

MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF VETERAN REGULAR PLANNING BOARD MEETING
March 19, 2012
6:40 pm

OPENING OF MEETING:

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Chairperson, C. Sauberan.

(Note: The Planning Board meeting started early in order to allow enough time for Chelsea Robertson, Planner, with the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board (STCRPDB) to discuss the Comprehensive Plan Study, and to kick-off the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee meetings.)

PRESENT:

M. Kalec, Board Member
J. Spicher, Board Member
E. Speck, Board Member
C. Sauberan, Chairperson
L. Campbell, Board Member
R. Winkky, Board Member
F. Bennett, Board Member
J. Groff, Town Counsel

OTHERS PRESENT:

William Winkky, Town Supervisor
Francis Henke, Councilperson
Louis DeCicco, Councilperson
David Lewis, Councilperson
Kathy Andrews, Resident - Committee Member

READING OF MINUTES:

Motion by M. Kalec, seconded by F. Bennett that the minutes of the February 6, 2012 Planning Board Meeting be received and approved. All in favor, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

C. Sauberan informed the Planning Board that Nel's Tractor, which is located in the Town of Catlin, will be building an addition on to an existing metal (Repair Shop) building. Because this property borders the Town of Veteran line, it is customary for the Town to be notified to see if there is any opposition to be heard. C. Sauberan visited the site on March 19th and did not see any issues. The PB reviewed the site plan and all agreed that there were no issues.

Motion by F. Bennett, seconded by L. Campbell, to accept and notify the Town of Catlin that the Town of Veteran Planning Board does not have any issues with the proposed addition at this property. All in favor, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

C. Sauberan asked the Town Board members present if there was a stipend for serving on the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee. It was confirmed that there is no stipend for committee members. Members are volunteering their time to serve on this committee.

Comprehensive Plan Update Committee Meeting:

C. Robertson distributed an Agenda for tonight's kick-off meeting, as well as a proposed "Table of Contents" for the Comprehensive Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan Update Committee meeting began with C. Robertson introducing herself, and confirmed all members of the committee. She distributed a Contact List and asked each member to identify the best way to be notified of meeting notices, correspondence, etc.

C. Robertson distributed business cards, and also indicated that her email address is: Plan@stny.rr.com, and the website to view the Town's information is: www.stcplanning.org. Select "Local Laws & Plans" and this will direct you to "The Town of Veteran". She asked all committee members to access the site and review the Town's information. Current information available is: Summary of Town Survey, Zoning Laws, and 2004 Comprehensive Plan. C. Robertson stated that some documents did not convert well, but format is being worked on.

C. Robertson stated that tonight's meeting will include a walk-through of basic expectations that the Town has. She confirmed that all parts of the Town were equally represented on the committee. She asked each committee member to mark the site map she distributed with a star to indicate their residency. She also asked each committee and Planning Board member to introduce their self and indicate why they volunteered to serve on the committee.

* Indicates Comprehensive Plan Update Committee member.

*Kathleen Andrews - resides on Veteran Hill and is a 30 year resident who is interested in the community and it's future.

*Richard Winkky - Planning Board member and long-time resident.

*Clayton Sauberan - Town resident for 50 years, and has been involved in different aspects of Town Government.

*Elise Speck - Town resident for 30 years, and cares about the Town and its people.

*Francis Henke - Town Councilperson and resides on Middle Road.

Justin Spicher - Planning Board member - resident of Millport for 14 years and cares about the Town and it's community.

Maryanne Kalec - Planning Board member for 20+ years, Town resident for 36 years, and feels that it is important to be involved.

Louis DeCicco - Town Councilperson and has been a Town resident for 30 years.

John Groff, Town Attorney - Town resident for 25 years.

Bill Winkky - Town Supervisor.

*Dave Lewis - Town Councilperson and Town resident for 12 years. Chairperson for the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee.

C. Robertson discussed ways to get the public involved, such as:
Open Meeting Law, Survey, Focus Groups

Resident mailings were discouraged due to the cost of postage. Possible meeting notices could be included with other mailings that the Town is required to do by law. i.e. Tax Bills, Dog Census notices.

