

Minutes
Culture, History and Governance (CHuG)
Sub-Committee
September 26, 2007

Present: Dan Elias, Paul Giese, Mark Hochman, Jack MacLean, Bill Stason, Peter Sugar

PS chaired the meeting. We discussed the following:

- We reviewed the brainstorming session held between Paul, Mark and PS on 9/24 – see separate notes
- We reviewed the revised Asset list, which now groups the assets under a series of headings: Agriculture/Land Use, Children’s Activity, Church, etc. An electronic version will be distributed shortly by Dan Elias. We noted that only some of the interviews have been completed. We agreed to hold on further interviews until we had a chance to speak with Judi Barrett.
- It was suggested that, rather than treating each organization as a separate entity, we may look at them from the broader perspective of the category they are in and thus look for certain commonalities and the larger issues behind these.
- We need to arrive at a way to incorporate this research into the Master Plan (perhaps Judi/COG can help us with the methodology). The prime factors are:
 - How to make the exercise meaningful
 - The need to get the appropriate feedback for the development of ideas
 - The intent to interview only a sample of the organizations and leave the rest as tasks in the future/part of the Master Plan
- This led to the core discussion on the Master Plan: how to formulate it. It is likely that the baseline will be looking at the current/close up status of the town, while pointing a direction forward to the next 10-20 years. It is also to be noted that Judi will most likely only provide us with advice and guidance, while probably not doing any work on the plan itself (fee constraints!)
- It was reiterated that we are hoping to complete the actual work within the next six months - thereafter our task will be to coordinate with the other subcommittees.
- Once we begin survey and analysis in depth, on assets, institutions and citizenry, implications and requirements for town governance possibilities will become more evident and governance issues will increasingly become our first priority
- We will need to examine the form of government Lincoln desires and requires, and review whether or not to continue Lincoln’s reliance on volunteerism. Is this what the town wants?
- We know from observation that our body of volunteers tend to be the same 5-10% of our population. Does this indicate that we need to modify or even change our form of government? (It will be very difficult to ask this question and get a realistic response – the respondents may again be the same 5-10% of the population.)
- We need to get at the points through multiple focus groups, initially concentrating on qualitative research, which later will assist us in doing a more in-depth quantitative research
- We will need to gather primary data on what the Town/citizenry really wants, and how certain can we be what the citizenry really desires – if there appear to be a differences (past v. present), how can this be confirmed and accommodated. (Note that in some respects we will be working on updating past conclusions – say from ‘Lincoln Logs the Future’)

- We defined some of the organizational concerns and priorities - see separate attachment.
- We discussed what to send Judi as a primer for next week's meeting:
 - CHuG mission statement
 - Asset List (together with our list of questions)
 - Organizational concerns and priorities
 - Objectives and Progress-to-date of CHuG
- We will also request that Judi bring the appropriate CHG specialist from COG, and keep us informed of the work of the other subcommittees, providing data coordinating service throughout CLRP and SC
- It appears that the Selectmen want to have a SOTT in November, even if this does not fit the time schedule of the Master Plan effort
- CHuG burn-out: we again did not have a very full attendance: perhaps due to people being away, but perhaps also because of the effort we have expended to date. We will personally call the absentees to encourage their presence for next week's meeting with Judi. (We may need to look for additional members for certain specific tasks)
- Leadership: Paul indicated that he is unable to continue as chair due to his need to concentrate on financial liaison responsibilities for the FinCom with CLRP. He will continue to contribute to CHuG efforts and come to SC meetings as a nonvoting member
- CHuG elected PS as its chair. We also agreed that it is critical that there be two members at each SC meeting (Paul will normally be the second CHuG member at SC meetings through his FinCom Liaison role). PS will call on other members of CHuG to stand-in for him at times. Bill did not wish to be vice-chair. (We may also wish to rotate the chair every six months.)

Next Meeting: 7:30 AM on 3 October, 2007 in the downstairs lounge across from CHuG's normal meeting room. (Judi is coming at 8:00 AM)