

TOWN OF LINCOLN
MINUTES OF COMPREHENSIVE LONG RANGE PLAN COMMITTEE
Held at 7:30 PM on January 21, 2009
In the Donaldson Room, Lincoln Town Offices

PRESENT:

Ken Hurd	HOBE sub-committee (Chairman)
Judi Barrett	Community Opportunities Group
Patti Kelleher	Community Opportunities Group
Peter Sugar	CHUG sub-committee
Sara Lewis	OSNR sub-committee
Ken Bassett	LUED sub-committee
Joan Mansfield	OSNR sub-committee
Alvin Schmertzler	F ACTS sub-committee
Peter Braun	F ACTS and Finance Committee
Alaric Naiman	FACTS sub-committee
Bob Sutherland	FACTS sub-committee
Jack MacLean	CHUG sub-committee
Sarah Cannon Holden	CHUG and Board of Selectmen
Harriet Todd	CHUG sub-committee
Bryce Wolf	Planning Board
Bob Domnitz	Planning Board
John Snell	Planning Board
Catherine Perry	Planning admin.

INTRODUCTION

The Chairman introduced the meeting, explaining that at its last meeting, the Steering Committee had agreed that it was time to pull the Plan together with consistent editing, checking for balance, filling of gaps, and further resolution of overlaps or conflicts arising from the work of the separate sub-committees. The timetable has been extended slightly but there is a need for an accelerated pace focusing on the Plan as a whole. The main purpose of this meeting is to bring the sub-committees back together to advance cross-topic discussion and to identify five issues to bring to the All Boards meeting on February 10th.

TIMELINE

Mark Whitehead distributed copies of a revised timeline leading up to a Special Town Meeting in June (subject to approval by the Board of Selectmen). He outlined the steps, including a presentation to the Annual Town Meeting in March and a public hearing with the Planning Board in April. The Chairman mentioned that he and Peter Sugar have been designated to do some editing. They are aiming to improve consistency in the statements of goals and recommendations prior to the All Boards meeting, so that the boards will have a clearer picture of the Plan for vetting. The meeting will be televised. Following tonight's meeting, the work of the sub-committees will be wound down, although members can continue to contribute as consultants.

SUB-COMMITTEES' DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Judi Barrett facilitated a discussion with the aim of identifying five key issues that it will be useful for the All Boards meeting to consider. Discussion was based on lists of suggestions put forward by each of the sub-committees; the group as a whole considered how they might be framed as discussion items, and voted on which ones were important. The five issues identified were as follows:

1. Lincoln Station Area

Mixed use master planning to include retail and affordable residential, to accommodate various interests; area to include current B-1, B-2 and R-2 zones; issues to include sewerage, water, parking, possible contaminated land, locational influences on business. Identified as an opportunity. Possible need for clearer objectives/ initial investigation of constraints.

2. Land use assessment criteria

Will the drafted criteria assist Town's assessment of major development proposals? Intended as a checklist but is there a danger of them becoming a straight jacket/ is there a need to make priorities and potential trade-offs clearer?

3. Town Meeting/ volunteerism

How to nurture participatory government; need for ramped-up effort to maintain vitality.

4. Communication

Recommendation for increased communication channels between Town government and citizens; issues of methods/ costs/ what is enough.

5. Open land management

Recommendation for increased attention to land stewardship; issue of how to balance with recreation and transportation/ access.

It was recognized that most of these recommended areas for action have costs associated with them, but the group did not wish to present individual ones as trade-offs against cost. Prioritization will have to be considered in the Implementation Plan. The recommendation to explore new sources of revenue was a close contender for the list of issues. A more rational process for planning the funding of facilities and services was agreed to be an important recommendation but not very controversial.

Water supply issues, including constraints being applied by state regulations, were discussed. It was agreed that there is a need for better understanding of this topic as it could have important implications for land use.

Affordable housing and Chapter 40B was discussed briefly, but was not considered likely to be a big issue unless Lincoln fails to find ways to meet its 10% target under the 2010 Census.

IMPLEMENTATION DISCUSSION

Judi Barrett explained that the purpose of an Implementation Plan is to lay out how the recommendations of the Plan will be carried out. A first draft of this document has been circulated. In its final form it will be appended to the plan.

Ms. Barrett mentioned that some people have been asking about setting up an Implementation Committee. This does not need to be done until after June. Ms. Barrett explained that the role of the Implementation Committee will be to monitor and

maintain progress with the implementation of the Plan, providing coordination between the designated responsible parties where necessary. Typically, such a committee would report to the Board of Selectmen.

WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS

The All Boards meeting will take place in Bemis Hall at 7:30 PM on Tuesday February 10th. The Chairman proposed that each sub-committee draft a one paragraph summary of any of the five issues that originated from its suggestions, and send it to Mark Whitehead by Monday. Some background materials for the meeting will be made available on the website.

In the meantime, Community Opportunities Group is working on revising the text of the chapters of the Plan.

The Chairman thanked the members of all the sub-committees for their hard work on the goals, issues and recommendations, and inputs to research, for the topic elements. They should now wind down their work, but it would be helpful if a few representatives could remain available for consultation. Some of the sub-committees' more detailed work projects will be taken forward as implementation items.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.

Submitted by Catherine Perry

