

Village of Hastings on Hudson  
Comprehensive Plan Committee  
Meeting #20  
September 24, 2008

Attending: Richard Bass, Betsy Imershein, Jim Metzger, Rebecca Strutton, Kathy Sullivan, Carolyn Summers

Absent: Ellen Hendrickx, Lynda Merchant, Steve Corrigan, and Harry Thomas

Welcome: 8:00 PM

Roll Call: a quorum was present

1. Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved for September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting.

2. Reports

RFP for planning consultant: Trustees passed resolution to issue RFP. RFP will be released on September 29, 2008. Will be posted on the village website, notices will be posted on American Planning Association's and the Planetizen websites. Susan Maggiotto circulated a list of planning consultants that have worked in the village in the past; she will send the RFP to those consultants directly.

Tomorrow, 9/25/08, Lynda, Betsy and Jim will lead a small meeting for a government class in the high school. (Lynda has worked with the teacher to modify the questions for the age group and the setting.)

Betsy prepared and with Susan Maggiotto's help has sent a request to the various village boards and committees for an update on goals and mission for the planning consultant. Due back to CPC end of November.

3. Topics

Summary Comments cont. from last meeting.

Zoning: Carolyn Summers

The meetings did not address zoning specifically. She feels that zoning is a blunt instrument and instead of a blunt instrument it would be better to have an "environmental design" that relates to all elements of land use and zoning and would have an overarching organizational element to it. Hunter students' plan was interesting because mentioned some zoning elements not currently used in the village; Golden Age Zoning, contextual and infill zoning. Committee discussed that in the course of the plan, village may need a build out analysis from the consultant. There is a large tract study and the Hunter report looked at downtown, build out has not been detailed in neighborhoods yet. Discussion held about the current business mix in downtown and how to make diverse and sustainable. Discussed zoning tools, including restricting "use groups" to certain zoning areas to encourage specific businesses. Need to understand market place. Parking issues could also be addressed by zoning. Richard discussed how a community needs to decide what it wants and then make regulations get it there.

Demographics: Richard Bass

Discussed the change in the age demographics, fewer children and a greater number of older adults. Hastings had a drop in population while neighboring communities and the town did not.

**Regional and Local Setting: Betsy Imershein**

Frustrated that the results from the meetings did not give sense of priority to issues discussed. People at the meetings mentioned the need to share resources, an interest in connections to other villages, shared festivals and coordination with surrounding municipalities. Mentioned also an interest in inter-municipal utility services. She noted that more than ½ of Hunter survey respondents do not take train to work.

Discussion followed about the sharing of services and the potential for controlling tax increases. Also mentioned that villages could share resources i.e. physical facilities but not services per say.

4. RFP responses are due back by October 27. Discussion held about forming a subcommittee to “vet” the responses and to make recommendations on who to interview to the committee. There will be some representation from the village administration when interviewing potential candidates; Fran and Village Board to decide. Discussion held regarding that the meetings with the candidates will be public. The full committee will be present when any candidates are interviewed; will designate “lead” questioners to ask questions to not overwhelm the candidates and will schedule time for Q&A for any to ask questions. Fran suggested that the committee follow a selection process. He has circulated some information. Kathy will prepare a draft “checklist” from his information. Kathy will confirm with village how to address when someone on the committee may have been in position to hire a potential consultant in the course of their work. Kathy will send out email to ask members if they wish to be on the “vetting” subcommittee.

9:00 pm **Adjournment**