

**MINUTES FOR
A VISION FOR EXETER
PILOT TEAM
TOWN OF EXETER, RHODE ISLAND
675 TEN ROD ROAD
EXETER, RI 02822
FEBRUARY 4, 2009
7:00 P.M.**

MEETING LOCATION: Bald Hill Nursery Office
Route 102, Exeter

ATTENDEES: Scott Millar, David Schweid, Jay Drew, Pati de Wardener, Larry Bonoff, Rit Shartner, Tom McMillan, Helen Buchanan, Frank DiGregorio, Mike Cerullo, Susan Cerullo, Dan Cotta, Kevin Essington

Minutes were approved unanimously.

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

There were questions regarding Comp Plan. It is being updated in 2009 with basic data which is now nearly 20 years old. The VIP pilot is going to inform a more broad review of the plan and hopefully much of the VIP's results.

P&Z is looking for input from VIP for Comp Plan. Won't accomplish everything we wanted but the "Heart and Soul" is a good foundation and it re-affirms what has been written in the Comp Plan. The Vision is good, but the "how to," the "where" and the numbers is coming down the line. This group can work with the Planning board as we get there.

Putting something like the Vision statement will set the stage for making broader changes next year.

Is the Vision was supposed to be for the Town Council or is it supposed to be for the Planning board to review? If we're looking for action from the council, it needs to be written as a resolution (i.e. "Be it therefore resolved..."). Need to be very specific about our language if it's to go to the council

The purpose of the Vision statement was a summary of the Pilot Team's understanding of the results of the "Heart and Soul"

David felt that because we're doing the Comp Plan, which will then be sent to the council for approval. If there is some other benefit to having the Vision statement adopted by the Council, then we could change that.

We need to bind the Council and the Planning board to making sure this work gets integrated into the Comp Plan.

Frank is hoping this remains an ad hoc group. It's the Planning board's obligation to identify resources and get information to write the Comp Plan.

The enabling legislation for the Comp Plan requires for a citizens advisory group. This group can play that role.

Mike likens this to the library ad hoc group. There is nothing that binds the council to this process and to following through.

What about a joint meeting with the town council and Planning board? Need an update.

History of farming in Town is an example of how the Town needs to take charge of its future.

We need to be clear that we don't give up on taxes and how this gets paid for.

Ken Payne is looking at how all RI towns deal with ag in their Comp Plans. Exeter's is pretty good.

The current Vision statement is intended to be a "status report."

There were general comments about wordsmithing the report which Scott noted. Group agreed to shop it around more and put it in the form presenting by Mike Cerrullo, which was oriented more towards a resolution for the board.

PHASE II STRATEGIZING

Anything we can do for costs and how it works out in the town opens up doors.

Can we do an inventory of Exeter-based businesses?

People are understanding that village or compact growth is a solution.

People have an emotional connection to these issues on a particular area. What is the area going to look like with large lots? Villages? Visualization of what the village might look like. Both bird's eye view and street level views...a picture is worth a thousand words. Barnstable County's study is a good example. Play with different scenarios. Need to try and chip away at public perceptions.

Change perceptions by creating incentives. Must deal with "backyard" issues.

Town is on record about being in support of Villages.

Definitions of words are important. We need to define what Villages mean so people can understand.

Not something like Mashpee. Need to create the setting for it to grow organically. Very low key and localized.

Need to use CommunityViz to see what the visualization might look like.

Need to change the meeting to March 4th.

Bring Ken Payne in about agriculture. Invite him to April 22 meeting.

Hopkinton has an ordinance promoting farm and forestry products.

Target Assessment Grant provided some model ordinance about Village.

Need more homework, get the information we need to make decisions and put tools together. Don't focus on the tools, focus on the background information in Phase II.

Use incentives as key approach to making these things happen.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The group agreed the next two meetings will be the March 4 and April 22.

The next meeting will be March 4, 2009 at the Exeter Library 7pm