

Village of Hastings on Hudson
Comprehensive Plan Committee

Minutes of Meeting No. 11
March 26th, 2008 at 8:00 pm

Media room of the James Harmon Community Center, 44 Main Street

Present: Jim Metzger, Rebecca Strutton, Kathy Sullivan, Harry Thomas, Carolyn Summers, Lynda Merchant, Betsy Imershein, Steve Corrigan

Excused: Bob Mayer, Richard Bass, Ellen Hendrickx,

8:10 Welcome /Roll call/ Acceptance of Minutes of March 12th, 2008

8:15 PM Topic Updates

Topics:

1. *Land Use and Zoning: Carolyn and Jim*

At the last meeting Jim had the big Google earth map available. Jim reported that this committee is also using the Westchester government web site 2025 for a lot of information. There are two underlying assumptions. One that the land use will inform the zoning in the village and that the plan will be theoretical with no pre-conceived notions.. The committee is unsure if the build out analysis from the Hunter Studio will happen. Jim thanked Kathy for the large tract plan. Kathy Sullivan will deliver the plans to those people who did not get them. Kathy also asked that this committee look into the zoning codes for the neighboring villages to see how they may impact Hastings.

Betsy Imershein thought that the committees were supposed to bring out the issues for the consultant, not do the report for them. Kathy Sullivan agreed that the committees should be fact finding committees.

2. *Transportation and Infrastructure: Steve, Rebecca, and Betsy*

Steve reported that he attended the second of two workshops on transportation given by the B.O.T. of the village. The agenda for the meetings was going over the transportation plan presented to the village and to move the plan along. This plan will be submitted to Albany for approval of the reimbursement for the plan. This approval does not mean that the plan is accepted as is. The roundabout seemed to be a hot point. It goes over the aquaduct that is an historical landmark at the five corners. This will be investigated further. The reduction of speed and an increased awareness of safety issues are the primary concerns of the BOT. The School Board is an active participant in this plan with respect to property around the schools. A committee may be formed with 2 BOT plus 2 school board representatives to carry out the work of the plan. Harry Thomas requested some data about parking at the train station about the comings and goings of the train service at Hastings. Steve reported that data is available.

3. *Economics: Rebecca, Ellen and Bob*

This committee met with the Village Manager and is awaiting data from him. There seems to be an overlap with the Economic Development Committee on this issue, so the data is compiled just not in the hands of the CPC. There is a concern regarding the downtown economic revitalization. A business owner in town was asked about the Farmer's Market and it was reported that on the Saturdays of the Farmer's Market the business doubled.

4. *Community Background and History and Planning History: Richard and Lynda*

Lynda reported the since 1975 a lot has happened in Hastings. Most of the events are closings such as anaconda Wire and Cable, St. Matthew's School, St. Stanislaus parish, and Hastings Creative Arts Council had a name change and moved. However, Hastings High School was named a School of Excellence in 1989 one of 24 out of 700 school districts in New York State. There was a Presidential Scholar named in 1978 from Hastings High School. The museum of the Streets was instituted by the Hastings Historical Society. The Library and pool were remodeled. It was reported that there are 46 houses for sale in Hastings on March 26th, 1989 with a sale range of \$200,000 to \$700,000. Apartments are renting for a studio \$600.00 per month, larger apartments for \$1000.00 a month and apartments with river views are \$1600.00 a month. I would like to thank the Historical Society for all their help on this part of the project. I have turned my research over to the Hunter Studio students for their report.

5. *Demographics: Steve, Richard, Bob, and Hunter Studio:*

Steve reported that they need information from the school district and would follow up on this. Some question were discussed that might need to be addressed by the school district such as the number of families who moved into the village in the last 10 years, and the number of school children that were realized from this move. Also the number of special education children in district and out of district and if the number of private school children is on the increase or decrease. At the small meetings or in the survey we should discuss why people moved to town.

6. *Regional and Local Setting & Intergovernmental & Municipal Structure: Betsy and Kathy*

A report will be presented at the next meeting.

7. *Community Facilities and Cultural Resources: Lynda and Harry-*

Harry Thomas reported that the Library is a fantastic resource for the village. There is a pre-K room that is utilized, Library funding now includes being open every day of the week. There is a group of students who utilize the library for homework. The students must be at least in fourth grade and this is a valuable community service. This committee interviewed Spike Barkin who has organized many cultural events at the Library. Spike told us that the concerts he plans are acoustic in nature, so the Orr room works perfectly. Any larger event would be very costly for the village to afford and with the ease of availability in New York City, it may be hard to get the tickets sold. He also spoke about the need for a community calendar for all events. Rebecca pointed out the Journal News has a community calendar at LoHud.com that might be used and advertised. Lynda reported that this committee has a meeting planned with the Village Arts Council on April 14th in the evening.

