

Village of Hastings on Hudson
Comprehensive Plan Committee

Minutes of Meeting No. 7
January 23, 2008 at 7:00 pm

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

Present: Ellen Hendrickx, Betsy Imershein, Jim Metzger, Rebecca Strutton, Kathy Sullivan, Harry Thomas, Steve Corrigan (arrived later during meeting), Carolyn Summers, Lynda Merchant, Richard Bass

Excused: Bob Mayer

Trustee Liason: Jeremiah Quinlan
Village Planner: Angie Witkowski

Guest speaker: John Dennehey (john.dennehey@hudsongreenway.state.ny.us)

7:15 pm. The meeting was called to order, and the minutes of the 1/9/2008 meeting were accepted.

Guest Speaker: John Dennehey

John introduced himself and gave a presentation on the Hudson Valley Greenway Program which we hope to make available on the website.

Questions and responses for Greenway Compact community

General discussion on the Greenway program.

A power point presentation was the focus of the discussion regarding the Hudson River Valley Greenway (HRVG) organization. The discussion was moderated by John Dennehey, Senior Planner for the Greenway and National Heritage Area. The mission of the HRVG is "To preserve, enhance and develop the world-renowned scenic, natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources of the Hudson River Valley. To emphasize appropriate economic development activities and remain consistent with the Tradition of municipal home rule." Currently there are 298 communities, and 14 counties who are eligible. 242 communities have been designated as Greenway areas. This number includes Hastings.

What is a Compact Community?

A greenway community is one that has voted a resolution to be a member of this group and to abide by the 5 criteria put forth by the group. Counties as well as communities are members. This membership allows for pro bono advice and help on many levels of planning. Westchester County plan is entitled *Greenprint*. Our local plan should address the five criteria in the Greenway compact. It is a voluntary program and respects local home rule.

How do comprehensive plans fit into the Greenway program?

The Greenway will look over any comprehensive plan that is sent to them and make suggestions about certain of the criteria. Also provided along with the free advice are technical support and intergovernmental agency liaison ability. This ability to bridge some of the gaps between municipalities and agencies can be helpful.

Since Hastings is a Greenway Compact Community and has agreed to abide by Greenway criteria, what are those criteria, how would the Comprehensive Plan need to reflect those criteria and how is the plan reviewed by Greenway in light of those criteria? Voluntary?

The plan is reviewed keeping in mind the importance of municipal home rule. The agency can suggest changes. Because submitting your plan is a voluntary activity, this group doesn't always see the plans. Some examples of criteria that the agency might encourage a community to change would be paving over wet lands. They can not make the community comply but they can strongly encourage compliance.

The *Greenprint* discusses Inter-municipal Collaborative Efforts. Suggestions and examples from other Greenway communities. Hastings has agreed to review the plan for Greenway compliance. What is interconnectivity and how it will affect our plan?

The inter-connectedness of the municipal plans can take many forms. The Greenway can help bridge the gap between municipalities, so that one won't build something that would be a detriment to a neighbor. The Greenway can facilitate meetings between municipalities and also offer advice about what other municipalities have done about a similar problem.

The *Greenprint* discusses supporting Economic Development in Greenway communities.

Revitalization of the downtown area is one example of where this group can help. They can help with meetings and workshops and probably even surveys and by using regional experiences, looking at corridors of traffic.

Suggestions and examples from other Greenway communities. These examples were interspersed in his talk. He spoke about Nyack and their waterfront park.

How can Hastings leverage membership as a Greenway Compact Community to benefit our community and others?

Greenway can bridge the gap between the local community and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Department of State Coastal Resources for shoreline stabilization etc. They can encourage the State Department of Transportation (DOT) to look at access points to the community and also the Department of Trails to look into our walking routes. Being a Compact Community we get extra points on our plans and requests to DEC and DOT etc.

What planning services are available for Hastings as a Greenway Compact Community?

Funding, Technical assistance, Municipal partner, Consultant- facilitate meetings and look at the draft plan

Interested in discussing the matching grant that the Village has received. The goals and timelines.

