



CITY OF PORT JERVIS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONING CODE UPDATE

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONING UPDATE COMMITTEE
MEETING #4
MARCH 14, 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, Jessica Ridgeway (Orange County Planning Dept.)
Consultant: Bob Murphy, Jr., AICP (Barton & Loguidice)
Others: Jessica Cohen (Times Herald-Record)

This was the fourth meeting of the City of Port Jervis Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Update Committee. This meeting focused on a review of questions presented in the draft Community Survey as well as draft Plan Recommendations that were disseminated to the Committee earlier in the week. 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, Bob Murphy (B&L) brought the Committee up-to-date on the departure of project manager Michael Welti (B&L). Mr. Murphy and Chuck Voss from B&L have taken over in the role as project manager. Mr. Murphy then reviewed the agenda with the Committee (attached).

Project Updates

Project update discussion began with mentioning the Zoning Update Sub-Committee Meeting that was held on February 5th. Mr. Murphy will distribute notes from this meeting to the rest of the Port Jervis Comprehensive Plan Update Committee to keep everyone apprised of important issues and potential recommendations yielded from that sub-committee.

As discussed at Committee Meeting #3 in January, an application was submitted to the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grant Program requesting \$10,000 in funding to supplement the analysis and amendments to the Zoning Code. The City will be notified of the award's success in late March.

In early February, Mike Welti and Valerie Maginsky had a conference call with Ryan Walker of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative and discussed funding opportunities

with the William Penn Foundation. If awarded, funding from this source would support Delaware River Watershed protection. Mr. Murphy will re-engage Mr. Walker to ascertain how the City can establish a funding partnership through this program.

Inventory & Analysis Section

Mr. Murphy asked the Committee if there were any further comments on the Draft Inventory and Analysis Section that was discussed at previous Committee Meetings. With no further comments issued, an introductory cover page, draft table of contents, and Draft Inventory and Analysis Section will be posted on the project website.

Vision & Goals Section

Mr. Murphy asked the Committee if there were any further comments on the Draft Vision and Goals Section that was discussed at the previous Committee Meeting #3 in January. With no further comments issued, an introductory cover page, draft table of contents, and Draft Vision and Goals Section will be posted on the project website.

Web-Based Community Survey

At Committee Meeting #3 in January, 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. B&L worked with Pat Courtney-Strong on developing a framework for the survey.

Mr. Murphy went through the Survey questions and available responses with the Committee which produced the following outline of discussion:

- Discussion about the Survey question regarding Q1. "Your Age"
 - o Add a "prefer not to answer" option
 - o Move to the rear of the survey
- Desire to add a "Mode of Transportation to Work" question
- Q11.
 - o Remove "more sidewalks and bike paths", replace with "bike-friendly"
 - o Add "density" to the "urban community" sub-prompt
- Q12. and Q13.
 - o Make phrasing into the current tense rather than future. Remove the word "desirable"
- Q14.
 - o Add "quality educational opportunities"
- Other Survey discussion topics
 - o Millennials – what do they want?
 - Do they want to own housing? How is that playing out locally?
 - o Metro North Railroad
 - Limitations as a mode of commute to NYC due to distance and schedule

- Modern trends in the workplace have altered the traditional work schedule
 - May make infrequent trips to the “office” in NYC more practical
 - These trends also make the availability of high-speed broadband even more critical to the viability of Port Jervis as a location of opportunity
- Should there be a question about Port Jervis heritage awareness?
- Combine like offerings to focus the respondents top four preferences

Mr. Murphy will work with Pat Courtney-Strong to make edits to the Community Survey in order to get it posted online. The survey will be promoted by the webpage, social media, newspapers, and outreach to senior living communities and schools.

Preliminary Draft Recommendations

The other area of intensive focus at Committee Meeting #4 was the draft plan recommendations that Mr. Murphy supplied the Committee a few days in advance of the meeting. The proposed Actions were presented in a tabular format that illustrated how Actions related to particular Objectives which supported certain Goals and the overall Vision for the City of Port Jervis. The Committee went through each of these recommended Actions and offered comments for refinement, removal, and expansion as well as additional proposed Actions. Discussion was outlined as follows:

- Goal: Efficiently and effectively maintained civic infrastructure...
 - [Investigate the best way to] daylight the piped brook in the Maiden Lane / Orange Street area...
 - Become a Climate Smart Community
 - Note: find ways to reference the recommendations of other plans such as the Orange County Design Manual, Orange County Comprehensive Plan, and Orange County Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - [Continue to] conduct inflow and infiltration studies...
 - Institute codes/policies to address climate change development
- Goal: Stabilized and strengthened neighborhoods that ensure safe and affordable housing with walkable access...
 - Consider an incentive zoning policy that could offer developers a density [and height] increase...
 - Update zoning code and subdivision regulations. Consider the adoption of design guidelines/standards or a form-based code. [Reference the Orange County Design Manual.]
 - Coordinate with the recreational trail development efforts on the O&W and D&H elsewhere in Orange and Sullivan Counties

- Goal: A small, urban community that is connected to its Delaware River waterfront, has a strong relationship with the natural environment, and a unique sense of local identity.
 - o Invest in historical signage and audio heritage tour software and programming
 - o Establish riverfront access points for the West End... [look into the City of Newburgh Waterfront Trail code provision for easement acquisition]
- Goal: A Downtown with vibrant business activity and quality housing choices...
 - o Establish an available properties database... [see Village of Warwick example]
 - o [Consider] establishing a historic district....
 - o Conduct a US EPA or NYSDOS/DEC community-wide brownfield assessment...
 - Several sites are currently in various states of study/clean-up

Mr. Murphy will update the Draft Recommendations Table with these comments and will redistribute to the Committee. Public feedback on the recommendations will be the focus of the next public meeting in early May.

Next Steps

- Mr. Murphy will distribute meeting notes from the February Zoning Code Update Sub-Committee Meeting to the Committee.
- Mr. Murphy will reach out to Ryan Walker about pursuing funding for the Zoning Update from the William Penn Foundation/Delaware River Watershed Initiative.
- Draft Inventory and Analysis – Mr. Murphy will work with Pat Courtney-Strong to get it posted on the project website.
- Draft Vision, Goals, and Objectives – Mr. Murphy will work with Pat Courtney-Strong to get it posted on the project website.
- Mr. Murphy will work with Pat Courtney-Strong and Committee to update the draft web-based survey in support of the Comprehensive Plan Update.
- Mr. Murphy will update the Draft Recommendations Table and redistribute to the Committee for additional comment.
- Mr. Murphy will prepare and distribute Meeting Minutes for Committee Meeting #4.
- B&L set up a video conference call for Thursday, April 26, 2018 7-9pm for the Committee to review draft recommendations in preparations for the community-wide public meeting to be held in May. Advertisement will include notice drop-off's through the Wards.
- Community-wide Public Meeting – Wednesday, May 9, 2018. 7-9pm at the Port Jervis Recreation and Community Center, 134 Pike St., Port Jervis, NY

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 9:15 PM.