the notion of different cultures between the two communities.

It was observed that the ninth bucket had a tax-base, but also a land-use aspect to it. Kurt noted that this was a significant topic, much like the first topic of land use master planning. He liked it that they were like book ends on both ends of the spectrum. Becca felt that the appearance of Route 100 should be included.

This concluded the review of the draft. Sandra will revise it according to the discussion and the survey subcommittee will get it into a shape so it can be shared with Market Decisions.

Marketing of the survey was discussed as this was important in order to get a good response rate. Becca stated that she was going on vacation in the first half of February and had little time to assist with that. Claudia agreed to lead an effort to generate marketing ideas. The idea is to tap into already established networks of people in Falmouth, who could be notified of the survey and made aware of its importance.

3. Next Meeting

The next LPAC+ meeting will be on **Thursday February 10th at 7 PM**. Survey marketing will be discussed at this meeting.

The expectation is that the committee will be able to review draft 2 of the survey on February 24th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Draft Meeting Notes by Theo Holtwijk, January 28, 2011