

**TOWN OF LINCOLN
MINUTES OF COMPREHENSIVE LONG RANGE PLAN
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on July 7, 2009 at 8:00 AM
In the Donaldson Room, Lincoln Town Offices**

PRESENT: Ken Hurd, Peter Sugar, Ken Bassett, Mark Whitehead, Catherine Perry

DISCUSSION OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Ken Hurd reported that comments have been received from Jason Felsch concerning support for the Magic Garden pre-school, and from Peter Braun concerning high school issues and land use/ economic development issues. Also, comments by Keith Hylton appeared in the Lincoln Journal.

The Steering Committee discussed the education issues. Mr. Higgins reported that the current issue concerning the Magic Garden concerns the bidding process for a new lease of the premises on the Lincoln school site. The Steering Committee agreed that the Plan's theme of maintaining diversity could be interpreted as supportive of childcare/early education programs but it did not wish to intervene in specific current controversies. Therefore it decided against adding a recommendation on the Magic Garden in the Plan. For similar reasons, the Steering Committee wished to remove the controversial note sounded on the Lincoln-Sudbury High School in the Plan. Mr. Higgins noted that most towns' plans contain less detail on school issues.

Some of Peter Braun's comments related to questions concerning the land use criteria and the economic development committee, which have been discussed further since. It has been agreed that the land use criteria relate more to the Planning Board's work, and that the economic development committee will look at broad issues of how to address the Town's resource base. It was agreed further that the economic development committee will include representation from the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee and will conduct baseline analysis. Ken Hurd raised the question of which board(s) potential commercial developers should approach; he reported that Bob Domnitz has called for separation of land use and economic considerations, and he suggested that a joint committee of the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen would be appropriate. Ken Bassett recalled that it was previously agreed that proposals would go to the Planning Board. Tim Higgins pointed out that sites/proposals could be referred to the At Risk Properties Committee for study, and that they would have to go to Town Meeting for approval whatever the initial discussion process. Peter Sugar suggested that the Executive Summary should include more explanation of the roles of the Planning Board and Economic Development Committee, and the land use criteria. It was agreed that Ken Bassett will review all parts of the Plan for further consistency and improvements on these matters.

Keith Hylton's comments had argued that the Plan is looking at ways of funding expansion rather than to contain the budget. Peter Sugar commented that the Town has held spending down to date and needs to publicize the facts more; also that the impetus for broadening the resource base is partly to protect diversity. Neil Feinberg's article was also agreed to be inaccurate, albeit with humorous intent. Whether to respond to

inaccurate letters was discussed; it was agreed not to be the priority for attention at this time.

TIMETABLE

Tim Higgins reported that the Selectmen are working on their comments on the Plan, which they hope to have ready by the 14th. Mr. Higgins will email comments on chapters to Ken Hurd and Peter Sugar as they become available. It was agreed to hold a Steering Committee meeting on July 16th to consider the Selectmen's comments [later postponed to July 21st – Ed.]

Mark Whitehead circulated a new draft timetable. A proposed meeting on August 18th was considered too late to review comments and send them to COG. It was agreed that the Planning Board could supply its own comments prior to the public hearing on July 21st and relay comments from the public after the hearing. The Steering Committee will need to meet to consider comments received. The remainder of the timetable was agreed.

PREPARATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING

It was agreed that the public hearing before the Planning Board will be televised. Ken Hurd will present the Plan. Judi Barrett will be present and prepared to answer questions if needed. Mr. Hurd will send a letter to the newspaper asking members of the public to put their questions or comments in writing in advance.

Mr. Hurd reported that some people have expressed interest in the Implementation Committee, and he wondered when was the right time to establish it. The Steering Committee agreed that it should be mentioned at the public hearing, and noted that Judi Barrett outlined a charge for the committee in the Implementation Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 AM.

Submitted by Catherine Perry