

Minutes  
Culture, History and Governance (CHuG)  
Sub-Committee  
April 18, 2007

Present: Susan Brooks, Nancy Henderson, Mark Hochman, Sarah Cannon-Holden, Jack MacLean, Bill Stason, Harriet Todd, Peter Sugar

Sarah took the chair in Paul's absence. We discussed the following:

- There was another Steering Committee (SC) meeting on 17 April. All subcommittees were represented:
  - Housing/Built Environment: Ken Hurd
  - Land Use/Economic Development: Chris Klem
  - C&H Resource/Governance: Sarah C-H
  - Services and Facilities/Circulation: Noah Eckhouse
  - Open Space Rec/Natural Resources: Peter V-M
- There is a question on whether we should re-evaluate how we will do our research with other towns. The SC suggested that we can do this on the phone but we felt that a face to face meeting is much better and we will follow the latter. Once we had a meeting with our counterparts, there could be follow-up on the phone
- As for other towns, Tim Higgins thought that Amherst would be a good one, probably better even than Concord. We will enquire whether they did their Master Plan using volunteers or consultants
- Other towns as possible candidates: Lenox, Dover, Sherborn, Harvard, Carlisle, Beverly, Manchester, Northampton
- Funding for consultants: this is still not established. We believe that at this time we do not need any funding, but Ken Hurd's committee indicated that they cannot begin without some funds (there are some monies with the planning board) and they need a consultant just to know how to begin?! This simply emphasizes the point that all subcommittees may not need an equal share of the consulting funds, with the SC being the arbiter and the one to establish with clarity what and how much of the funds will be needed
- There was no decision as to the time line for the work – but the thought is to have a progress report for the State of the Town in the Fall. The reports should be prepared with some 'controversy' (!) to invite/encourage participation and discussion
- We need not start from zero as there had been some work which we could access: as an example what Mass Historic has listed for Lincoln; Jack MacLean also has a (more elaborate) data-base (he will e-mail us). Then there is the Lincoln Reconnaissance Report (published in the Lincoln Review in two parts this spring)
- We looked at the other part of our charge: Governance. There is a list of all town committees in the Town Report. There are also pieces we can use from past reports: Town Governance, Lincoln Logs, 3CPO.
- We should invite Tim to talk to us about governance.

- We understand the need to engage people – but how to do this. How do we prepare a report with recommendations which then does not end up on the shelf? Perhaps we need to re-constitute the Moderator’s meetings which have been effective in the past.
- We should keep in mind that the Master Plan becomes the guideline against which the Town needs to check all future actions – it is a ‘living’ document which will need to be constantly updated
- Communication: we touched briefly on where we are: this is still not determined as Chuck Miller is working on improving the Town’s website. It is still intended that each sub-committee should be able to have its place where they can post their minutes and other information. This could be made generally accessible - ‘read only’, (with only some people having access for making changes which would be controlled by a password)
- Our Mission Statement: Jack’s last (No.4) draft was accepted with only some minor commentary – incorporate the words that this is a ‘creative process for action’
- We also looked at the distribution of the various tasks to the sub-committees and a few anomalies:
  - Evaluation of buildings, etc. that have cultural and historic significance – should be shifted from Housing/Built Environment to us
  - Utilities should be shifted from us to Service and Facilities
  - Etc.
  - Also, under the State’s mandate, who is handling Point (1): Goals and Policies Statement (perhaps this belongs to the larger CLRPC group and will be developed through discussion between all the subcommittees)
- Sarah will take up these point with the SC

Next meeting: May 2, '07 at 7:30 AM in the ‘Auditors’ Room. It is hoped that we will have completed talking with the three towns by that time. ‘Captains’ for the three groups are Mark Hochman, Bill Stason and PS, who will make the initial contacts. If all this is successful, then we could have Tim speak with us at our meeting of May 9.