

**MINUTES FOR
A VISION FOR EXETER
PILOT TEAM
TOWN OF EXETER, RHODE ISLAND
675 TEN ROD ROAD
EXETER, RI 02822
NOVEMBER 19, 2008
7:00 P.M.**

MEETING LOCATION: Exeter Public Library
Program Room
773 Ten Rod Road, Exeter

ATTENDEES: Scott Millar, Pati de Wardener, Susan Cerullo, Helen Buchanan, Marnie Lacouture, Joe Walsh, Larry Bonoff, Katherine Maxwell, Allan Hurst, Kevin Smith, David Schweid, Susan Westa, Kevin Essington, Peter Flinker

CALL TO ORDER:

Scott Millar called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

There were a couple new folks in attendance. Susan Westa noted that she made a new email list from the public meetings and focus groups. Everyone introduced themselves.

Susan asked if there were any comments on the minutes from the last meeting, October 21. The minutes were accepted as is.

PHASE I & PUBLIC WORKSHOP DEBRIEF

Susan led the group through a discussion about what has worked and what has not worked so far with this project. See the attached overview.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS & DEVELOP VISION CONSENSUS

Peter Flinker led this discussion. He began by letting the group know that they've accomplished a lot in Phase I and that there was a lot of upfront education. He noted that the Borderlands Project is testing ways to get a real and meaningful community vision and that this is not a "typical or generic" planning process. One of the things we're testing is how to engage folks over the years in the life of the town.

Peter presented the results of the chip game. He shared a powerpoint that Steve Mullen produced showing the results of each game and statistics like how much land was used in each. Peter said they are wrapping up Phase I and developing a vision plan. He asked the team what they think is appropriate.

Sue Cerullo asked what it would cost to take land out of development or buy development rights. She would like to see an alternative that wouldn't involve full buildout.

Scott Millar suggested avoiding a land use map for the vision. He said the vision should come from recommendations from the chip game. He would like to explore a range of options in Phase 2.

Larry Bonoff noted that this new knowledge might suggest the town alter the current comprehensive plan. Peter noted that the regulations are the real issue because they are not consistent with the comprehensive plan.

David Schweid had two questions. 1) Do we have to have 3000 more units (the current buildout) in town?; 2) If so, how do you make higher densities real? Transfer of Development Rights?

Kevin Essington noted that Phase II will consider current constraints to development and if the town wants less, let them know what the options are for doing that.

Scott noted that Phase I showed the buildout and asked if this is what folks wanted. There seemed to be a clear NO. People want alternatives. They're interested in small villages and protecting open space.

Peter suggested testing 5 or 6 village locations in Phase II. He is going to have a written synopsis of Phase I for the next meeting 12/10.

HIGHSCHOOL PROJECT

Pati noted that the students weren't interested in the funds she offered. The TV and video projects seem to be working but not others.

BROWN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES STUDENTS

Kevin noted that there is a faculty member in town who has students who could work on this project. Think about research ideas that could be completed in the short term.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

The next meeting will be January 28, 2008 at the Exeter Library 7pm