

Village of Rhinebeck Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee-Thursday, February 9th, 2023

The February meeting was called to order by Matt Johnston at 7:00pm at Village Hall, 76 East Market Street, Rhinebeck, NY with the following members in attendance:

Matt Johnston, Chair

Jeffrey Cotter

Elijah Bender

Steve Rosenberg

Eleanor Pupko

Deirdre Burns

John Clarke

Shea Dean

Louis Turpin

Rachel Cavell

John Traver

Ernesto Martynek

Guests: Vanessa Bertozzi, Group of Bulkeley Middle School Students, Denise George (NDH Hospital Administrator), Mayor Bassett and several neighbors.

Agenda:

1. Welcome (7:00-7:03 pm)

2. Approval of January 26, 2023 Minutes (7:03 – 7:05 pm)

3. Discussion with Hospital and Rhinebeck School District (7:05 – 7:45 pm)

4. Review Survey Results (7:45 – 8:45 pm)

5. February 25th Workshop Reminder (8:45 – 8:50 pm)

6. Other Business (8:50 – 8:55 pm)

7. Adjourn

Approval of Previous Minutes. Minutes of the January meeting were approved with corrections by motion of Louis Turpin and seconded by Eleanor Pupko.

Presentation on Safe Paths to School: Vanessa Bertozzi and Angela Basile worked with a group of school students on “Roadbeck” consisting of safe passages to school. This consists of more sidewalks, crosswalks, less of a reliance on greenhouse gasses and additional signage.

-Dierdre asked the children about access from Starr Drive/Route 308 and they welcome additional access in this area.

-Steve asked how we get the parents to stop driving children to school.

-John Traver thanked the children for attending and giving such a thoughtful presentation.

Questions arose from the Committee and public about safe spaces for the students to assemble.

Presentation/Discussion with Denise George of Northern Dutchess Hospital:

Denise presented on initiatives in the community like “Community Needs Events” and some of the issues facing the community like transportation, mental health, chronic disease, drug addiction and the like.

-Workforce housing is one of the main issues facing the hospital with growing staff shortages.

Denise asked how to recruit and maintain staff in the face of this.

-Marist Poll reveals main issues confronting this area consist of: loneliness/depression, bullying, suicide.

Closing down mental institutions and outpatient facilities has caused some trouble with patients on the street.

-Rhinebeck-At-Home will present February 14th a program on transportation and other information to help seniors in the environs.

-Steve asked about dreams/challenges of NDH. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding zoning obstacles and the need to increase beds. There was brief discussion of the corporate structure of Nuvance.

-Shea asked if the hospital provides transportation and whether they would be open to a program.

-Rachel detailed some of the past history as it pertains to the Sosnoff Addition, blight zones and hospitals and how special sensitivity should take into account homeowners abutting the hospital.

-John Clarke explained the draft zoning law created in 2018 and 2019 that should be finalized.

Debrief on Survey:

Arica McCarthy of Tighe and Bond debriefed on survey results. There were 668 responses with less answers given to open-ended questions.

-No responses were received to surveys in the Spanish language.

-58% were Village residents (388 ppl), 85% homeowners, 93% primary residences, 30% have lived in Village greater than 20 years, 20% renters. All of this is consistent with U.S. Census data.

-47% feel as though there is not enough parking in the Village.

Matt would like Tighe and Bond to discern which answers reflect Town and Village residents. Many would like locally owned businesses, many against skateboards.

-Dierdre is concerned that many of the 1993 Comprehensive Plan Survey issues have been repeated. Fewer renters responded.

-Steve is concerned about the zero response rate in the Spanish language.

Matt responded that a lot of insight was provided by the "Kitchen Table Conversations along with deliberate outreach to the schools and younger demographic.

-Shea would like to discuss the age demographics at the working meeting set for February 25th.

Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made at 9:02 pm.