



Comprehensive Plan Committee Minutes

December 6, 2023

6:30pm – Meeting

At Broadcast Studio & via ZOOM

Committee Members Present: John Clark, Greg Foster, Kaela Gonzalez, Peter Leavitt, Frank McDermott, Danelle Milone, Shawn McKillop, John Rand, Jackie Sawyer

Committee Members Absent: none

NSP Staff Present:

Kate Burch, Planner

Sam Speikes, Planner

Town Staff Present:

Sue Look, Interim Town Manager & Town Clerk

Joe Crocker, Parks & Rec Director

Town Staff Absent:

Chris Hanson, Assistant Code Enforcement Officer

1) **Called to order** at 6:30pm by Co-Chair Gonzalez with a quorum present

2) **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

a) November 1, 2023

Motion to approve as presented by Mr McDermott. Seconded by Mr Clark.

Unanimously approved

Motion to amend minutes with correct article and Mr Leavitt stated he just wanted to make clear that in the article, he had stated the logo was to be used, the QR was to be used and that they would publish the date of the January event by Mr Rand. Seconded by Mr Foster.

Unanimously approved

3) **Old Business**

a) Public Outreach Check-In – Kate Burch

Kate and Sam have been reaching out to businesses, summer camps, road associations, Raymond Waterways, etc. and have gotten some very good, specific feedback. Ms Sawyer attended a PTO meeting and they said they would be willing to entertain children for an event so the parents could attend. Mr Rand spoke with Russ Hutchinson of the Crescent Lake Association and invited their group to the January

* taken out of order

event. Mr McDermott will reach out to Sharon Dodson of the Beautification Committee. Possibly go to the community room of the Avesta facility and present. Mr McDermott said he was willing to go there.

b) Vision Statement – Workgroup Update

The committee is still working on it and will send out a new draft in the next couple of weeks. Mr Leavitt would like to make some comments. He understands it is an evolving document and as we get more information, it may change the Vision Statement. He noted that the 2004 Vision Statement stated “the cornerstone of this is human respect” and stated, “we seek a fair and just community where all citizens have equal rights”. He continued that in the draft Vision Statement there is no mention of whether we are a welcoming community or whether one of our goals is inclusivity. He stated that the responses we have received from most people stated the biggest threat to quality of life in Raymond is the concern with growth and development followed by concern of more traffic. Additionally, the next highest area of concern is conversion to short-term rentals bringing in more tourists and changing the dynamics of neighborhoods. The third largest concern was changing attitudes from the influence of new residents. He concluded that the draft Vision Statement has nothing about diversity and inclusivity. We may want to think about this. Mr Leavitt next spoke about the question of where Raymond should be in 2040, people were given the open-ended question, and the largest response was that Raymond should be the same as today. Additionally, people said that in 2040 Raymond should be welcoming and inclusive.

Mr Rand inquired that if only 10% of Raymond stated that inclusivity, diversity and inclusivity that number isn't a strong enough signal to be foremost in our plan. Mr Leavitt stated no, if it is based on the data we received, then no.

Mr McDermott stated what we need is more dialogue. He continued he is not as upset over this as Mr Leavitt, but a number of those things are a “shoot from the hip” answer.

Ms Millone stated that the Vision Statement Committee spoke about these items at length as to what message we want to put out and writing the Vision Statement in a way that is flexible. We will continue to look at it.

c) * January Event Logistics and Outline

Discussion of North Star's plan to have an open house style session with stations around the room that people can stop at and participate in activities pertaining to the topic of the station. Parks & Rec Director Crocker let the committee know that most of the families arrive around 8:30am and then every hour some leave and others come throughout the day. There was some concern that we would be missing an opportunity to reach the people who are looking for a presentation of what is the committee doing.

Snacks and prize raffles, etc. may help draw people to the cafeteria and Parks & Rec Director Crocker will donate some inventory left from last season as prizes and possibly a season pass to be raffled. Also, he can use his Sam's card to buy snacks and charge them to the Comp Plan and he has a popcorn machine that could be used.

Consensus was to have the committee members run the open house stations in the morning and then North Start will help run a more formal presentation set of sessions in the afternoon. The details will be worked out at the January meeting and then Parks & Rec Director Crocker will email them to all the basketball families.

* taken out of order

4) New Business

- * Technology Current and Future – Kevin Woodbrey, Technology Contractor

Mr Woodbrey presented the broadband efforts that have happened thus far, as well as where broadband is heading for Raymond. There was discussion about the longevity of fiber and the speed offered for residential (up to 2gb per second symmetrical) and for businesses. Fiber sets up the Town for future technology advances.

- Proposed Date for Future Land Use Workshop in March – Kate Burch
Possibly week of March 18th.

5) Next Meeting Date

- a) January 3 or 10?, 2024

January 10th is the Planning Board meeting. Consensus is January 3rd.

6) Public Comment – none

7) Comp Plan Committee's Comment

Discussions took place about a joint meeting with the Selectboard and the Planning Board. Sue Look informed that she has only heard back from Bob O'Neill indicating he would be available the week of January 8th, 2024. The Committee was of the opinion they wouldn't have much more information by January 8th but could certainly listen. Sue Look explained why this joint meeting would be beneficial and what it would entail. Mr Leavitt stated that he and Mr McKillop attended the last meeting of the Planning Board where they were discussing ordinances. His impression was there really wasn't a lot on their radar regarding LD 2003, nothing much has come of discussions about tiny homes or short-term rentals. He continued that he knows there were discussions among the Selectboard on these items, but that was a year ago. Mr Leavitt also stated there has been no official designation of what Raymond's growth area is.

8) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:35pm by Co-Chair Leavitt. Seconded by Mr Foster.

Unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted,

*Sandy Fredricks
Planning Board & ZBA Admin.*

* taken out of order