



Long Range Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC+)

Thursday, September 13, 2012 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: Teresa Pierce
Staff present: Theo Holtwijk
Others present: -

The meeting was called to order by Sam Rudman around 7:13 PM.

1. Draft Chapter Review

Recreation and Open Space Chapter

Hugh explained the changes to this draft chapter. He and Jim agreed that the regulatory issues involving open space belong in the Land Use chapter, while The Greening of Falmouth type issues are best covered in this chapter. He suggested removing proposed action 7 and 8 and asking the land Use Subcommittee to consider these issues. The Committee agreed with that.

Hugh also noted a change on page 7 where language pertaining to a “finish line” was replaced with the question: how much Town-owned open space do the residents of the Town want? The committee was Ok with that change.

The reference note on page 8 was discussed. Sam wondered if such a note was needed. Steve Walker felt that the language set expectations as to how the Land Use committee would be dealing with this. Claudia suggested more general wording, which the committee accepted. Sandra noted that this language may change depending on the final order of the chapters in the plan.

Sam asked Theo to finalize the chapter and post it.

2. Minutes

The draft minutes of June 14 and August 23 were unanimously approved as written.

3. Outreach Update

Theo reported the current count of feedback responses. Julie produced yellow bookmarks to be distributed. These were passed around.

Sandra asked how committee members had leveraged their contacts. Theo explained the e-mail distributions that he and Community Programs had done, which included all Board and Committee members of the town. Sam mentioned he had contacted the Harbor and Waterfront Committee. Claudia had contacted the Recycling Committee. Julie contacted her Highland Lake connections.

Sandra felt there was inertia in reaching out and that it would be hard to get people to go back to the website to check for the missing chapters. The positive side of that was that if the missing chapters were posted soon, they could be included in the initial review by those who had not yet been contacted or who had yet gone to the website. Sandra said that she had focused on getting local business owners to check out up to 3 chapters. She commented that she had not seen any outreach by Town Councilors.

Steve asked if committee would be able to see the comments that people were making. Theo said that upon close of the feedback session he would produce reports for each chapter and include all comments. He had already peeked at that and saw lively and insightful commentary.

Claudia asked what the target number for total feedback should be. Julie asked why outside organizations were included in the feedback list. Theo stated that they had been helpful in providing facts for the chapters, and that now that the committees had come up with proposed policies and actions that it made sense to check in with them for feedback. Sandra added that it was the courteous thing to do to let these groups know how their information was used and ask them for feedback.

Claudia suggested that adding a slate to the TV bulletin would give added exposure. Theo will pursue this. He mentioned that he and the Town Manager had been working on organizing a conversation with former Falmouth Town Councilors about the future of Falmouth. It was suggested that a similar conversation could also be interesting with Volunteer of the Year recipients. Theo acknowledged that multiple conversations could be had. Steve hoped these conversations would be productive and not polarizing.

4. Draft Chapter Review (continued)

Agriculture and Forestry

Claudia had made changes to this chapter. The revisions included making a case for the appreciation of agricultural assets of Falmouth, the suggestion that a preservation plan should be developed, and discussion of the extent to which the Town should encourage or

discourage agriculture, and the need for education of the community. Rachel noted that there had been some recent press to the contrary. She felt that it should not be taken for granted that everyone would agree with this chapter. Claudia felt that there had been a huge increase in agriculture since 2000. Julie felt that the revised chapter read well. Sam felt that the reminder comments (regarding missing data) should be taken out. Rachel thought that there were some survey results regarding agriculture that should be incorporated to help underscore the opinions that were expressed, for example, on page 1 paragraph 2. Hugh also thought that the survey had some observations on the appreciation of rural character by residents. He noted the increase in interest in small-scale agriculture.

Sandra suggested that the questions should still be asked how the Town values agricultural land, and that proposing a preservation plan for it may be premature. Sam felt that the suggestions and questions on page 7, paragraph 2 could be included as proposed actions. Sandra felt that the need was to develop a strategic plan for agriculture. Sam suggested that the goal could be to analyze the level of community support for the preservation of agricultural pursuits. Steve said that the chapter was drafted as an advocacy document. He suggested that a balanced view should be presented that included discussion of negatives, if there were any. Rachel agreed that there was a lot to consider for this topic. Sandra commented on the romance that people have with agriculture and that that seemed to be accelerating. If that is the case then the Town should be alerted by the committee as to what to do about that. Hugh agreed that it was important to pay attention to the current trends. Bud wondered to what extent Falmouth already allows agriculture to take place. Sandra felt that its importance should be assessed. Rachel noted that agricultural land once developed for other purposes is lost forever. Hugh felt that an appropriate role was to recognize the trends and interest and for the Town to take a look at what its agricultural resources are.

Sam asked who could assist Claudia in finalizing this chapter. Julie agreed to do that. Sandra commented that this chapter contained stronger value statements than the other chapters. Hugh agreed that factual parts of the chapter should be kept and the opinion parts be softened.

5. Vision Discussion

As time was running short, the committee agreed to review Paul's draft vision statement and Sandra's edits at the next meeting.

6. Mapping Update

Theo handed out a scope proposal from Spatial Alternatives. It described the data that would be included in each chapter. He was still in process of reviewing that and comparing it to the existing maps from the 2000 Plan and the current draft chapters to make sure the maps supported the text. Theo stated that each subcommittee should take a look at their chapters and the map(s) proposed for it to help craft the scope for it. A better defined scope will allow for a more efficient production of the maps. Sandra suggested that the committee also ask itself where the controversy was in the chapters and how the maps could help to inform those issues.

Theo suggested that the Land Use subcommittee become the Land Use/Mapping committee as there were a number of mapping issues that were part of its work. The group agreed with that approach. Theo had posted a series of maps in the conference room that people could review to inform their opinions on what was needed for the next round of maps. He will send out a Word version of the scope so people can add to that.

7. Other Business

Theo mentioned that earlier in the day he had met with the CDC. It had suggested holding a joint meeting with LPAC+ at LPAC's October 11th meeting to discuss the progress of, and provide feedback on, the draft plan. Theo stated that Sandra had suggested earlier that it would also be a good opportunity to find out what Councilors felt they needed from the committee before they would be willing to endorse a draft plan. The committee agreed to hold a joint CDC-LPAC meeting on 10/11.

8. Next meeting

LPAC+ will meet again on September 27 at 7:00 PM.

The Land Use/Mapping Subcommittee will meet September 19 at 6:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Draft minutes prepared by Theo Holtwijk, September 14, 2012