

Stamford Comprehensive Plan Committee  
Minutes for October 28, 2009

In attendance: Beth Adams, Lorie Ziek, Nancy Haycock, Deborah Grant, Kelly Keck, Lorelle Phillips, Mike Triolo, Mary Betz, Ladd McKenzie, Kristin Janke  
Consultant: Nan Stolzenburg

1. Committee Organization

It was decided that minutes will be sent just to committee members, then approved at the following meeting, after which they will be forwarded by Kelly (in PDF format) to Mike Triolo who will get them to the Webmaster for inclusion on Stamford's website.

It was decided to ask committee members who have not attended regularly if they plan to stay on the committee so that we don't waste time having to go over issues for members who have missed meetings.

2. Issues for the Planning Board

The Planning Board really has no major issue at the moment. There have been no large subdivisions in years.

Issues mentioned were: a need for affordable housing to give people options other than single family homes; and NYC watershed issues, especially the stringent septic requirements.

A decision was made to track subdivision requests over the past 20 years.

3. Issues for the Stamford Board

--a sewer district for South Kortright is being studied. A perc test is being conducted. There are a significant number of houses in violation of septic rules. The work would be paid for by NYC.

--the shortage of affordable housing. The last major affordable housing in the area was 40 years ago. Housing has become more and more expensive, and many people say they cannot afford to buy a house in Stamford. There is especially a shortage of rental housing.

--the feasibility of a biodiesel plant in South Kortright is being studied. The Forestry Service has given the town a grant to study this.

--dairy farmers are struggling more and more, and cannot afford to pay higher expenses without going out of business.

--There is a very limited amount of land available for development.

--The trail system could be developed more to encourage tourism – hiking and biking.

--Countywide there is a shortage of volunteers for emergency services. We may have to go to a paid/volunteer system because we cannot recruit enough people to serve.

--There is a lack of public transportation.

--It has not been possible to attract broadband service to our area because companies say they cannot earn enough income here.

--Recently a grant to construct an assisted living (60 unit) complex has been awarded, and that is likely to bring 30-40 new jobs to Stamford.

- The SEQRA process is underway to study the environmental impact of the proposed wind turbines that would be sited in Stamford and Roxbury.
- DEC is studying the possible ramifications of gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale. All of Stamford is within the watershed.
- Cellphone service continues to be spotty, and Verizon is less and less interested in land lines in rural areas.
- The Emergency Broadcasting system is 30 years old, and would take some \$20 million dollars to upgrade and revise.

#### 4. Draft Press Release Announcing the Committee's Work

Nan Stolzenburg circulated a draft of a press release, and two changes were proposed. Nan will incorporate the suggestions and then Kelly will send it out to all newspapers in the area.

#### 5. Dates for Next Meetings

It was decided that due to the holidays, we will change the November and December meeting dates. In November we will meet on November 23, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. In December we will meet on December 30, from 6:30-8:30. In January, we will resume meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month, which will be January 27.

#### 6. Planning Workshop Date

It was decided that Nancy would call Virginia Brockway to find out what Saturdays are available in January and February at the Hobart Community Center for our workshop. The target time would be around 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm. so that everyone in the community could attend.

#### 7. Mail Survey

Nan forwarded several samples of surveys from other towns for us to study. Before the November meeting, everyone agreed to look the surveys over and suggest five questions that might be included on the mail survey. At the November meeting we will discuss the survey design as well as the research everyone has been doing since the September assignments were made.