

Long Island Comprehensive Planning Committee Minutes – August 3, 2021

Present: Janice Avignon, Jane Oldfield-Spearman, Patti Papkee, Erica Papkee, Dennis McCann, Nathan Johnson, Wes Wolfertz, Matt Byers, Peter Dolan

Agenda

- 1) Functional updates: Timeline, Communications
- 2) Public engagement plans
- 3) Public outreach results to date/plans
- 4) Chapter updates

Timeline/Communications:

We discussed the timeline on the Trello platform. We are in the Discover phase until the end of September as community engagement and the survey is underway. Upcoming milestone – August 15 all chapter writers should have completed a review of the current state. Next phase is the analysis of the survey and other public inputs, due September 30. The Vision Statement will be crafted in October. Janice and Jane will discuss the path forward for completing the vision statement before our September meeting and contact Tim Nichols and GPCOG for advice on this.

Public Engagement:

Reviewed plan for public engagement forums. Wes is leading one on Housing on August 18; Alanna is leading one for youth at the Community Center on August 20; Dennis/Beth planning one on Wellness TBD; Nathan is planning one on Marine Resources and the Working Waterfront TBD. The marine session will be a workshop that targets waterfront users. The wellness forum may address the common concern about the need for EMTs and volunteer responders. The housing one may address the need for affordable housing so that young families will be attracted to the island and help to sustain the year round community.

Public Outreach Results to date:

The preliminary survey results were reviewed:

Who has responded?

- 173 responses to date, or about 18% of our estimated 'top' population
- Close to 80% on the island April to October
- 49 of the 173 consider LI primary residence, 121 do not.
- Using population data this suggests 21% of primary residence people have responded and 17% of non-primary residence people have responded.
- 116 or 68% have been on the island over 20 years
- 74% have volunteered on the island in some capacity and a less (58%) plan to volunteer in the future

- 56% have 1 or 2 people in the household
- 80% have no children in the household
- 96% own (vs. rent)
- 45% are retired or don't work
- Over 70% over 55 (Beth trying to get population data by age group so we can understand what % of age groups have responded)

Greatest Hope? Open ended: .The most popular response was some form of “stay the same or not change too much,” while also addressing:

- o Affordability
- o Attracting new families
- o Managing growth

Which strategies are most important to you for improving the quality of life on Long Island in the next 10-15 years?

Chosen from the provided list. These were the strategies chosen by 50% or more of respondents in order

Implementing broadband

Planning to protect and conserve water supply

Protecting and managing open space and natural resources

Developing ways to expand the number of EMTs

Building resiliency and self-sufficiency in our capacity to cope with climate change

Preserving access to the working waterfront

Financial planning to ensure stable tax rate

Expanding health and wellness services

GPCOG has advised that 20% response rate is strong with results for this type of survey ranging from 5% to 30%. We will continue to publicize the survey with posters and at community forums. A video on Tik Tok – Erica following up with a volunteer to help with this. Survey is set to close on Labor Day but could be extended if we decide we need more responses.

In order to increase survey returns we will drop letters on people’s doorsteps (340 households) during the week of August 10. Jane will cover the West End, Erica and Patti will cover the Central region and Matt P. will cover the East End. Beth has drafted the letter and will provide

them to be distributed as well as copies of the survey in case people wish to fill out a hard copy. Note that while hard copies have been taken (over 100) from pick-up locations only one has been returned to town hall to date.

Chapter updates:

Chapter work continues – no updates this month on progress. Reminder that GPCOG is helping with these chapters: Water/Marine/Natural Resources, Transportation, Agriculture/Forest Resources, Land Use.

It was agreed that the strategic priorities that have been identified in the preliminary survey results need to be addressed strongly in the chapters. Went through an exercise to link the top ten strategic priorities from the survey results to the chapters:

Climate change concerns can be addressed across each chapter throughout.

Planning to protect and conserve water supply fits with water and land use.

Protecting and managing open space and natural resources fits with land use, natural resources, forest/agriculture.

Access to working waterfront can be addressed in marine resources, economy, capital investment and land use chapters.

Broadband should be addressed in public services (and Janice will bring up with Select Board at next update).

Expanding the number of EMTs can be addressed in public services and potentially in wellness if we choose to do a chapter on that topic.

Lack of resources could be addressed in the economy chapter.

Fostering inclusivity could go in the statement of values and vision.

Financial stability can be addressed through vision and fiscal/capital chapters.

Expanding health and wellness could be addressed in public services and potentially in a separate chapter.

Island Fellow:

Melanie Nash will begin on August 31 and will have Island Institute orientation in Rockland before starting work on the island on September 7. 70% of her time will be devoted to the Comprehensive Planning Committee and she will assist with writing the chapters. She is coming for a visit on August 10 – anyone who would like to meet her should let Janice know. Mark Greene will be her lead to the Fire and Safety for her 30% time.

Future meetings:

Janice plans to explore using the “Owl” system the Selectmen use and alternate spaces to make hybrid meetings more successful (hard to hear with present system).

Next meeting September 7. It was suggested that we meet on a Saturday in October for those who can only be present in person on weekends.