

Committee Attendance:

Edie Greenwood	Dianne Engleke	Patti VandeBogart	Absent: Mimi Ramos
John Crodelle	William Kish		
Dale Culver	Debbie Middlebrook		Guests: George Kaye
Ed Downey	John Midwood		Ralph Fedele

Planner Nan Stolzenburg opened the meeting by saying the next level is to work on the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. The goals should offer specific direction by topic and be visibly attainable. She looked at the major topics in the 1990 plan and compared them to the current major topics. She had circulated a document listing 12 updated goals from her findings. The committee’s job is to review, accept, reject, edit, and/or add to them or whatever the committee feels is necessary.

Dale: If we get too wordy, things will not be followed through on.

Nan: For each goal, there can be village recommendations and town recommendations.

Nan: It’s hard to tell the difference between goals and objectives.

Edie: Asked if there is an order of goals, should the committee prioritize?

Nan: It depends. Some communities prioritize their goals, some don’t. The decision is up to the committee.

Dale: If we write the goals and use bullet points, goal one would be the most important.

Edie: Didn’t feel the current goals were in priority order.

Ed: Agrees with Dale. Some goals are interrelated.

Nan: Look back at the survey and see what was at the top of people’s minds.

Dianne: The three most important ones are the ones from the public survey and meetings.

Ed: We should look upon the survey as informative but not determinative. What we are doing now is going to affect people now as well as in 20 or 30 years.

Nan: Her recommendation is to look at the 12 goals with the knowledge the committee has.

Edie: Questioned the word of “maintain” in Goal 1 (maintain the natural beauty...) or should it be protect.

Dale: Should read maintain and protect.

Ed: Maintain is adequate.

Debbie: Likes the use of protect.

Nan: Goal 1 is aesthetic character; Goal 2 is agriculture; Goal 3 is environmental; Goal 4 is getting at the village’s role as the hub; Goal 5 is economic oriented; Goal 6 is housing; Goal 7 could be brought into one of the other goals; Goal 8 is infrastructure; Goal 9 is historic character; Goal 10 is recreational activities and opportunities; Goal 11 is involvement with local government; Goal 12 is maybe out of order and maybe it should be under character.

Dale: Not sure where Goal 12 should go. We’ve encouraged businesses to go where there are no sidewalks and encouraged sidewalks be put in. Would like sidewalk development to continue to boulevard district to make it safe for the people that walk to businesses in that area.

Nan: You could expand that goal so it is not just village oriented; you could be general or more specific.

John Midwood: If the Comprehensive Plan incorporates the Pedestrian Plan, it recommends expanding the sidewalks in the boulevard district.

Ed: There are three sets of issues that are critical: (1) development of public utilities (best example is need for central sewer); (2) development of housing opportunities; (3) ability of commercial sector to develop. All are related to infrastructure.

John Crodelle: Not too much is going to happen without sewer; people are going to have to jump through hoops to open a business. We should get help financially for a sewer system.

Dale: The housing issue is huge. If we don’t have the ability to create some workforce housing, we’re not going to have a workforce that a business will be able to employ.

Debbie: The village has a grant for a feasibility study for a sewer system and the findings should be available by the Fall.

Nan: Sensed from the workshop that people want development, housing, economic development. She said it needs to be the right kind of economic development. The goals have to work to get the kind of community that you want. Urged the committee to look at the goal statements and think comprehensively.

Ed: Goals 5, 6 and 8 refer to the three areas that he talked about.

Nan: You may want to have some more unified goal statements that have different components. The next step is the review of the zoning.

Dale: Suggested going through goals one by one and see what fits and what doesn't fit.

Ed: If we were looking at this as a person read it, they would sense the earlier mentioned goals were more important. He would put Goals 5, 6 and 8 at the top.

Dale: Questioned numbering the goals; just go through them and put bullet points.

Debbie: They should be numbered by priority.

Ed: Land use planning has a history of not being overly aggressive. The more the interest there is in retaining what we have, the greater the need for regulatory setup that will enable that.

John Midwood: Agrees with Ed. For younger people to stay in the community, there need to be jobs. Goals 5 and 8 should be higher on the list.

Bill: An important question concerns economic growth. On a scale of 1 to 10, how much of small-town character, environmental protection, etc., how much would we be willing to give up to achieve growth? By putting growth first, as opposed to putting stewardship or preservation first, that's guiding the town in a definite direction. A lot of towns have gone in that direction, that growth is most important.

