

Town of Niles Comprehensive Plan Committee
Niles Town Hall, New Hope, NY
December 14, 2006

Present: Sharon Andrus, John Behrens, Richard Coalson, Terry Cuddeback, Tony Hart, Caroline Head, Jane Kozlosky, Rose Roser, Kris Scholl, Diana Cramer, Co-Chair, Ellen Abend, and Kristy LaManche, CNY Regional Planning & Development Committee.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Cramer at 7:05 PM. Mr. Scholl reported that the Town Board unanimously agreed to appoint Dr. Peter Andrus as a full member of the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Timing of visioning meetings and survey: Question was raised by Ms. Andrus to clarify why the visioning process should be conducted prior to a written survey. Ms. LaManche explained that the purpose of the visioning process which is to allow an opportunity for all opinions and ideas to be raised in a public format. The survey will focus on the viewpoints expressed and serves to validate the visioning process. Examples of this type of progression in other towns were provided by Ms. LaManche. This timing was discussed at great length by the committee resulting in a decision to begin with the visioning sessions and then conduct the survey.

Visioning Sessions: The committee had received an overview of the visioning session schedule and list of potential questions developed by Ms. LaManche prior to tonight's meeting. Ms. LaManche explained that the questions are worded to focus on the positive aspects of the community and every answer is acceptable and will lead to a discussion. Every written statement will be entered (word for word) in the appendices of the Comprehensive Plan. Potential challenges were noted: how to convince people that this is a worthwhile event (offer door prizes?); should specific groups be targeted for each session; will people be willing to attend more than one session. The first visioning session is scheduled for Saturday, March 24, 2007 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM at the Niles Town Hall.

Newsletter article: An article will be written by Ms. LaManche and Ms. Kozlosky explaining the comprehensive plan process as a whole package – including an overview of comprehensive planning, timeline, goals, questions and how each town resident can participate. This article will be sent to committee members prior to the next meeting to review and then it will be placed in the Town of Niles annual newsletter (February, 2007). The date of the first visioning session will be advertised and notice of upcoming sessions in April, May and June will be given.

Getting groups involved: Discussion of how to target advertising to involve the various functioning groups in the town. The following is a list of groups that were identified: Westside Lake Association (Skaneateles), Tractor Pulls, Fire Department, Frozen Ocean Racing, Senior Citizens, Owasco Watershed Lake Assoc., New Hope Pancake Festival, New Hope Antiques (barn sale participants), Church in New Hope. Contacts are needed for each group.

Website: The CNY Regional Planning Board will maintain an informational web page about the Niles Comprehensive Plan Committee and activities which will be available for public access. This will be in addition to posting the Committee's meeting minutes on the Town of Niles website.

Fact Sheets: "Cost of Community Services Studies" (American Farmland Trust)
"Excerpt from the NRDC: Developments and Dollars. An Introduction to Fiscal Impact Analysis in Land Use Planning"

Each committee member present received a copy of the fact sheets for background information.

Action:

- A newsletter draft article will be sent to the committee to be reviewed prior to the next meeting.
- Each committee member is encouraged to bring the name of a contact person for the groups listed above.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 16, 2007, 7:00 PM – Niles Town Hall

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Abend
Secretary