

TOWN OF GOSHEN
PLANNING BOARD
APPROVED MINUTES
AUGUST 5, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Allen Howe, Jonathan Purick, Rich Moen, Selectman Jim Carrick, and Sue Peacock, Secretary.

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Dzewaltowski, UVLSRPC

Mr. Dzewaltowski asked the Board what they would want to accomplish.

Mr. Howe stated that he has Cindy – the Town’s secretary if there is any database with all the Town’s citizens’ names and addresses that could be used for mailing a notice about the Master Plan Workshop. It sounds like something will be possible, but it unclear how to extract the information from the database(s).

Mr. Dzewaltowski stated that it is important that you at least have members of the Town Government invited, and then set a date later. Mr. Dzewaltowski handed out a proposed agenda for the Community Visioning Workshop. This should be planned for a Saturday, from about 8 a.m. till 3 p.m. Mr. Dzewaltowski would gather info from past Master Plan, and present things in a way people would like them addressed.

One of the Master Plan Workshop Elements is to break facilitators and participants into six groups, then have the groups discuss Master Plan Issues and Vision. Mr. Carrick asked Mr. Dzewaltowski if the facilitators should be Town Officials or would it be better to use them as sub-facilitators. Mr. Dzewaltowski stated that it depends, and he sees this as an opportunity for Town Officials to give input. There could be a balance for Town Officials; there could be one that is a better area for one than for another person. For example, the Selectman should be a participant in the Public Roads or Community Facilities. Mr. Carrick suggested that there be 7 or 8 groups.

Mr. Howe asked about the facilitator assignments. Is it better to assign facilitators based on expertise or to mix people up randomly to perhaps stimulate some new thinking?

Mr. Dzewaltowski asked if the Board has decided on members to help facilitate.

Mr. Howe suggested that we send a letter to Town Committees to locate volunteers to act as facilitators at the workshop.

There are many ways to obtain peoples input, if they aren’t comfortable with a group discussion. Mr. Dzewaltowski described an approach previously used in attempting to quantify what is meant by “rural character”. The system used pictures organized in various categories (e.g. houses, businesses) and participants rank each picture as to how well it conforms to their perception of “rural character”. The end result is a numeric score for each category. Mr. Howe asked if that numeric score could then be

converted to a verbal expression. Mr. Dzewaltowski said that they had not done that previously, but that it was probably possible. If this component were added to our project, some data entry would be completed by the Town. Mr. Howe felt that this would be simple numeric entry and not a big time consumer. All liked the idea and wanted it used.

Mr. Dzewaltowski also discussed use of a time-line to help people start to think about what has happened in the Town in the past in order to get them oriented about planning for the future. Board members liked that idea, also.

Another approach used to get people's input was map oriented.

There was also a map for each person to depict where each person thought there could be possible development, and what kind of development people thought would be appropriate for each area. The end result being a map that showed the percent of responses to allow a particular kind of development within specific zones. Overall the Board Members thought this approach would be good, also, but what not as well received as the rural character photo approach.

Mr. Moen asked about if some people could not make the workshop, if a survey will be sent out. Mr. Howe clarified that the intent was to use the workshop to develop a survey that would be mailed to all households...to the extent possible based on limitations that may exist in our electronic databases.

Mr. Howe talked about possibly the school as a location for the workshop. Mr. Carrick said that the Town has a light-up sign that also shows the speed limit, that could be used to advertised, and also Mr. Carrick stated that the date and location of the workshop could be posted on the Town Website.

Mr. Dzewaltowski asked the members of the Board for their opinions on anything he has discussed. Mr. Howe stated that in his opinion he wouldn't use the map exercise. It was more a personal preference in how he would prefer to submit his own comments. It also seemed more difficult, as compared with the rural character survey, for the Town to perform data entry. Mr. Moen said he thought the mapping was a good idea.

Mr. Howe asked Mr. Dzewaltowski how the maps would be translated, and put in a visual with averages and defined areas. Mr. Dzewaltowski said that in the map exercise each area would be tallied up, and then made up into a visual map. Mr. Dzewaltowski said that the potential exercises could be a rural character survey, and a time line.

Mr. Dzewaltowski talked about the Goshen future land use plan as part of the Master Plan, which could show how to preserve certain areas and where you might have growth. This might also show the residents what we see for the future and what has happened in the past to shape the future.

Mr. Howe said that it would be helpful to get residents opinions on certain issues, and to get people to think about growth and how it has occurred.

Mr. Dzewaltowski asked Mr. Howe for a date to plan this workshop, and that it needs to be all planned out at least two weeks before the actual date. Mr. Howe and other members agreed the date could be tentatively set for Saturday, September 27th.

Mr. Dzewaltowski stated that everything would have to be done by September 8th, which he recommends the advertising, the location, mailing list, and mailing an invitation to Town Officials. Mr. Dzewaltowski stated that the Community Workshop does not have to include all of the Town residents.

Mr. Howe will check out the use of the Goshen-Lempster School for that date, will look into options for provision of snacks and lunch for the workshop, will pursue the availability of an electronic database, and will draft a letter soliciting facilitators for the workshop. Mr. Howe and Mr. Dzewaltowski will communicate to each other to update the plans.

AGENDA ITEM # 2: Correct Minutes 6-12, 7-1, 7-15, 7-29

The minutes of 6-12 were reviewed and corrections were made. Mr. Moen made a motion to accept the minutes, Mr. Purick seconded. All were in favor.

The minutes of 7-1 were reviewed, and Mr. Howe had also edited previously. The corrections were made, Mr. Moen made a motion to accept the minutes, and Mr. Carrick seconded. All were in favor.

The minutes of 7-15 and 7-29 will be corrected at a later date.

Mr. Carrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Purick seconded. All were in favor to adjourn at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Peacock
Planning Board Secretary