



Town of Mount Hope Comprehensive Plan Update



Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (CPUC) Committee Meeting #5

Mount Hope Town Hall
Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Meeting Notes

The following members of the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (CPUC) were present:

- Daniel Golebiowski,
- Wayne Howell,
- Matthew Howell, and
- Lee Runnalls

Also in attendance were:

- Michael Welti (B&L), and
- 1 member of the public/town official – Julie Musial

The meeting began at 5:00 PM. Mr. Welti welcomed everyone, reviewed the meeting agenda (attached), and began discussion of committee business.

Committee Business

The Committee reviewed the notes from its last meeting (October 27th) and agreed that they were complete. The notes will be posted on the comprehensive plan page of the Town's website. Mr. Welti told the committee that the notes from the September 29th committee meeting were posted on the website following the October committee meeting.

Inventory and Analysis (progress update)

Mr. Welti said that nobody from the committee sent him additional comments/suggestions about the initial draft following the last meeting in October. B&L is working on making revisions to the initial draft based on committee feedback at the last meeting. His goal is to complete these revisions and send the revised version to the committee prior to the January meeting.

Community Visioning Workshop

Mr. Welti reminded the committee that the Visioning Workshop has been scheduled for

Tuesday, December 13th, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Community Center. Committee members were asked to arrive by about 6:15 to help set-up the room. In addition to him, Chuck Voss and Katie Crawford will attend from B&L to facilitate this meeting.

The format of the Visioning Workshop was discussed. It will begin with a short presentation about the comprehensive plan update process for those members of the public that were not in attendance at the first public workshop in September. B&L will then present a preliminary vision statement and set of goals for the Updated Comprehensive Plan. Initial ideas for the vision statement and goals were distributed to the committee for discussion momentarily. At the public workshop, Mr. Welti will then facilitate discussion about the preliminary vision statement and goals to get a sense of which components resonate with those in attendance and which might need further refinement/consideration by the committee. After the facilitated discussion, B&L will divide the audience into three smaller groups that will be tasked with brainstorming ideas for achieving the vision and goals. The groups will work around tables with maps and other resources available, and will report back their ideas to the whole group at the end of the workshop. The committee agreed that this format should yield a good discussion and be informative.

The committee then discussed how to publicize the meeting. Mr. Welti distributed copies of a flyer and a press release announcing the meeting. The committee approved of these materials. Members of the committee took the hardcopies of the flyer and agreed to distribute these around Town at public locations such as the community center, the post office, the train station, and at local businesses (with permission). Mr. Welti will send an electronic copy (.pdf) of the flyer to committee members tomorrow so that they can share it with their contacts (organizations, individuals) in the community. They will also try to get it to the organizers of community Facebook pages or to other social media sites that are frequented by residents of the community. Mr. Welti noted that basic information (date, time, and location) about the Visioning Workshop was posted on the comprehensive plan page of the Town website several weeks ago. Tomorrow he will send the .pdf flyer to the Town so that it can be posted prominently on the Town's homepage. The Town will also add the meeting info to the electronic sign in front of Town Hall. It is hoped that with a sustained effort over the next week or so, we will have good attendance at the Visioning Workshop.

Preliminary Vision and Goals

Based on the first public workshop and the committee meeting discussions thus far, Mr. Welti prepared initial ideas for the plan's vision statement and goals that he distributed to the committee. He reviewed these with the group and a robust discussion followed. Some of the topics discussed included:

- Renewable energy – the committee agreed that the draft goal related to energy conservation and renewable energy (primarily wind and solar in Mount Hope) would demonstrate the Town's support for these technologies while giving the Town the

ability to create appropriate regulations for dealing with the potential impacts of these technologies.

- There was discussion about the goal related to agriculture and some of the potential recommendations that could be crafted under this goal. There was particular interest in establishing a right-to-farm law for the Town. Mr. Welti described some of the potential elements that such a law might include.
- There was interest in the goal about housing – members of the committee noted that the discussion last time about allowing and regulating accessory residential units would fit nicely under this goal.
- There was discussion about the goal that calls for the careful management of drinking water resources and, in particular, how this goal could apply to the City of Middletown and Orange County’s plans for the Indigot lands in the southeast corner of town.
- There was discussion about the potential for rail freight to be a catalyst for economic development in the Town. It was noted that there is very limited freight traffic on this line (only at night after passenger trains are done) and that it is unlikely that this would be a significant incentive a commercial enterprise to locate in the Town.

In general, the committee felt that the initial draft vision statement and goals were a good first cut and that it would be appropriate for these to be shared with the public at the workshop. Mr. Welti asked the committee to spend some more time thinking about these and to provide any additional comments or suggestions via email to him by Friday, December 9th. Tomorrow, he will also email the initial draft to the members of the committee who could not be here tonight so that they would have the opportunity to provide feedback.

Next Steps

The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for January 5th (5:00 PM at Town Hall).

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at about 6:45 PM.



**Town of Mount Hope
Comprehensive Plan Update
AGENDA**



**Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (CPUC)
Meeting #5**

Mount Hope Town Hall
Wednesday, November 30, 2016 - 5:00 PM

1. Welcome and Agenda Review

2. Committee Business

- Meeting notes from October 27th
- Project website

3. Inventory and Analysis

- Progress update

4. Community Visioning Workshop

- Tuesday, December 13th – 7:00PM to 9:00PM @ Community Center
- Meeting Format – Presentation, Facilitated Discussion, Breakout Groups
- Meeting Publicity – website, press release, flyers, e-distribution, other?

5. Preliminary Vision and Goals, Food for Thought

6. Next Steps

- Set next committee meeting – January 5th

7. Public Comment

8. Adjourn

Preliminary Draft Vision and Goals (for Committee Review and Discussion on 11/30/16)

Vision Statement

The Town of Mount Hope is a vibrant rural community that has conserved active farmland and protected its abundant natural resources and scenic beauty while guiding appropriate residential and commercial growth in and around the Village of Otisville, in the Town's small hamlets, and in other well-defined, compact development areas. The Town provides cost-efficient services to its residents, maintains public safety, and celebrates its history and culture while encouraging residents and welcoming visitors to patronize its small businesses and enjoy its rural character and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Goals

- Maintain Mount Hope's rural character by working with landowners to encourage stewardship, preserving farmland and supporting efforts to diversify and enhance the economic prospects of agriculture, and partnering with regional conservation organizations on open space conservation and trail development.
- Protect natural resources and conserve scenic landscapes such as those associated with the Shawangunk Ridge.
- Carefully manage drinking water resources (surface water and groundwater) that serve residents of the Town and the region.
- Maintain a balanced tax base – though some residential development is anticipated it is important to recognize that from a fiscal perspective, new residential growth rarely pays for itself in property taxes. Therefore, it is important to ensure that the community maintains a balance of residential development, commercial development, and open space.
- Encourage agricultural-related businesses and craft industries throughout the rural parts of Town and small business development in the Village, the hamlets, and other compact development areas. Ensure that traditional and modern infrastructure exists to support small business success.
- Provide for a variety of housing options (styles, price points, etc.) to support the diverse needs of current and future residents while retaining the overall low density, rural pattern of development prevalent through most of the Town.
- Continue to cooperate with the Village of Otisville on issues of mutual concern. In many ways, the

Village is the center of the community and its success is important for all town residents. Look for opportunities to share services when appropriate.

- Modernize development regulations to ensure that they are clear and effective. They should establish appropriate standards and guide development in a manner consistent with this plan.
- Enhance the quality of, and access to, the Town's cultural, historic and recreational resources.
- Promote energy efficiency and conservation, and the use of renewable energy in the Town.