

**Master Plan Steering Committee**

**Tuesday, April 9, 2023**

**1pm**

**Rye Town Hall**

***Members Present:* Chair Peter Moynahan, Howie Lazerowich, Kathryn Garcia, Pat Losik, Joe Persechino (via Zoom) and Ann Fox**

***Also Present:* Planning Administrator Kim Reed, Land Use Assistant, Kara Campbell, and Steven Whittman, Resilience Planning and Design, Crystal Kidd, Resilience Planning and Design (via Zoom) and Nate Bernitz, UNH (via Zoom)**

Meeting called to order, introductions and Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Reed stated she emailed the agenda and draft of the outreach to each member.

Ms. Losik wants to motion to seat the right people. Motion to accept Gregg Mikolaities resignation and thank him for devotion to the committee and motion to move Joe Persechino from Ad-hoc to regular member, Motion Rob Wright as regular member and Kathryn Garcia Ad-Hoc and this is a motion recommendation that the Planning Board take this on next Planning Board meeting. Recommendation and Board vote. Peter second, all in favor.

Ms. Reed points out that she and Kara Campbell are staff and do not have votes.

Mr. Whitman has Crystal put the project timeline on the projector. Goes over the dates and plans for focus groups and plans for the next meeting. May review and take everything we learned from existing conditions and engagement with public and viewing vision statement if still true or changed. Think through future land use strategy. Future Land Use sometimes shows future land use plan, not a zoning map. Get examples from other communities. Fun exercise. Take things learned from existing conditions and from public and say “should the village stay the same?” “should there be additional uses here? Would people loose their minds if we additional uses here?” those kinds of questions. Then we work our way from Lafayette Road to the Coast or visa versa. We just talk about it. None of the changes that become part of the future land use strategy happen automatically, each will require additional action, Planning Board to be engaged, voters to support them. Gives aim for vision. Work with FB waiting for. The hope will be May meeting, clear direction what want to see the future land use strategy; we could give that to FB as a possible build out scenarios. Stays draft right through to the end. Fun meeting, nice to have full committee here at the May meeting. Will have some maps, draw on them ask each other questions, very interactive. Big focus next month, May. Then FB will prepare build out and Resilience will start to write up that future land use strategy and bring back to see if it resonates. Then want to start drafting actions. Then in June, think Jason Bachand, from Hampton, will be attending to talk about the implementation committee and how it is going in Hampton. June meeting review, build out, what right, what missed talk about actions.

Mr. Whitman says July needs a break, they have work to do. Finalize future land use strategies, clean it up and think direction of plan and work on full list of actions, time to work on that and come back in August with outline of Plan. Interactive questions and ideas. By then, clear themes and know from outreach and existing conditions talk in August, places where reader needs background and maybe concepts. Like to do text box educational pieces.

Ms. Reed asks if interactive tool for the online? For more information click on it.?

Mr. Whitman explains more in the Plan. Planning Boards really liked them. Then September takes a break again, we will be writing and jumping right in. Our Hope to bring the full draft by November. This timeline is optimal usually it can take a couple of meetings go through edits very similar the process of the existing conditions. Do it until you feel confident you can bring it to the full Planning Board. Ultimately it is the Planning Board that will decide if they have additional changes, keeping them up to speed in the fall so they can see how it is evolving. After the holidays, roll out end of the year can be out there for a while. Board and public have time with it and give everyone time. Then come to the hearing answer questions, hear opinions. It is not going to be everything everyone wants it is going to be a general consensus of the direction you are moving, still be a number of issues that need to be refined depending on how you decide to implement it. The implementation is really where it happens. We can be part of that public hearing process if you want, we can provide a presentation, give background and be there to answer any questions that may be outside of local experience.

Ms. Losik said that is a yes.

Ms. Reed said thank you for the timeline, it is well thought out and you need breaks, and we can meet on other things. We have phase II of the NHHOP Grant.

Ms. Garcia there will be extra time is part of that or this going to be re-writing regulations or recommendations for rewrites.

Ms. Reed said it is not part of this project. This project is going putting together the Master Plan, through it there will be recommendations for the implementation committee. Then the implementation committee will be “charged” with some of those recommendations. Last year CIP funds were placed in 2025 for implementation which may include regulations changes. Plus, with the NHHOP Grant Phase II they will do audit land development regs and zoning and Phase III will be if apply and granted, regulation changes.

