



# Long Range Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC+)

## Thursday, October 11, 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:** Councilor Pierce  
**Staff present:** Theo Holtwijk  
**Others present:** Councilors Varney, Rodden, and Payne

The meeting was called to order by Sam Rudman around 7:07 PM.

### 1. Discussion with Community Development Committee

Sam opened the meeting by stating in the 2 ½ years that the committee had worked on the plan several themes had emerged, including the needs of an older population, interest in connectivity and walkable community, and business development. The sense was that Falmouth was in a good financial position and should perpetuate that situation. At this time the committee was interested to get feedback from the CDC and the public.

Sandra added the question which chapters of the plan should be deemed most urgent. Her sense was that it would be less than seven chapters. Sam asked if the CDC had seen anything wrong in any of the chapters.

A copy of the proposed vision and issues/implications, proposed goals, policies and actions for each chapter was distributed.

Tony wondered what the Town’s role was regarding housing and the needs of a senior population, and if it should have a role. His sense was that organizations such as OceanView fulfill that role well. He suggested that the Town should not be getting in the senior housing business. Paul responded that another way to think about that would be to recognize the contribution of senior housing to the tax base without impacting the school system. Sandra added that the committee wanted to understand the graying of Falmouth and was

interested in a community dialogue on that. Teresa asked if Falmouth was trending towards an older population more rapidly than other communities. Julie noted Falmouth's dichotomy regarding age (many young families and older residents, but little in the middle) as well as economic diversity. Teresa mentioned that there might be an opportunity for the Town to provide services and infrastructure, such as a community center or the arts. She was interested in a community that provided for a vibrant life for all residents. Tony has been encouraged by the integration of the school department. It was asked what Falmouth resources can enhance the quality of life here for seniors. Tony suggested that this was perhaps also a matter of tweaking zoning and allowing smaller lots.

Tony asked if subdivision applications require paper road connections to adjacent properties. He was in favor of making all bike lanes safe and was a fan of sidewalks with people. He believed one needed density for that as sidewalks are a capital and maintenance expense. He suggested that a metric be developed to determine where in Falmouth there should be sidewalks. The metric could be persons/acre or square mile. Teresa felt that a sidewalk network should be create east of Woodville Road and sidewalk decisions should not be left to neighborhood residents who may not see the larger picture. Bud noted that the survey that was conducted came back with many people in favor of more sidewalks. Hugh stated that the ordinance required road connections, but that the Planning Board grants waivers from the requirement on a case by case basis. Hugh wondered what level of detail the Comp Plan should address and stated he felt it should not go the zoning detail. He wondered if that was OK with the Council.

Sandra asked who the group has not yet engaged, but should do so.

Bonny stated that the recommended action on public transit routing seemed obvious, but that that chapter did not address if more transit was needed.

Faith stated that she felt the schools were very separate from the Town. She cited school events that many people don't know about. Teresa felt that these school activities are part of the cultural activities of the Town.

Teresa wondered about the recommended action on fire department staffing. Tony stated that Chief Rice had made major improvements and that morale was high. He felt that the community should to be engaged to volunteer as the costs of a full-time, paid fire department are extraordinary. Teresa agreed and felt that this action was a red flag. The committee will communicate with the Fire Chief about this.

Sandra stated that there does appear to a lack in cooperation in using school facilities. She cited cases where space was reserved, but not used and not released to other interested parties. Teresa felt that was a customer service issue. Tony felt that someone should "own" this issue. He wondered if this was an issue for the Comprehensive Plan. Sandra stated that she felt it was a lifestyle issue and that it said this was not good enough for Falmouth. Teresa said that this was a complicated matter. Tony suggested adding something about it in the preamble of the plan, and to encourage leadership and community engagement on these issues. Hugh saw this as an issue of the Town having finite resources and needing to use them as efficient as possible. Steve noted that his subcommittee had spoken with Barbara Powers early on in the process. Bonny suggested adding coordination to the recommended

action #3 in the Public Facilities chapter. Teresa said she felt the Town website was not user-friendly. Rachel commented that she felt there was an opportunity by scheduling more events in the schools to earn revenue.

Sandra brought up the topic of regional coordination. She felt it was a hot topic, but contained no measurables. She asked what language the committee could consider using for that. Tony noted as measurables the work on the natural gas pipeline, transportation, and economic development.

Paul felt it was important to see how the plan comes together and what the visible, tangible result will be. He suggested focusing on three priorities. Tony agreed that the plan should have high and low priorities in its work plan. Bonny felt that there should be more than three priorities, and that the plan should acknowledge what has worked well in the community.

Bonny felt there was a real sense of a need for the community to come together regarding the services it offers and facilities it manages, and also for business representatives and residents to come together. Teresa suggested that an event be organized to bring the community together. Tony felt there was an opportunity to reach out to civic organizations and churches about this. Teresa mentioned that this was timely as the Town's Tercentennial was coming up.

Sam and the committee thanked the Councilors for coming in and providing feedback on the drafts. He felt that that was very helpful to the committee.

## **2. Other Business**

The committee agreed to extend the deadline for feedback on the draft chapters until November 15, 2012. Theo will distribute the feedback received to date on the drafts.

## **3. Next meeting**

LPAC+ will meet again on October 25 at 7:00 PM. At that time the committee will discuss the initial Survey Monkey feedback on the drafts, and figure out what matters most in the plan. Some grammar and spelling editing has been done by Julie on several of the drafts. Committee members were urged to have read every draft chapter before the next meeting.

The Land Use/Mapping Subcommittee will meet October 17 at 6:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned around 9:15 PM.

Draft minutes prepared by Theo Holtwijk, October 17, 2012