

Stamford Comprehensive Plan Committee
Minutes for November 23, 2009

Members in attendance: Harry Nissen, Paula Nissen, Nathan Kanarek, Lorie Ziek, Nancy Haycock, Lorelle Phillips, Brooke White, Jean Kopp, Jim Kopp, Kelly Keck

Also attending: Mike Triolo, Bette Jayne Spinney, Katherine Engert, Doug Murphy

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for September 23 and October 28 were approved.

Kelly will do PDF files and then the minutes will be added to Stamford's website.

2. Press Release

The amended press release was approved. Kelly will send it out to the following papers: Daily Star, County Shopper, Walton Reporter, Mountain Eagle, Delaware County Times, Hobart Holler and also try to have it added at the Stamford and South Kortright schools.

3. Survey

Discussion was held about how our survey will reach the community – through a mail-only survey, an on-line survey, drop boxes, etc. It was decided that in order to reach everyone we will need to do all three approaches: traditional mail, as well as electronic responses and, in addition, we will set up drop boxes at strategic locations around town. Brooke White will look into drop box locations.

It was decided not to do a stamped return envelope for reasons of cost.

The mailing list will be based upon the taxable parcel list. For those who rent and would not therefore receive a survey we decided we would put notices in the newspapers and on bulletin boards advising residents that a survey is being sent out: "If you do not receive a copy of our survey in the mail, you can pick one up at Town Hall..."

Much discussion centered on whether the survey should precede the workshop, or be held afterwards, or whether there ought to be some overlap between the two. Nan said that two weeks is not a long enough time period for responses to the survey. Surveys will likely dribble in for a month or more. This issue of timing was not resolved.

It was decided that the key for us is to try our best to involve the community and let people know that their opinion matters. We want

to know what they would like to see happen in the future in Stamford, and what would they like us to address.

At the moment the Hobart Community Center is available every Saturday in January and February.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to discussing the actual survey questions. Kelly had made copies for everyone of the three sample surveys Nan emailed to us last month (Towns of AuSable, Berne and Ancram). From those surveys it was decided that the following categories all seemed important to include: housing, agriculture, community services, community character, renewable energy, cultural resources, open space and natural environment, and commercial and economic development. However, there was debate about how much detail each section should include and what should be prioritized. After much discussion, it was decided to divide up these eight categories so that each would be addressed for the next meeting's discussion. Each person assigned will come up with 3-5 questions that will be emailed to Nan by December 14. Nan will then put together all our responses, without worrying about format, and email it back by December 21st. That way everyone will have a week to think about the survey before the December 30 meeting. At that December meeting, we will go over all the sections and try to consolidate the questions and decide on a common format.

These assignments were made:

Housing – Lorelle Phillips

Agriculture – Brooke White

Community Services – Harry Nissen

Community Character – Paula Nissen

Renewable Energy – Nancy Haycock

Cultural Resources – Lorie Ziek

Open Space and Natural Environment – Kelly Keck

Commercial and Economic Development – Jim and Jean Kopp

4. Research Projects

Many people handed their research projects in to Nan at the meeting. If you have not yet done so, please complete your research by the December meeting.