8. *Community Services & Scenic Resources and Historic Resources and Recreational Resources and Natural Resources: Carolyn, Jim and Harry*

No report at this meeting

9. *Sustainability: Ellen and Kathy*

No report

9:10 PM

Kathy Sullivan pointed out that it is time for the CPC to regroup and review its procedures to see if any change is necessary. We will put this on the agenda for the ext meeting

Hunter Studio Update: via email from Richard Bass:

A revised draft of the survey will be available tomorrow or Friday. The chapters of the presentation are coming along nicely. The report from the studio may not be complete but we can continue to work on that. The students will present their report on May 12th at Hunter College and on May 14th here for the Village of Hastings. The upstairs room in the JHCC has been reserved. The time is to be determined. Jim Metzger offered to go to the presentation at Hunter College on behalf of the CPC. It was also suggested that maybe one of the students might want an unpaid internship with us for the summer to boost their resume. Richard also reported that John Shapiro (author of the Dobbs Ferry report) and Frank Fish (author if the Irvington plan) have been guest speakers. Kathy Sullivan asked us all to respond quickly to the survey drafts that will be sent.

9:15 PM Village Budget discussion

The expenses of the CPC for a consultant may have to be spread over two fiscal years. If the total cost is not realized in one budget our committee will have to slow down a bit. The budget has included the \$15,000 from the Greenway grant as well as the matching \$15,000. The estimate for a consultant to do the work necessary to finish the plan is approximately \$75,000. There is a budget meeting next Tuesday. If the CPC is on the agenda Kathy Sullivan will let us know.

There was a discussion about whether to have the consultant hired in time for the June meeting or at least in attendance at the meting or whether the large visioning meeting be postponed from June to September. One compromise is to have the Greenway do the large visioning meeting in June with the consultant in attendance. This allows us to continue the process at no cost and to compile data in the summer. Carolyn Summer asked where the small community meetings fit into the larger visioning meeting. We need to set up the small meetings as soon as possible with an invitation to other board in the village to help. There was consensus that our next meeting on April 9th, 2008 should be a run through of the script for the small meetings in homes and public spaces. Jim Metzger will help Carolyn with the questions for the meetings. Kathy asked Lynda to find the four questions that were used at the Hasting School district public meeting. Kathy S. will look into scheduling the small meetings. The American Legion, Andrus Home, houses of worship and the Southside Club should be added to the list of possible meeting sites. The meetings will be Tuesday through Thursday evenings and one on the weekend.

Communication: Kathy S reported that the March email update is due to let people know what we have done. We should ask for requests for hosting some of our small meetings in private homes. Jim M and Carolyn S will look into a village wide email announcing the meetings. During April and May we will continue in the fact finding mode. The large visioning meeting will be scheduled for June 118th with t Greenway's John Dennehey is charge.

9:45 PM Public Comment: Sharon and Logan O'Donnell

The CPC had a fruitful discussion this evening and they were grateful to be in attendance. Sharon commented on the cautiousness of the committee addressing the community issues. She sees a vision of prosperity, future growth, at the same time the village can't afford a fire truck and a kiosk for information. The committee should plan for growth as well as economic downturns and pandemics and preparedness. If something should happen how the village and the residents of the village react to take care of each other or every person for themselves. Logan is a junior in high school and said she had learned from the proceeding this evening. Jim Metzger said that the Citizens Corp is planning for that and we should use the information from them to help in our planning. He also stated that one way to keep taxes down in town is to volunteer for committees and increase our volunteer time. Kathy Sullivan welcomed the two guests and thanked them for their comments.

1000 PM Adjourn

Next Meeting April 9th, 2008 8:00 pm

Action Points

- Kathy Sullivan will deliver Large Tract Report to those committee members who did not pick it up.
- Steve Corrigan will report on data from the MTA about ridership
- Lynda Merchant will get four questions that were asked at the school district public meeting
- Jim Metzger and Carolyn Summer will get together the questions for the small meetings and prepare for the run through at our next meeting.

Comprehensive Plan Committee Broadcast Schedule for WHoH-TV Channel 75

Saturday and Sundays at 10 AM and 8 PM

<http://Whoh-tv.org>