

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, May 25, 2023
10:00 AM – Rye Town Hall

Present: Chair Rob Wright, Patricia Losik, Kathryn Garcia and Planning & Zoning Administrator Kim Reed, Land Use Assistant, Kara Campbell and Jenn Rowden, RPC Consultant

I. Call to Order

Chair Wright called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

2. NHHOP Grant Update

Chair Wright asked Ms. Rowden if she is connected to the Zoom and to flesh out the agenda.

Ms. Reed suggested that Ms. Rowden just show her screen to the members since the TV isn't working.

Ms. Rowden said Phase Two of the grant is due June 30th. PB can put together application before June 30th.

Ms. Rowden would like to get it in way before.

Ms. Rowden can submit the application on town's behalf.

Ms. Losik wants to talk about Phase 3. Asked Jenn if they can provide services for Phase 3. Due in Nov. Phase 3 is regulatory drafting. Asked if pb has to weigh in on choosing Jenn. Pat said a specific vote was not made at the last pb meeting.

Ms. Reed recommends LRP recommend Jenn now since the next meeting is June 20 and phase two due June 30 on behalf of the PB.

Ms. Losik said funds are dwindling, how long do we want to wait to submit application.

Ms. Rowden said she can get a draft by June 5-6.

Ms. Reed suggested that the group asks the Select Board to waive bidding process and they are going to RPC.

Chair Wright made a motion that the LRP committee authorized RPC to prepare the phase 2 hop grant application. Ms. Garcia seconded, all in favor, unanimous.

SB meetings are June 12 and June 26. Ms. Losik confirmed to do the 26.

Ms. Rowden started going over the survey, the flyer asked Kim to post on the Town website and 1 page summary. Can change if dates change. Includes who's funding it, end goal, project website.

Chair Wright asked what the order is of posting. Ms. Rowden and Ms. Reed said already posted in the newsletter. Chair Wright asked if any other social media can be done.

Ms. Rowden asked if it could be posted on FACEBOOK page, unofficial pages, Ms. Rowden can post through RPC account, suggested Rye Beach Precinct FACEBOOK page, Rye NH 400 community page, Rye police FACEBOOK, Ms. Losik asked Ms. Reed if she can post, she said Janice can. Ms. Losik asked if any others...next door, DPW Facebook page, Planning Board members not posting, Ms. Rowden said its helpful if they do it on their own platforms, "We Love Rye", "Rye Historical Society", Rye Middle School, Facebook pages.

Chair wright asked if most people would get it through newsletter. Asked if we could post a link to newsletter.

Ms. Rowden suggested calling it Housing Survey.

Ms. Rowden said social media is the best – 80% from other communities. Chair Wright asked what should be posted and said he will send it to other people to post.

Ms. Rowden said she can see where people are taking the survey from – electronic, social media etc.

Ms. Rowden said the purpose of the survey is to get feedback.

Ms. Rowden said don't post until Tuesday, May 30th because it is not active yet.

Ms. Losik asked how we keep it at the top of the home page on the website.

Ms. Rowden said a week into survey open date, post an update, "200 people have taken it, have you?" and a second round of social media blasts.

Ms. Rowden asked for help to distribute flyers around town.

Ms. Rowden is bringing paper copies of the survey on Tuesday.

Ms. Rowden requested to post wherever the committee members go, restaurants, etc. DPW garage. Ms. Reed said she would do Roots and Summer Sessions, Kooks.

Ms. Rowden said she can make the survey live now, and Ms. Losik agreed because she wanted to capture people over the weekend.

Ms. Rowden will send weekly updates on numbers, how many people, where traffic is coming from, adjust as needed.

Ms. Reed said she would put it down at the Little League Field.

Ms. Rowden asked to wait for the library and annex until Tuesday because she's waiting for hard copies.

Ms. Rowden figured not many paper copies.

Ms. Rowden suggested asking all municipal boards to announce surveys at meetings.

Ms. Reed will send Steve Bourne at Civic League as he is doing newsletter this week.

Ms. Rowden showed survey to members.

Ms. Rowden said software will alert survey takers if offensive or strong language. She also gets alerted before it gets published.

Ms. Rowden said people can “like” or comment on other people’s anonymous comments, but that’s it.

Ms. Rowden said it there are specific attacks on pb members, etc. – will redact person’s name.

Ms. Rowden said we can reach out to individuals that want to be involved, interview, story to share.

Ms. Rowden said the survey has some multiple choice and some comments.

The first question is how many homes are in Rye.

Next question do you rent or own in Rye, business, do you not live in Rye? Can answer multiple.

What is their longevity – most important question. Ms. Rowden said disparity between long time owners and new owners.

Ms. Garcia asked about downsizing or upsizing.

Ms. Rowden suggested putting answers into Master Plan.

Chair Wright said there will likely be three opinions – no development, look like where I came from, fairshare.

Ms. Rowden said there will most likely be a bell curve, both extremes, trying to get in the middle.

Chair Wright said if we must go from 1600 → 1900 housing units, this is a statutory requirement.

Ms. Rowden mentioned constraints on resources.

Next question is what your concerns with housing in Rye are.

High priority question.

Public information session later in summer.

Workforce housing question – what is the cost in Rye?

Zoning constraints?

None are required to answer.

Map: where do you want to see more or less housing in Rye. Not getting into design preferences.

Can cross reference to see who wants more density in the neighborhoods.

Demographic questions – age, income, trying to get average income.

Chair Wright asked about the under 18. Their comments will be redacted.

Another question is Where do you live? Street intersection not address.

Names will not be published. List of people who are interested will be kept in the loop.

Ms. Rowden mentioned that those looking to purchase starter homes and downsizers are looking for the same homes.

Ms. Rowden said the survey takes about 15 minutes to complete.

Ms. Rowden said we are giving people a chance to speak – we want to hear from them.

Ms. Reed said we will dig into comments later.

Ms. Rowden said they want to get 300 answers. Hoping for 500.

Ms. Rowden's goal is 10% of the population to answer.

Ms. Reed asked when to meet again. Chair Wright said any time the Master Plan Steering Committee meets, the LRP can meet.

Ms. Rowden wants to meet near the end of the survey, June 23. Ms. Reed suggested the 15th at 10 am. PB meets the 20th. Then meet in mid-July for survey summary. 2nd or 4th week. Ms. Reed suggested 13th at 10 am.

Ms. Losik asked Jenn if she would be before the board in August. Ms. Rowden said she can do the survey presentation then. She also wants to draft needs assessment by August 30th probably can't present on the 15th. Ms. Reed suggested September.

Summary report will be 2-3 pages, go to board. Come on Sept 19th with housing needs assessment.

Timing of the outreach event. Ms. Rowden wants to pick a date. Mid to late September. 21st? Ms. Rowden said late afternoon or evening to get the most engagement. Not weekend. PB has meeting first. If a lot of questions, concern, not a lot of time in between pb meeting and outreach event. Ms. Reed suggested the 27th with zoom at the town hall.

Ms. Rowden asked if scope of work looks ok. Ms. Losik said spot on.

3. Other

None.

Motion to adjourn Ms. Losik, seconded by Chair Wright.

Next meetings: Thursday, June 15, 2023, 10:00 am, Thursday, July 13, 2023, 10:00 am, PB Tuesday, September 19, 2023, Outreach Event Wednesday, September 27, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Campbell

Land Use Assistant