

Minutes of 'Assets' Group  
Culture, History and Governance (CHuG)  
Sub-Committee  
July 12, 2007

Present: Paul Giese, Mark Hochman, Jack MacLean, Bill Stason, Harriet Todd, Peter Sugar

We discussed the following:

- Steering Committee: Paul and Bill will represent us – on 17 July. There is to be a discussion as to how the SC will act in the future: i.e. what is their intended agenda - it is not considered appropriate to pass all their active functions to the consultants
- We then went on to a discussion as to how we see the upcoming investigation to be conducted by the Assets group
- We need to define the various components of CHuG
- History: a footprint of what has taken place – thus anything, even a few days old, could be considered History
- Culture: the philosophy embodied in, and underlying, the actions of a community
- The Master Plan is a government-controlled effort, though this is not the whole story (in Lincoln, governance is very much a part of the town's culture): does governance in fact ease the way for culture? How do governance and culture reinforce each other?
- How do we interact with non-government organizations (NGO's)?
- The interviews this summer will be a preliminary exercise, an experimentation, to prepare us for a fuller investigation in the fall. We intend to touch base with NGO's at all levels (large and small)
- We may also look at NGO's which no longer exist in Lincoln – but which still exist regionally (e.g. the League of Women Voters)
- Our interviews with the NGO's will be an effort to get at their essence and will thus begin to show us certain commonalities between them. The central question: what is their mission/purpose? How are they implementing this? Are they successful in their endeavor? Can we help?
- The MP is a plan for Town action – to create/enhance the 'people' link; are there any gaps in these linkages?
- Based on the above, the following might be the way to go about our investigation: establish categories for the assets as listed:
  - Some just to be called by phone (a sampling)
  - Some to receive a questionnaire
  - Some to be interviewed (face to face and not over the phone)
  - Set up focus groups (could be a mix of large and small NGO's): the key: commonality between them
- Note: that our initial contacts will probably expand and even change our thinking and influence our subsequent actions
- What might be the questions:
  - What are your plans for the future (challenges, barriers, how far along in implementation)?
  - How would these plans impact the town?
  - What if any town boards could help/facilitate your intent?
  - What are regional implications?
  - Interaction: with whom?
  - Who else may have already interviewed the NGO – this to avoid duplication

- Here are our selections for the summer contacts:
  - LEAP (fall-back: Lincoln Family Assoc)
  - First Parish Church
  - Lincoln Journal (fall-back: Lincoln Review)
  - Friends of Modern Architecture
  - Historic New England
  - Thoreau Institute
  - Codman Farms
  - Rural Land Foundation (fall-back: Lincoln Land Conservation Trust)
  - DeCordova Museum
  - Emerson Hospital Auxiliary
  - Minuteman National Historic Park
  - Council on Aging (fall-back: Bemis Trust)
  - Schools – we thought we could set up a small focus group of:
    - Lincoln Public Schools – Mickey Brandmeyer
    - L-S Regional HS – John Ritchie
    - Minuteman Regional HS – Kemon Taschioglou
    - Carroll School
- We briefly returned to CHuG: we do have enough members for now – but later, with all the other tasks we will have to complete, we may need additional members (we should not look – but there may be some who would offer themselves /would be keen to join us and we should not refuse them)

Next meeting (CHuG): July 18 at 7:30 AM (We should also give some thought to a meeting sometime in August)