

Long Island Comprehensive Planning Committee
September 7, 2021
Meeting Minutes
Conducted remotely by Zoom

Present:

Members: Janice Avignon, Linda Ferguson McCann, Dennis McCann, Beth Marchak, Nancy Berges, Nathan Johnson, Jane Oldfield-Spearman, Patti Papkee, Wes Wolfertz, Matt Purrington, Island Institute Fellow Melanie Nash

Guests: Mark Greene, John Davis

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. Melanie Nash introduced herself to the committee. She hails from Bristol, Maine, and has her undergraduate degree in human geography and a master's degree in marine affairs. She will be working with this committee throughout the comprehensive plan.

Communications committee: The survey has closed! We have received a grand total of 348 completed surveys which is over 41% of our top estimated summer population. This includes 8 paper surveys. 90% of the respondents wrote a lot on the open ended questions, so we have some very good data!

Alanna reported that she had 30 young people attend her Youth forum. She collected notes about their hopes and dreams for their community over the next 15 years. A written report will be forthcoming.

Wes reported on the housing forum. There was overwhelming support for the creation of additional housing on the island. A compilation of notes from the meeting will be forthcoming once they are approved by the host.

The Wellness Forum was attended by about 15 residents and was conducted by Dennis and Beth. A tour of the wellness center and new telemedicine equipment was conducted by Amy Tierney before discussion began. The forum started with the presentation of demographic data indicating that the average age of island residents will significantly increase over the next 15 years. The forum leaders used a white board to have attendees post the topics they wanted to discuss, which worked very well to keep things moving. Meeting notes will be forthcoming.

There will be two vision workshops held in October moderated by Jane, Janice, Melanie, and Tim Nichols. Invitations will be sent to key stakeholders. The team is using survey and forum data to identify key themes which will be presented to attendees to drive the formation of the vision statement. Members of the comprehensive planning committee are encouraged to attend in order to help keep the small breakout sessions moving. Please let Melanie know if you can be there for one or both of the sessions.

Janice reported on her meeting with the select board. There is no money in the 2022 budget for the comprehensive plan. We will need to go to the select board if we need to purchase anything. The select board is grateful for our work. Janice presented our data to them and answered the few questions they had about our work.

Working Waterfront Forum: Melanie and Nathan will work on getting that set up.

A forum on Natural Resources/Land Management will be conducted by Betsy Whitman with the help of Linda and Beth. Betsy will focus on invasive species of plants and animals. Forum date TBD.

A workshop for island contractors will be held to see if we can brainstorm ways to help them meet the needs for contracting/specialty services which has been a big issue for our survey respondents. Vanessa Fair from GPCOG will facilitate this discussion. Linda plans to reach out to the contractors through personal invitations, and Linda and Melanie will help Vanessa with the running of the workshop.

Public Safety was another concern raised in the survey and in conversations with island residents. Janice will bring the need to address this issue to the select board via email. Should we include this issue in our comprehensive plan?

The general feeling about our forums has been that people are anxious to get educated about what we are doing. This has spurred attendance at these gatherings.

Beth hopes to have a lot of new data to share once the census has been completed.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 5. Janice will be out of the country at that time, so Beth will run the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.