

Village of Hastings on Hudson
Comprehensive Plan Committee

Minutes of Meeting No. 9
February 27th, 2008 at 8:00 pm

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

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

Excused: Bob Mayer

Jamie Cameron: Planning Board Representative

8:00 PM Welcome/ Roll Call/ Acceptance of Minutes
Minutes for February 13th, 2008 meeting were accepted.

Kathy Sullivan reported

Joint meeting with Planning Board will be held in the JHCC at 8 PM on March 6th

Joint meeting with the LWRP committee will be announced.

Email to village: a draft of the monthly update will be sent to us for comments or changes

Hunter Update: Richard Bass reported that the history portion is in draft form and missing some segments. He has scanned the demographic report including his corrections so we can see what the students have done so far on that topic. In the next two weeks the students need to have a draft of chapters ready with some factual information. The students are also working on a survey. The community might hear from the students using the village government email service.

Next Steps

Schedule (cont' from last meeting)

Three items in short term

Public participation: Kick off meeting, workshops

Kathy contacted John Dennehey about the community workshops. A handout was provided regarding what a visioning session may look like. Some of Mr. Dennehey comments were that:

- The more notice and reminders we give the community the better.
- He would have a meeting during the week on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday after work. The time frame could be 1 1 /2 or 2 hours with a chat afterwards (3 hour total)
- He would need at least one month to get ready if asked to help
- Have something to eat at the meeting
- CPC members would need to be present at the meeting at least one member at each table to listen to discussions.

Betsy Imershein suggested that during the week is hard for everyone and maybe a weekend would get more participants from the community

Ellen Hendrickx pointed out that the weekend might lend itself to a three hour time frame and that the meeting should be structured and well thought out.

Question raised about the format and structure of the RPA waterfront workshops held in 2000. Kathy Sullivan will look and see if she has information at home. Jamie Cameron suggested that a method is determined such that the attendees who arrive together are mixed up in the small groups to foster discussion.

For this large meeting it is hoped that we could utilize some school district high school students to help disseminate the flyers or notices of the meeting. Can this committee get an intern to work on the project of this large community meeting through the high school?

We need to have this large outreach to the community in May before the summer exodus from town. We should use April, May to gather information for the meeting and June to digest the data realized from the meetings.

A discussion was also held regarding the small meetings. Committee discussed holding small meetings before a larger meeting to listen to the community's thoughts regarding the village's future. The committee would like to hold small meetings focused on seniors or high school students as well as one located in the community. Committee discussed holding the neighborhood meetings in private homes or in a facility that is more public. Some neighborhoods may respond better to an in-house meeting as opposed to a meeting in a public facility. The area of the village may determine the forum for the small meetings. Vanessa Merton said that her neighborhood has an association that meets regularly and could be utilized for a meeting. Kathy pointed out that some people in a neighborhood may be reluctant to attend in someone's house.

Betsy Imershein and Carolyn Summers will plan the number of meetings and present their thoughts about these at the next meeting

Planning consultant: Kathy suggested the committee should start researching consultants in order to put together a RFQ (Request for Qualifications) this spring. Harry, Ellen and Richard volunteered to start this work. Richard Bass has reached out to several colleagues for budget information for Fran Frobels. Kathy will follow up with Fran and Jerry. Discussion of process, the committee would solicit qualifications and then invite three or so consultants to meet in person with the committee. Fee for the scope of the actual tasks of the master plan work would be negotiated with the selected consultant.

Topics:

1. Community Background and History and Planning History: Richard and Lynda

The students continue to work on this section. They have a draft history that they are working on. Lynda will make an appointment with the historical society to find out some more information.

2. Demographics: Steve, Richard, Bob, and Hunter Studio:

Richard will send a demographic report via email to each committee member.

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

Peter Swiderski is on a committee with the 6 villages in the Town of Greenburgh that meets once every other month to discuss matters that arise and to work out shared services. The inclusion of the managers of the villages might be a suggestion for that committee. The committee should monitor the various village emails in case there is something that Hastings may need to speak to.

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

Steve Corrigan reported that this group is compiling information from the school board, various code books of the village and anecdotal information around us each day.

5. *Community Facilities and Cultural Resources: Lynda and Harry*

A handout was presented on the various cultural resources and community facilities in the village and surrounding areas.

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

No further work at this time

7. *Economics: Rebecca, Ellen and Bob*

This group shared that the work had just begun. Some topics they are looking at are Sales tax to Town of Greenburgh and large land tracts that are available to increase tax revenue through development. It was pointed out that Hastings must market themselves to commercial interests. They will not find us like residential developers will.

8. *Sustainability: Ellen and Kathy*

This group met with the Conservation Commission and Sustainable Hastings. Westchester County has just released a Westchester County Action Plan. Ellen will email the link to the committee members. Ellen and Kathy are looking into how sustainability will fit into the Table of Contents of our comprehensive plan document.

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

The waterfront was discussed as a mixed use space with residential, park space and maybe light industry and commercial space available. This group is on a fact finding mission to find out who we are as a village and is looking into the complicated zoning information available. Richard Bass will share the report about large tract that lists vacant land.

Ellen pointed out that now that the committees are working on separate topics there is overlap. We should encourage all committees to interface more.

Public comment:

Vanessa Merton reported that there is report on large tract for the village already. She named the Ferandino report but stated that a build out analysis was not done on the properties in the report. Ms. Merton also pointed out that the good thing about zoning is that it can be changed. She encouraged the committee to look into the Pace University Land Use report by Pace Law School.

David Skolnik asked what those present for the LWRP work session with the Board of Trustees thoughts were about the meeting. It was reported that it seemed that the discussion was fruitful and that the BOT at their April meeting will move the project forward.

Jamie Cameron pointed out that there is a 1990 Trailway Committee report on every right of way with a map showing easements etc.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM

Next meeting March 12th, 2008 In Media 1 & 2 downstairs

Action Points

- Kathy Sullivan will send to each of us a reimbursement form for expenses
- Lynda Merchant will work out a schedule for our committee meetings to be presented on WHOH
- Betsy and Carolyn will report on neighborhood meetings.
- Richard, Harry and Ellen will report on consultant.
- Ellen will email link to CPC members for the Westchester County Action Plan
- Each topic group should send any handouts for the web site to Kathy Sullivan. These handouts should be dated.