

Meeting Minutes FINAL AMMENDED DRAFT (01/08/08)
Comprehensive Plan Committee
Meeting Date: December 19th 2007

Present: Ellen Hendrickx, Betsy Imershein, Bob Mayer, Jim Metzger, Rebecca Strutton, Kathy Sullivan, Harry Thomas, Richard Bass, Steve Corrigan.

Planning Board Representative: James Cameron.

Excused: Carolyn Summers, Lynda Merchant

8:10 pm The meeting was called to order, and the minutes of the 12/5/2007 meeting were accepted.

Kathy announced that some CPC members would arrive late to the meeting and also that John Dennehey would not be joining the meeting, but that he would reschedule at a later date.

Kathy asked if all were comfortable with the format of the minutes and it was agreed that the format was acceptable. Deadline for final draft of minutes was agreed to be in time for circulation of next meeting's agenda, with the ability for minor changes still to be added at beginning of next meeting. It was raised that the responsibility for taking minutes should be delegated to a CPC admin position (as promised by Village Manager).

Report:

- 1) Status on Village website: It was discussed that many of the reports discussed previously are accessible on the CPC website. Kathy mentioned that she has received comments from members of the public that some of the links are no good.
- 2) Communication with other Boards: Kathy said she has been in contact with Economic Development Committee (EDC) and that they are very interested in working with the CPC, particularly in the area of community input. The EDC scheduled public charrette of Jan 16 may be postponed. Their next meeting will be Jan 11 (Kathy to confirm) with a Westchester County economic development representative, and any CPC members who can attend should try to do so. (Betsy Imershein, Ellen Hendrickx, Bob Mayer, Jim Metzger, Rebecca Strutton and Harry Thomas may all attend.) Betsy voiced concern over too closely collaborating with the EDC, particularly/specifically regarding the vision of the CPC. This makes it sound like I don't want to work w/the econ development committee. What I was saying was that I think initially we should approach the community with no agenda or specific issues, such as economic development, and find out what the community is concerned about. Then, of course we would work with any and all committees and people who are interested in being involved with the CPC.
- 3) Architectural Review: Ellen said the Architectural Review Board (ARB) had prepared a draft guideline for the central business district and presented it to the Trustees. The Mayor wants to see the plan posted on the Village website, but the ARB has been hesitant to move forward due before confirming CPC priorities. All agreed that there is no conflict and that the ARB can proceed.
- 4) Planning: Kathy mentioned that Patty Speranza (Chair of Planning Board) is interested in working closely with CPC. James Cameron suggested that the CPC

should continue to progress the CP process and that the Planning Board would join and add input as it moves forward.

Topics:

- 1) John Dennehey / Greenway: John Dennehey unable to attend – to be rescheduled. Angie Witkowski said that Megan Flanagan would travel with John from Albany and suggested that a significant portion of that meeting is dedicated to them as they are partially funding the CP process and can explain both the details of Greenway and of the grant for Hastings. Angie also offered to go through the details of Greenway's goals and objectives to clarify and guide the CPC priorities as the process continues.

Betsy suggested we push back the Greenway meeting until we have had a chance to internally discuss the LWRP and Vision plans more thoroughly. Jim commented that perhaps it would be an even better first step to discuss/learn about Greenway first, and then work on LWRP and Vision. Kathy confirmed that we would invite them for January 9 or 23.

- 2) Scheduling: Harry suggested we look at scheduling at this time. It was agreed that we would stick to scheduling meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. Therefore the upcoming schedule is as follows:

January 9 & 23

February 13 & 27

March 12 & 26

- 3) Preliminary List of Topics and Next Steps: Kathy confirmed that the preliminary list was acceptable by the committee.

