



CITY OF PORT JERVIS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONING CODE UPDATE

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONING UPDATE COMMITTEE

MEETING #3

JANUARY 10, 2018, 7:00 PM

SUMMARY NOTES

Meeting Location: 134 Pike St., Port Jervis Rec and Community Center, 2nd Floor
Meeting Attendees: Committee: David Bavoso, Valerie Maginsky, Dominic Cicalese, Stanley Siegel, Kristin Trovei, Eric Hipsman, Kelly Decker, David Rivera, Jessica Ridgeway (Orange County Planning Dept.)
Consultant: Michael Welti, AICP (Barton & Loguidice), Bob Murphy, Jr., AICP (Barton & Loguidice)
Others: Michael Ward (Outdoor Club of Port Jervis)

This was the third meeting of the City of Port Jervis Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Update Committee and the first since a Visioning Workshop was conducted in December 2017. It also served as an introduction to the draft vision statement and draft goals and objectives that have been developed since the Visioning Workshop. The meeting was attended by members of the Committee and the Barton & Loguidice (B&L) consulting team (see above).

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Following the welcome and introductions, Michael Welti (B&L) reviewed the agenda with the Committee (attached). With the introduction of Michael Ward, he was subsequently nominated to join the Committee. He accepted this nomination.

Preliminary Draft Inventory and Analysis

Before addressing feedback from the December Visioning Workshop, Mr. Welti and Mr. Murphy asked the Committee if there were any further comments on the Draft Inventory and Analysis that was discussed at Committee Meeting #2 in October. As there were no further comments, B&L will furnish the Draft Inventory and Analysis document, along with an introductory page and possibly a draft table of contents for clarity, to be posted on the project website.

Community Participation

Much of the discussion at the meeting focused on feedback that was received at the Visioning Workshop. The Committee reviewed the summary notes from the workshop in December. The committee also discussed their efforts to reach out to the community

and ways to connect with under-represented groups such as young professionals and families.

Mr. Welti brought up the idea of generating further participation through a web-based survey. The Committee was in agreement that this would be a worthwhile task. Mr. Welti stated that he would work with Pat Courtney-Strong on developing a framework for the survey and would correspond with the Committee regarding survey content and promotion between now and the next meeting.

Mr. Welti indicated that the next formal community participation event is a Public Workshop to go over the draft vision, goals, objectives, and preliminary recommendations developed by the Committee and consulting team over the next few months. This is anticipated for March or April.

Preliminary Draft Vision and Goals

The community participation discussion fed into the Draft Vision Statement, Goals, and Objectives that Mr. Welti and Mr. Murphy handed out to the Committee. Mr. Welti read the 2-pages of text aloud and initial feedback from the Committee was favorable. Mayor Decker found the "outpost" distinction in the vision statement as a positive and the discussion about cross-border trade disadvantages generated further discussion amongst the Committee.

Zoning Code Review

Mr. Welti indicated that it was an appropriate time to begin the zoning code review and update portion of the project. As such, he suggested setting up a meeting between the consulting team and the City's Building & Codes personnel and members of the Planning/Zoning Boards to go over troublesome or outdated sections of the code. Port Jervis Building Official David Rivera is the point of contact for this as he would like to include other members of the staff in such as discussion.

Mr. Welti also brought up the opportunity to augment financial resources for the zoning code update by applying for funding under the Hudson River Valley Greenway (HRVG) Community Grant Program. Ms. Maginsky confirmed that the City has closed out its most recent HRVG grant and would be eligible for up to \$10,000 in funding. Mr. Welti and Mr. Murphy also stated that the LWRP funding can be used to account for the HRVG's local match requirement. Ms. Maginsky mentioned the William Penn Foundation as another potential source of funding to pursue. Mayor Decker and the Committee confirmed that B&L should pursue these funding opportunities to supplement the project.

Discussion

Notes from discussion are listed below:

- Port Jervis Outdoor Club

- A growing outdoor pursuits and land conservation group of which many Committee Members are part.
- Headed by Michael Ward
- Manages the Watershed Trails atop Point Peter and Mount William extending out from Elks-Brox Park to the City's reservoir lands.
- Whitewater Kayak Park Committee is now a sub-committee within the Port Jervis Outdoor Club.
- Additional acreage to the north and west of Elks-Brox Park is currently being pursued by the Club.
- Draft Inventory and Analysis should be posted on the City website in order to reduce public confusion about where the Comprehensive Plan Update process stands.
 - Should include an introductory page and possibly a projected table of contents.
- Comment from workshop regarding "recycling on Skyline Drive"
 - Former cosmetic production facility up on the mountain
 - Site was subject to a controversial project to establish a recycling facility that would take in debris from new construction and decommissioned construction cranes for recycling.
 - Project was unsuccessful during the site plan review process due to numerous concerns.
 - Site was originally a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) facility during the 1930s. It also served as a storage facility for set equipment for Broadway stage productions.
- Trolley bus for seniors on Jersey Street?
 - There are three senior housing complexes on Main Street.
 - Perhaps loop the trolley on Jersey Street, Main Street, and Pike Street. See streetcar example from Media, Pennsylvania.
- Mr. Cicalese expressed concern about how young people may have been under-represented at the workshop.
 - They may provide different views than the crowd of predominantly older residents.
 - Young people have different housing needs/preferences.
 - Could their needs be accounted for in a survey?
 - Social media outreach through Facebook groups and Twitter
- Outreach to seniors vs. online survey format
- Cross-border trade
 - Port Jervis at a disadvantage vs. the excise tax in NJ and sales tax in PA.
 - Mayor Decker has approached the Governor's office with a proposal for a NYS Border Enterprise Zone that would bring state tax rates into line with neighboring states to eliminate cross-border price disparity.

Next Steps

- Draft Vision, Goals, and Objectives – Committee will provide comments by January 26. Mr. Welti will send out digital copy to Committee via email.

- B&L will send Draft Inventory and Analysis file to be posted on website, along with an introduction page.
- B&L will work with Pat Courtney-Strong and Committee to set up a web-based survey in support of the Comprehensive Plan Update.
- B&L will work with the City to set up a "Zoning Subcommittee" to meet and begin review of the Zoning Code.
- B&L will develop a grant application for the Hudson River Valley Greenway Community Grant Program to augment funding for the zoning code review. Ms. Maginsky and B&L will also explore grant opportunities with the William Penn Foundation. For required resolutions, the next City Council Meeting is scheduled for January 22.
- Next Committee Meeting (B&L) – Thursday, February 22, 2018. 7-9pm at City Hall, 20 Hammond St., Council Chambers

Public Comment

Members of the public in attendance were included in the above discussions.

Wrap-up and Adjournment

The meeting was completed and adjourned at about 8:30 PM.