

MEETING SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER 11, 2013 MEETING

TOWN OF LANSING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE

Members Present: Jeremy Dietrich; Susan Tabrizi; Jase Baese; Dave Ferris; Tom Butler; Susan Miller; Lynn Leopold; Amanda Steinhardt; Larry Beck; Sarah Thomson; Ruth Hopkins, Town Board; Philip Snyder; Lin Davidson; Katrina Binkewicz, Town Board.

Others Present: Jonathan Kanter, AICP, Planning Consultant. Nishant Tapuria, Planning Intern, Dan Konowalow, Town Resident and Zoning Board of Appeals Member

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Jonathan asked if someone would like to chair the meeting as Kathy Miller was away, and it was agreed that Jonathan should chair the meeting.

Member Comments/Concerns/Announcements: Jonathan introduced Dan Konowalow, town resident. Dan shared that he hoped the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee would take good care of the agricultural part of the town. Jonathan mentioned his conversation with Monika Roth (Agriculture & Horticulture Program Leader for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County). Monika has been assisting the Town with the preparation of an Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan and would like to attend an upcoming Committee meeting to present and discuss the Plan. Jonathan asked if this could be put on the October agenda and the Committee agreed.

Susan Miller brought up the question of how changes in sewer construction plans would affect land use and other parts of the Plan. She also asked if a limited sewer plan was still being considered for the Town Center area. Jonathan replied that effects of the sewer-related changes on the Plan update would have to be considered by the Committee. He also shared that there have been some discussions with respect to limited sewer and nothing specific is planned at the moment.

Draft Meeting Summary - July 10, 2013: There were no corrections or revisions regarding the July 10, 2013 meeting summary.

Preliminary Discussion Regarding Survey Results: Jonathan shared that he and Susan Tabrizi are reviewing the survey results codebook and discussing cross-tabulation analysis with Survey Research Institute (SRI). Susan added that some of the tabulations being discussed are: differences in responses by gender, by age groups, by length of time lived in the Town/Village, and that the idea is to see if there are major trends in any of the categories. Ruth Hopkins asked if delineation between North and South Lansing respondents was also requested and the answer was yes. Jonathan and Susan Tabrizi restated that the basic idea of the delineation is to determine if there are any major observable trends in the responses. For example, large majorities of respondents were supportive of natural preservation, and opposed to hydrofracking, and that there was overwhelming support for preserving agriculture in the Town. Susan also added that many people seem to want to live in Lansing due to the schools. Jonathan mentioned that there seems to be strong support for moderate income housing, and senior

housing. Tom Butler mentioned that he noted strong support for protecting nature, and for historic preservation. Jonathan noted that bike lanes and pedestrian pathways also seem to be strongly supported. He also mentioned that SRI asked if the “strongly support” and “support” responses should be grouped in the analysis but that it was decided to keep the groups separate - to understand the responses in-depth.

Larry Beck mentioned that he was surprised by the number of respondents who did not have children and Sarah Thomson pointed out that it was interesting how the number of respondents with children was so low and yet so many people said they wanted to live in Lansing for the school system.

Jonathan went on to mention that SRI can conduct approximately 8 hours of statistical analysis within the existing budget. Susan Miller asked about the number of people who filled the online survey. Jonathan replied saying that the exact number would have to be determined and that SRI will keep a track of the number of surveys filled out online. He also mentioned that the online survey link should probably be discontinued soon.

Tom Butler asked if the survey codebook will be included in the updated Comprehensive Plan. Susan Tabrizi replied that the codebook would be included in a more digestible form. Jonathan added that concise survey results could also be presented during the first public information meeting, if the results are ready. Jonathan asked Lynn Leopold about feedback on survey results with respect to the Village. Lynn replied saying that they had not had a chance to review the results yet. Jonathan mentioned that it would be good if the Town and the Village followed the same pattern for survey result analysis.

Presentation - Demographic Update

Nishant made a brief presentation on recent demographic changes in the Town, Village and Tompkins County. Feedback from the presentation will be incorporated in the demographic update document to be shared soon. Jonathan mentioned that the details of the demographic update should ideally be included as an appendix to the updated Plan, and not at the beginning, as done in the 2006 Plan. Sarah asked if there were any clear trends in the demographic update. Nishant indicated that there has been slow but steady population growth in the Town, a growing aging population and that reliance on personal vehicles is very high.

Review of Goals and Objectives

☒ Land Use & Development

Dave Ferris shared that the land use and development subcommittee reviewed the Town of Ithaca plan for ideas and that they need more time to come up with better suggestions regarding goals and objectives. Susan Miller added that input on format and layout of the Plan is needed from everyone. There was discussion regarding the format and it was agreed that Plan should be more specific. Jonathan added that an existing land use map could be useful and that data for the same could be obtained from the County. Ruth Hopkins suggested a “who, what

and how” approach for the goals and objectives, and Dave Ferris suggested prioritization of the goals and objectives on similar lines. Jonathan replied saying that assigning responsibilities and prioritization should be done as a whole for the entire Plan, and not by individual subcommittees at the current stage. It was felt that it would be prudent to assign priorities once all sections of the Plan have been drafted and thus avoid over-emphasis on any particular section at this stage.

Updates on other sections

Philip Snyder updated the Committee that the climate change and energy section should be available for review soon. Larry Beck shared that he and Amanda Steinhardt would be meeting to further the housing section. Susan Tabrizi and Jase Baese shared a similar update on economic development. Jase also shared that work on gathering an inventory of community services was begun a while back.

There was also discussion of a committee being formed to review proposals that were submitted in response to the RFP for the proposed Town Center. The committee may also discuss alternate approaches to providing on-site sewage treatment systems for the Town Center land. Susan Tabrizi added that there seems to be significant support for the Town Center amongst the survey respondents.

Hamlets & Town Center

Jonathan gave an overview of the Hamlets & Town Center section. He shared that subcommittee members Amanda Steinhardt and Sarah Thomson visited areas identified as potential hamlets and that there are only 2 distinctly identifiable hamlets in the Town, namely Ludlowville and Libertyville. Jonathan went on to share that the overarching goal of this section would be to preserve the historical and small-scale character of the hamlets. Sarah Thomson added that the people who live in these hamlets should have a say in the Plan update and that she sent out an email asking what those residents would like to see. Sarah shared that she found it difficult to get responses from the Myers Point area. She also shared that Amanda Steinhardt had an idea about renaming the Town Center as Libertyville, based on the original hamlet located in that area. Jonathan added that the design guidelines by HOLT envisioned the Town Center as a center of activity in the Town and that the name could also have historical

significance. The Town Center could potentially have an “arts scene”, community center, recreational facilities, and that the recent survey results should be applied in designing such a place. Jonathan also added that there would be more knowledge about the Town Center as responses to the recent Request for Proposal are reviewed.

Timing of First Public Information Meeting

It was suggested that the first public information meeting should be held after the November elections. Jonathan will share suggestive dates for the public information meeting.

Other Business: None.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lansing Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.10 pm.

Prepared by:

Nishant Tapuria