Mr. Whitman adds that If we have a pretty strong sense that there is an area where the regulations needs work or want more options, (housing is a good example since you have done some work with RPC) we don’t say exactly what the change should be as an action but we identify it as “can do” and give the Planning Board some flexibility.

Ms. Losik, Phase II of the NHHOP Grant is a regulatory audit of the Land Use, Zoning Ordinance, Floodplain and to a certain degree, Building Ordinance. Looking at that for opportunities, changes we have a lot and more because there are changes coming legislative.

That is just one area, this work goes to the implementation team and this work comes back to Rules and Regs and start through that process.

Ms. Fox asks if reached out to the Dept Heads to see if the goals align.

Ms. Reed said she has reached out. Not many responses.

Mr. Whitman said when you start the actions it may be another opportunity of that where identify actions if Departments have any near-term goals. Carry more weight if in the Master Plan.

Ms. Reed states that the CIP starts in June and explains to the committee what a capital improvements plan is and how departments use it to plan. It might go with alignment with Master Plan and CIP.

Ms. Garcia would like all the department heads to be invested in this plan. All the parts need to work together, invite them to one of these meetings.

Mr. Whitman said the good news is that Crystal has spoken with most of the Department Heads. We have their initial take of their needs in the existing conditions report. We will go back to the existing conditions report and tease out potential actions to bring to you and that will include some of the things from the various departments and sometimes sharing that initial draft will get their attention.

Ms. Reed said it took some time between her and Crystal reaching out and reminding department heads, it took time, but Crystal was successful in talking to every dept head.

Ms. Losik there will be some additional steps on the current initiatives. There is one Planning is working on now involves department heads but the other two are: NHDOT, transportation and resilience storm matters and impact of 1A. Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> NHDOT coming to Rye. The other is housing that we have talked about which involves code enforcement as that develops, depending on if these bills get through the senate. Could be lots of changes coming our way. We have those open meetings; we have the time.

Question on the timeline for the NHHOP Phase II grant. End Date

Committee discussion on the responses to the questions/raw data.

Keep it as draft and get it out to the public by the 19<sup>th</sup> of April or 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Discussion on Focus Groups and how to proceed.

Chair Moynahan watched the training twice, a little unclear where everyone was at.

Ms. Garcia stated that is where we are right now.

Ms. Losik thought great and incredibly well done and extremely informative and a little overwhelming and come back to a great tool. Groups underrepresented great took and if we chose to go down that path need your help. Wish we had training before November 2021 session.

Ms. Fox feels it is a barrier to get great information if you have to meet all the standards of facilitator or do we have to be experts. If so, miss all this valuable information we missed getting information from.

Mr. Bernitz any amount of community engagement is good. No need to check every box.

Ms. Fox feel do focus groups 5 or 6 do our best at.

Ms. Garcia which groups under.

Mr. Whitman demographics? Not sure go back? This is a tool if you have a purpose. You have consistent information you have been at it for a while. Now coming up with solutions, next step. If you feel something missing, then focus groups next steps.

Ms. Garcia missing youth and young families.

Ms. Losik wonder same we have evidence of seniors.

Mr. Whitman asked what we had for community events.

Discussion on Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, etc.

Ms. Kidd uses Atkinson as example where they went in and talked to the youth.

Mr. Whitman said if access to the parents to get answers.

Ms. Fox reach out to a friend, have a quick focus group.

Mr. Whitman do it before end of July. Get to parents before school ends, have time, what has town been doing outreach and available to them, this is what we are hearing, does it resonates or issues that we are not aware of.

Discussion on how to reach out to the school, process.

Mr. Whitman next month is future land use workshop. He will coordinate with FB, he does not want them to come, he wants it to come from you (this committee) more than one scenario we want you to figure out what you want to see as a possible pattern. Then tools and we will do it with you. Get general idea where going and revisit in June.

Ms. Losik has a question about the build-out. Thinking back about discussions Planning Board level. Before we meet in May, we only have one planning board meeting if any planning board members is it okay for them to weigh out. What next scenario look like.

Ms. Reed asks if want to share with Planning Board draft.

Ms. Losik asks them to percolate before the May meeting.

Mr. Whitman have from June to August to bring to the Planning Board.

Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Reed, CFM  
Planning & Zoning Administrator