There is a fifty/fifty match and it is a reimbursement policy. In other words we have to spend the money and then greenway reimburses. The grant was issued in October of 2006 for \$15,000.00 to be matched by the community. Community matching can be volunteer hours, staff time, and Federal grant money received. Richard Bass' time for the Planning studio could be counted as well as our time on the Comprehensive Plan Committee. Angie Witkowski will contact Greenway office to make sure of the criteria for accepting volunteer hours. The matching grant will expire in October 2008. We can ask for an extension. We can apply for additional grants from Greenway such as implementation grants. National Geographic and Dyson Corporation all do grant applications for certain phases of planning. John Dennehey has that information. Other funding can come from Community Block grants

Interested in how Greenway and LWRP work together. The two work together very well. There are initiatives to make a walk way throughout the Hudson River Valley along the River. The communities that are on the water who have LWR Plans in place have addressed this issue in their plans. The Greenway would help with establishing a boat dock or a waterfront park in our area to encourage tourism on the river.

Relationship of our plan to the county plan and what happens if there are inconsistencies between plans.

The Westchester plan has been accepted and is a guideline to use in our planning. The plans should not conflict with each other, but work together. There is no need for them to be identical just compatible.

Harry Thomas asked about the absence of the major cities in Westchester from the list of compact communities. (Yonkers, New Rochelle, White Plains, and Mount Vernon) John and Angie both stated that larger cities take longer to come to consensus about membership and also have other avenues such as community block grants open to them besides the greenway compact.

Further comments: Kathy will ask for a clean copy of the power point presentation. The information was somewhat hard to read in the copies. We should pass the information on about extending the deadline for the \$15,000.00 grant money. Angie Witkowski should work with John Dennehey on further information.

The regular meeting of the Comprehensive Plan began at 8:17 PM

Reports:

1. *School Budget Forum 1/15/08, at JHCC.*

The Hastings Board of Education held a forum on the upcoming school budget. About 40 people were in attendance. The school sent out an email asking four questions that would be the focus of the evening. At each table was a representative from the school board to facilitate the conversation. All the answers to the questions were put on large chart paper for a brief discussion. An email was sent out after the meeting stating that the district would compile the information from the meeting and from the emails that were returned and distribute at a later date. The forum itself was handled well. When participants arrived they were given a color and they sat at the corresponding table with that color. This color coding split the groups that had arrived together amongst different tables. The moderator spoke and answered a few questions and then the work began. The district also is looking for volunteers to be on a citizen's advisory committee to look over the budget and help clarify any categories where change may be needed. The Board plans to evaluate the responses and will implement what they can.

2. *Westchester County Comprehensive Plan Update Meeting – 1/16/08 at the WC County Center -Jim Metzger* reported that we should all investigate www.westchestergov.com/20025 as the new website where information is placed for planning purposes. It is an interactive community resource for demographics using the 2000 census information. This still might be out of date. The Westchester planning department will also come and help our committee when asked.

3. *Joint meetings with various boards and committees of the Village*

Kathy Sullivan will contact Patricia Speranza to arrange a joint meeting with the Planning Board and David Dietz for the Zoning Board. These meetings will be to discuss the history of the various boards, proposed work that needs to be done and what they are seeing in their groups as far as problems and concerns.

4. *Status on Village Website - Ellen Hendrickx*

There is a welcome statement on the Comprehensive Plan page of the village website. This includes the email for feedback from the community. CPCFeedback@hastingsgov.org The contact person for this email is the same person as the Vice Chairperson. Richard Bass is on for January and Steve Corrigan is on for February for both these tasks.

5. *Hunter Studio Curriculum - Richard Bass.*

The class is a three and a half month semester that starts this Wednesday. On February 2nd there will be a walking tour of Hastings with the students. During the course of the class committee members will be asked to attend class. The class meets Wednesdays from 5:30 to 9:30 PM. The first assignment is to investigate what a master plan is.

6. *Walking tour of Village – Jim Metzger*

February 2nd will be the walking tour. Jim will try to get the Senior Van to do some transport on that day to keep the walking part manageable. Jim gave us a map of the areas where the walk and ride will take place. Rebecca recommended that the students be taken to the hill of the library to see the view and the memorial and to return to the 5 corners after each walk for driving to enable the students to view the main corridors into Hastings. Richard mentioned that the students will be asked to come at different times of the day and night to see what goes on in town. Rebecca also mentioned that a list

of the historical society walking museum might be additional information for the students. Richard and Jim will see about availability of the JHCC for a lunch.

7. *Public comment:* No public comment received

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM

Next meeting February 13th, 2008 In Media 1 & 2 downstairs

Topics to include at next meeting: This meeting should be a meeting where the various committees will report on their progress to the committee as a whole.