

Newcomb Comprehensive Plan
Steering Committee Meeting – January 20, 2009
Minutes

In attendance: Robert Lilly, Wes Miga, Charlotte Demers, Mike Tracy, Mike Moses, Mike Tisi, Paul Hai; Stuart Messinger and Paul Collins Chazen

The meeting began at 7:08PM.

Bob Lilly opened the meeting by saying that a small percentage of towns currently have an APA approved Comprehensive Plan. The town has a plan that was created in the 1980s, and needs to be updated. The existing plan is on the website. We are looking forward to representing the people of the Town of Newcomb in setting goals and objectives for the future of the town. He introduced Stuart Messinger of the Chazen Co. office out of Glens Falls.

Intro and Contact sheet:

Stuart Messinger thanked the group for hiring them. He stated that this would be an organizational meeting, covering the process and setting the stage for the future. He discussed the committee's role in the process and had everyone introduce themselves.

Monthly meeting date:

A monthly meeting date was tentatively set for the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00pm, the following month's meeting to be confirmed at each meeting. The next meeting was set for February 19, 2009. The following tentative dates were also set: March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16.

Review of Process:

Stuart Messinger distributed the existing conditions outline. He stated a few meetings will be spent talking about the existing information, the whole process would take about a year.

Comp Plan Web Page:

There was discussion on the web site. Stuart added that as products are created, and information organized the web site is a way to have the public access that information, and be able to ask questions via the web. Stuart will provide a write up on what the committee is doing and provide to Bob Lilly for the web.

Identification of Stakeholders:

Stuart Messinger asked the committee to provide a list of stakeholders to be interviewed. Questions that will be asked of the will include: What they like about the town? What they don't like? What they would like to see happen? What they don't want to see happen?

The list includes: George Canon; Gerald Cullen and Jim DePasquale, Goodnow Flow Assoc.; Martin Turcotte; Ken Helms, Jr.; Marvin Bissell; Margaret (realtor) and Bob Hampson; KC Rockwood; Craig Poulton; Peter Berg and Carol Ames, clergy; Robin DeLoria; Lana Fennessey; Ginny Hall, Town Historian; Jackie LaCourse, Chamber of

Commerce; Ed LaCourse, teacher; Ruth and Dave Olbert; Nick or Gene Poulin; Bootie Bush; Andy Blanchette; Clive Friend; Judy Morris, realtor; Garret or Meredith Phelps.

Maps:

A base map was reviewed for approval of basic concept and color schemes.

Survey:

Stuart Messinger distributed a copy of a survey done in Ballston. He asked that the survey be reviewed and will get input from the committee for the Newcomb survey. There was discussion on year round residents and seasonal.

There will be an announcement in the town newsletter of the upcoming survey. Chazen will mail out the survey off the real property tax rolls. There will also be some available at the town hall for those that did not receive one.

Stuart stated that he'd like to have the survey out in late March, and need to discuss the data and survey at the March meeting.

Bob Lilly asked what the response time would be. Stuart replied 3-4 weeks, and would like to have a 15% return. The results would be ready for the May meeting.

Public Info Meeting:

Stuart Messinger said that he would like to have the meeting in June, the date would be sent out with the survey. At that meeting, they would have the results of the survey, summaries of input to date and maps.

Issues, opportunities, & goals:

Wes Miga asked if Chazen as a consultant had information on what is required to sustain a gas station. He added that in order to attract and sustain these type of businesses, we need to know what the targets are to make some of these things that we would like to have here a reality. Stuart Messinger replied that yes, he knew of some the requirements, that they are different for each company, and he could look into it more.

Wes Miga also mentioned Places to eat and sleep.

Bob Lilly mentioned a grocery store, what will happen when Bissell's store closes.

Charlotte Demers stated keeping kids in the school, creating jobs, identifying places to have housing development, assisted and affordable housing.

Bob Lilly wanted to look at the population and demographics, there are no younger families moving into the area, and the population is aging. Need to look at caring for the aging population.

There was discussion on employment mainly with the town, gov't and school.

There was also discussion on Co-op's

Stuart Messinger said that he would have the maps and reports to the town prior to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,