

December 3, 2019 Minutes Rochester Planning Commission

Present: Dan McKinley, Sandy Haas, Julie Martin, Eric Bowman, Joan Pontious, Administrative Officer Doon Hinderyckx.

Guests: Caroline Cruikshank, Cheryl & Ray Harvey, Mary Sue Crowley, Larry Strauss, Ginny Bowman, Nancy Woolley, Deb Moore, Patty Harvey, Rachel Cunningham, Annie McKay.

Call to Order: Dan called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

New Business:

Public Forum for Town Plan Revisions: Dan presented an overview highlighting the reasons for having a Plan, the Vision Statement and the Implementation Matrix, which identifies parties responsible for carrying out the plan.

Dan presented a summary of written comments from Mark Saluka, indicating his objection to higher taxes on second homeowners, observation that they make lighter demands on town services, and their being an untapped resource for inclusion in civic activities. The Board noted agreement with many of his comments but also note that non-permanent residents are unfortunately often not available to serve on various boards/departments (ex: fire department) but are welcome where possible.

Various comments from public in attendance included appreciation of the content and the work involved in revising the Plan, the fact that it incorporated expertise of the Regional Planning Commission, as well as institutional memory to create a good working plan.

A discussion of how to effectively implement elements of the plan that do not already have visioning groups devoted to them was followed by the suggestion to enhance language in the Vision Statement to address issues such as demographics/declining population/ housing mix(permanent residences and second homes as well as role of the AirBNB effect on housing/ citing current issues and ways to encourage increased civic participation.

Additional concerns expressed:

- >Whose role is it to reach out to the agriculture community to foster crop diversity?
- >How to handle potential conflicts over alternative energy installations.
- >Lack of mention of “ensuring and enhancing health and wellness” of residents.
- >Discouraging proliferation of AirBNB type rentals to free up available housing.
- >Plusses and minuses of hemp farming, especially the reduction of fields available for haying, odor associated with hemp crops and its effect of housing location.
- >Discussion of exploring what the Town, region and state can do collectively by including links to existing sites to augment information and resources (ex:Regional Planning Commission, state sites on energy and natural resources protection).
- >Consideration of establishing an energy committee and economic development committee.
- >How can issues of climate change be mentioned in the plan?
- >What would be the purview of a Conservation Committee mentioned in the plan? (perhaps broadly, conservation of land, wildlife protection, water and other natural resources as relates to development).

Dan closed the forum and moved to **other new business:**

Inquiry by Ray and Cheryl Harvey regarding development activity on a lot adjacent to one they own on Town Line Road and their concern about setbacks.

Administrative Officer: Doon had no new permit applications to report.

Dan will compose response to issues brought up in forum.

Minutes: Julie moved to accept. All in favor; so voted.

Adjourn: Julie moved to adjourn at 8:40 PM All in favor; so voted. Next meeting is January 7, 2020.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Pontious, Secretary