Ed: From a historical perspective, when the first zoning law was passed in the mid-seventies, preservation was a very important consideration and that is why we got 5-acre zoning. It was remarkably aggressive for its time. What has happened between then and now is that the zoning has had some effect but there's probably more effect of what's happened (1) at the regulatory level, the best example of that is the wetland laws; and (2) is in the private sector where all the land conservation is happening. It's individuals putting their land in conservation easements. It's the Dutchess Land Conservancy and the State working to get the development rights. A lot of progress has been made. Some of the implications of that progress has been to create significant economic issues. That needs to be acknowledged and dealt with. He doesn't think that prioritizing those issues runs the risk that Bill is suggesting. It does not present a risk if managed properly. We have a serious economic problem.

Dianne: We can respond to it by keeping that as a goal after the under-goals that speak to the natural beauty. Every community has economic problems, but we have something that a lot of communities don't have.

Debbie: The biggest thing we have is rural character; that's what everyone wanted to maintain from the survey. That should be our major goal and work on the economics after that. If we're not careful, we're going to lose what we have.

Dale: There's a fine line in that we don't want to create a museum, but at the same time we want it to be able to morph and change as time goes by. Change should be congruent with our goals.

John Crodelle: We are all in agreement that the predominant amount of new people coming in from the metropolitan area here do so because of the rural character. We want them here; they spend money in the town.

Nan: (Reading from the survey results) We asked the people to describe what they wanted the character of the community to be like in 10-15 years, one for the town and one for the village. First one was agrarian, agriculture and farming, followed by rural, followed by community, followed by beautiful, followed by open land and space.

Dale: We need to prioritize the strategies. The first things done after updating the Comprehensive Plan are going to impact the next 10 years. A sewer system installation is going to create havoc and having an impact on businesses.

Amenia had their water system upgraded and many businesses on Main Street disappeared. They have been replaced but what was there is gone.

Debbie: There is a limitation of what can happen in the village. We are confined on space right now and what growth opportunities there are, are to the east and north of the village.

Dale: The boulevard district was designated to provide an area for commercial growth due to the lack of available space in the village.

Nan: Urged the committee to go back and make decisions. The statements need to reflect the direction you want to go in.

Bill: We need to prioritize the goals because the goals could be at odds with others sometimes.

Edie: Regarding Goal 10, we have no control over public education and we shouldn't reference anything that we have no control over. Recreation is a huge opportunity; we have tremendous assets. She would like to make that a bigger priority.

Revised goals:

Goal 1: Maintain and protect the natural beauty, rural character and scenic resources of the community

Goal 2: Protect our valuable farmlands, support our farms and their products, and encourage the continuation and diversification of agricultural activities.

Goal 3: Protect the natural environment, ecosystems and open spaces.

Goal 4: Recognize and support the Village of Millerton's charming character, its role as the primary center for commerce, culture and social interaction in the Town, and a place where businesses are prosperous and meet the needs of both residents and visitors.

Goal 5: Encourage development of a thriving, vibrant, stable and diverse economic base that offers ample employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for all.

Goal 6: Promote a variety of housing alternatives to meet the needs of all residents. Recognize and encourage the Village of Millerton and the areas immediately adjacent to it as the primary location for higher density residential development.

Goal 7: Deleted

Goal 8: Provide for safe and efficient vehicular and pedestrian transportation networks, accessible and up-to-date communication technologies, and public utility services that support a vital economy and quality of life.

Goal 9: Recognize, promote and maintain the historic character of the community.

Goal 10: Encourage accessible recreational, cultural and educational opportunities that meet the social and community needs of all segments of the population.

Goal 11: Encourage active civic involvement, promote volunteerism, and provide for local government that is responsive to the needs of its citizens.

Goal 12: Deleted

Nan: Asked the committee if the next step should be to go to strategies or would we like to outline more specific objectives. Strategies were unanimous approved by the committee.

Nan: Asked about layout suggestions of the Comprehensive Plan: (1) one big document (Executive Summary, Introduction, Summary of Trends and Issues, Vision for the Future, Recommended Strategies & Actions, Implementation Steps, Appendices); (2) same but keeping it as two documents (same as Option 1 but making Appendices the second document); this was the form used in the existing Comprehensive Plan documents; (3) short version (Brief Introduction, Vision, Goals, Implementation Steps, Appendices).

The committee decided on Option 2.

Edie: Suggested making it a digital document as printing it will be expensive.

Dale: Suggested charging for hard copies.

Meeting was adjourned at 6PM.

The next meeting will July 16 at 4PM at The Annex.