L. Campbell recommended and it was agreed that posters/flyers with the open meeting notice be available to the public at election sites. Next election is scheduled for April 23rd. C. Robertson also recommended that a meeting announcement should be publicized in the Star-Gazette. She said she would draft the open meeting notice and send to committee by email to review.

C. Robertson recommends involving surrounding municipalities by sending public meeting notices. It was felt at this time because the other communities are so similar to the Town of Veteran, there is not much interaction.

C. Robertson asked the committee how they wanted to plan for future meetings. It was recommended and agreed to an "As Needed" basis.

It was agreed that the next Comprehensive Plan Update Committee meeting be scheduled for Monday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

C. Robertson discussed that the first 2-years will include the actual writing and forming of the Comprehensive Plan. At the end of 2-years, the Plan should be ready to recommend for adoption. The Comprehensive Plan needs to be adopted before updating zoning laws and mapping, which would happen in the third year.

Phase 1: Get organized - 3-4 months.

Determine key issues identified in the survey, who will take lead on what, and goal setting.

Phase 2: Prepare the Plan

Collect information, prepare maps, analyze information and formulate recommendation and action plan.

Write Plan

Phase 3: Adopt plan, implement plan and update plan.

C. Robertson stated that mapping shouldn't be too difficult, as there is existing, updated mapping that includes the Town of Veteran.

Review of Survey

C. Robertson went over her assumptions as outlined in the "Review of Survey" document she distributed.

It was agreed that for the most part, residents are comfortable with the Town of Veteran and would like to maintain the rural atmosphere.

Would like to increase development to a certain extent, in order to increase tax base. Certain businesses would be welcomed such as: family farms, independent growers. Types of businesses that would maintain the rural atmosphere.

Residents are more opposed to large scale industrial, commercial and manufacturing than small scale agri-business, commercial, mom and pop shops.

Most residents are in favor of gas drilling but at a cautionary pace. C. Robertson recommends that an "Energy Chapter" be included in the Comprehensive Plan.

Residents would like better roads, however are opposed to increase in traffic.

Residents are generally not opposed to zoning. The Town of Veteran has one zone - Agriculture. C. Robertson asks the committee to think about adding other zones based on future growth. i.e. Housing for Elderly, Extraction of Natural Resources, Gravel Pits.

Residents want protection for farmers and farmland. The Town has a Right to Farm Law. C. Robertson would like to see this law.

Residents would like to explore shared service opportunities. i.e. fiber optic/high speed internet.

Proposed Table of Contents Review:

C. Robertson briefly went through the proposed "Table of Contents" and identified the goals and vision for each chapter. She asked the committee to review the chapters as they are done. The chapters will be posted on the website for review as they are completed.

Chapter 1: Tow History and the Planning Process

C. Robertson asked for the Town Historians contact information.

Chapter 2: Town Demographics - 2010 Census data to be used

Chapter 3: Town Housing and Property Values

Manufactured housing is a hot topic.

Consider single family zoning.

Chapter 4: Town Taxes and Government

The Library tax upsets residents, as they feel they are not getting anything from this expense.

Chapter 5: Utilities and Infrastructure

Information is limited on gas pipelines at this time.

Chapter 6: Business Environment & Town Way of Life

Chapter 7: Natural Resources, Open Space & Recreation

Chapter 8: Water Resources

The Town of Veteran is in two watersheds - there is recent, good data already available per C. Robertson.

The Town needs to look at the floodplain north of the village, as well as, using wells for wastewater from fracking.

Chapter 9: Land Use Zoning

Chapter 10: Energy Development

One wind tower exists for study purposes.

Chapter 11: Extractive of Resources

Chapter 12: Town Projects
Summary of Recommendations
Town Atlas - Possible on-line atlas

C. Robertson asked if the Town seeks grant funding. The Town is interested in grant funding (grants with no strings attached), however the Town does not have a grant writer. E. Speck expressed interest in learning this process. C. Robertson stated that STCRP&D will be holding a class in the near future and would provide information to the Town.

C. Robertson indicated that there is no task for committee members at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

No discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business.

CLOSING OF MEETING:

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 by C. Sauberan, seconded by M. Kalec, all in favor. Motion carried.

NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING DATE.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 9, 2012 at 7:00 pm.