

Minutes of the CLRPC Meeting of August 12, 2016

Pursuant to a notice filed with the Town Clerk, the Comprehensive Long Range Plan Committee (CLRPC) met at 8:00 a.m. on August 12, 2016 in the First Floor Meeting Room, 141 Keyes Road, Concord, MA.

Members Present:

Gary Kleiman, Co-Chair
Elise Woodward, Co-Chair
Barron Lambert
Barbara Morse
James Bryant
Peggy Briggs
Judith Zaunbrecher
Jane Hotchkiss, Select Board Liaison

Marcia Rasmussen, DPLM Director
Elizabeth Hughes, Town Planner
Sean O'Brien, Budget Analyst

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Woodward at 8:00 a.m.

Consultant RFP Update

Ms. Hughes informed the Committee that the Finance Department was reviewing the final RFP. Once the RFP is released, it will be submitted to the Central Register with proposals due by September 15th. Ms. Rasmussen added that there would be no pre-submission meeting, but instead consultants could submit questions by September 7th and we would respond back with answers by September 9th.

The Committee determined that they would request from the Town Manager that three members be part of the Review Committee in making a recommendation to him. For the September 9th meeting, the Committee will determine which three members would be part of the Review Committee, get an update on the RFP questions from consultants and discuss potential interview questions.

Review & Discuss APA Best Principles: Resilient Economy & Interwoven Equity

The Committee went through the 7 APA Best Practices for Resilient Economy to make sure all of the members had the same understanding of what this principle means. Ms. Woodward noted that members should keep in mind what the Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires in a Plan.

Mr. Bryant noted that Concord has a role to play in the Metropolitan Boston resilient economy and what role we want to play. The Committee agreed that Concord is somewhere in-between focusing on having a resilient local economy and fostering some aspect of the suburban economic role as a town close to Boston.

Ms. Hotchkiss thought that Concord did not get hit as hard as other communities with the recent economic downturn, but noted there must be lessons learned to help us question where are the community's vulnerabilities and how we can maintain our resiliency.

In determining some of the aspects that support a resilient economy, the Committee discussed the need for supporting the health care industry jobs, farmers, seniors, innovative consultants that often work from home, and affordable housing for younger families wanting to move into Town.

Lori Gill-Pazaris, 1376 Old Marlboro Rd commented that all of the factors to support the aging population are contrary to what is happening in Town with the mansionization of the smaller homes and thinks there needs to be more thought on the solution. Mr. Kleiman commented that this will be a question for the Plan; do we want to regulate and shape what the Town looks like or let private market forces and demographics control things.

The Committee determined that the Plan should also take into consideration post-disaster recovery and develop a strategy for addressing post-disaster recovery.

The Committee went through the 9 APA practices for Interwoven Equity to make sure there was a common basis for determining what Interwoven Equity means for the Town of Concord.

The Committee agreed that Concord does not have truly low-income neighborhoods with substandard infrastructure, but there are residents that are disadvantaged and living in substandard housing and it will be important to develop a strategy to address this issue.

In determining some of the aspects that support interwoven equity, the Committee discussed the need for supporting racial diversity, young families and senior citizens and looking at the amenities needed to support them.

The Committee acknowledged that every property that becomes available for development in Concord will have competing pressures for its uses, whether it is green space, affordable housing, recreation, playgrounds, agriculture, or municipal uses. The Plan will need to think about how to balance those competing uses and what are the best metrics for accomplishing this task.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Boynton, Clerk