There was a discussion on the idea of community/shared services with other neighboring communities. Several members questioned whether this was not outside the remit of the CPC. Betsy said that there was a difference here between planning and implementation. Rebecca was also concerned about the idea of shared services with other villages (e.g. Police, Fire, etc.). Ellen argued that interface is imperative and that it would be in-line with Greenway. She noted that she wasn't necessarily referring to sharing essential service such as Police and Fire, however there may be many other areas that are of mutual benefit or concern. Jim highlighted the need for a broader regional picture, citing the Ridgehill development and traffic issues, but also mentioned that it might be premature at this stage. Kathy mentioned that for reference the Coventry Plan has an interesting chapter on Community Services.

Kathy stated that the topic list was an inventory of what the Village currently has, and that ultimately the community can decide what we have/need.

Jim mentioned a conversation he had with a resident regarding the lack of detail in other plans, and suggested that ours perhaps strive to be more detailed. Kathy indicated that the community will establish the goals and the CPC will draft a plan to accomplish those goals. Kathy also reminded the Committee that by its nature the short/med/long term goals in the CP will get reviewed on a regular basis.

Kathy suggested that the topic of Collection of Neighborhoods is added. Jim argued that this would fall under Demographics. Betsy disagreed saying that Demographics is quantitative while Neighborhoods would be qualitative. Angie indicated that it is important to go along census tract block groups and compare with demographic indicators as grants go along these census group boundaries. Harry asked about number of Census Block Groups in Hastings. Information (incl. demographic) is available through Angie. Jim mentioned it would be interesting to see if there is/are a specific neighborhood/segment of Hastings growing faster than others (home sales, etc.). Kathy suggested we combine topic of Housing into Demographics.

Ellen commented that there are already many reports available and asked how we cull from those. Rebecca suggested that we set the list of topics then go to the community for additions/amendments. Kathy clarified that we will be reviewing existing documents including other comprehensive plans.

David Skolnik asked for clarification on topic of Infrastructure. Kathy explained that it included water, sewer, building, streets, etc.

Bob raised the point that the Waterfront was noticeably absent from the list of topics. This then raised the discussion of whether the Topics should be Geographic or Topical. It was agreed that the list should remain Topical with the Geographic elements to be consistent subtopics throughout Topical elements.

Vanessa Merton raised Uniontown as a specific Geographic issue to be addressed. She commented that the block of stores including Amjo's is routinely excluded from the Central Business District but should be part of and considerations of economic development etc.

Angie suggested that Sustainability be considered a subtopic and handled in the same way as specific Geographic elements.

Harry asked about Large Land Tracts and getting more information. Angie answered that the Planning Board was to discuss and revert.

How do we assign ourselves to topics?

- a. Review and condense list of topics
- b. Individually rank topics 1-9 in terms of individual preference. Rebecca will apply a ranking system to best match individuals with topics.

For sake of consistency, Kathy will send the condensed list of topics with ranking numbers/letters. Individual lists to be sent to Rebecca.

- 4) Election of 'permanent' CPC Chairperson: Kathy was asked if she enjoyed being Chair. Kathy indicated she was happy to provide a leadership role for the CPC. It was agreed that Kathy would remain the CPC Chairwoman for calendar year 2008. It was agreed that a vice-chair would be appointed monthly on an alphabetical basis (surname). It was also agreed that nothing formal needed to be set-up now, but if the committee felt there was an issue regarding the Chairperson, it would be addressed as and when necessary.

Other Business:

- 1) Richard updated on the status of the Hunter College student involvement in the CPC and that the project was proceeding. Scheduling would be Friday (Dec 21). Richard will work with the Village regarding funding of cost reimbursement (travel costs, etc) and update further at next meeting.
- 2) Jim raised the point of the administrative position offered by Fran Frobel and the CPC needs to follow up with Fran of filling this position.
- 3) Jim raised the discussion of the matching Grant for the Quarry, and how impressively it was handled by those people involved Chris Lomolino – Head of the Quarry Committee. Jim stressed that the CPC should proactively follow the lead of the Quarry committee and do more than simply write a Comp Plan, but rather follow up thoroughly to ensure success.

Next Meeting:

January 9, 2008 - Harmon Bldg.