

# **LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**July 24, 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**

Ms. Rowden stated the date closed for the survey on July 7<sup>th</sup>. She stated the comments were rich. 317 survey responses. Goal was 250 hoped for 300 and got 317 plus some who signed up for more information. Good comments that ranged the spectrum of feelings about housing.

Chair Wright commented that 4% were not Rye residents.

Ms. Rowden stated 11 not Rye residents out of 317. 4% were renters and 10% business owners. Some of the non-residents owned businesses.

Ms. Losik stated that out of the 11, 5 were business owners.

The committee talked about the results and only 4 who lived in Rye Beach Village District, and they decided to keep those in the survey results. There were no responses from the Isle of Shoals.

Chair Wright asked about the path forward for publishing the results.

Ms. Rowden said results are results the survey summary is a snapshot in time. She went on to say the survey website link sharing it with residents on line, link it to the Town website, send email notifications of the survey results in a save the date broadcast and announce it on social media. The results are a catalyst think about housing and the master plan.

Ms. Rowden said she will be shifting the link to Resilience around August 1<sup>st</sup> to add master planning/

Discussion on having one link for both the housing and the master plan and build out. One link for all 3.

Next meeting Monday August 7<sup>th</sup> at 1pm for the LRP. Set up Tuesday, September 26, 2023 from 6:30-8pm for the Survey Results release at the Rye Jr. High Cafeteria. Kim to reach out to see if the school is available.

Ms. Rowden summaries the themes that came out of the survey:

1. main town Rye Character
2. Protect Natural Resources
3. Lack of Understanding – Housing

Ms. Rowden stated that people do not understand the housing regulations what workforce housing means and Rye's goals and Rye's decisions.

Chair Wright asked what is going in "affordable".

Ms. Rowden stated the price point.

Chair Wright stated that there should be definitions.

Ms. Rowden agreed, terminology of housing, glossary be in housing needs jargon.

Ms. Losik wants the issues prioritized.

Ms. Rowden stated the generally people favored more development inland and that there is natural hesitation building near the coast.

Ms. Losik states that there needs to be awareness and education.

Chair Wright talks about complying with the state statute, does that put us near compliance.

Ms. Rowden replied that the fact that we have a workforce housing ordinance then we comply with the legality of the statutes. The cost of the land is not something you can control.

Ms. Rowden read some of the comments, they tell a good story, comments are very rich. What she did not hear is build, build, build.

Ms. Garcia states education and the Housing Academy were great and talked about ways to communicate and the range of possibilities communities can provide housing options.

Ms. Rowden said the needs assessment will be valuable and will dictate what Rye can consider such as 2 ADU's, Tiny houses, what can Rye Do.

Ms. Garcia when we get together with the public find out what they are thinking.

Chair Wright stated it depends on standing those along the Ocean probably have a different view point from north end by Sagamore Rd.

Ms. Losik questioned future views, basically 150 responses with 120 outright yes. Some adaptive ideas, trends and people are prepared to stay her.

Next Meeting August 7<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Goal to have public information session September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Reed, CFM  
Planning & Zoning Administrator