

**TOWN OF STANFORD
DRAFT MASTER PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING APRIL 14, 2015**

PRESENT:

Mark Burdick
Karen Mosher
Larry McKeough
Gary Lovett
Tom Angell
Duffy Layton
Richard Bell

ABSENT: Kathy Zeyher, Tom Dewhirst, Jeffrey Spiers, James Sansum

Call to order: 7:07 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-

Mr. Lovett moved and Ms. Mosher seconded to approve the minutes of September 23, 2014 as written. All in favor: Mr. Burdick, Ms. Mosher, Mr. McKeough, Mr. Lovett, Mr. Angell, Mr. Layton. Motion carried.

Mr. Angell moved and Mr. Layton seconded to approve the February 10, 2015 minutes as written. All in favor: Mr. Burdick, Ms. Mosher, Mr. McKeough, Mr. Lovett, Mr. Angell, Mr. Layton. Motion carried.

Mr. Layton moved and Mr. Angell seconded to approve the minutes of March 18, 2015 as written. All in favor: Mr. Burdick, Ms. Mosher, Mr. McKeough, Mr. Lovett, Mr. Angell, Mr. Layton. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. County Planning Meeting-

Mr. Burdick explained that some of the Committee met with Dutchess County Planning on March 18 to discuss writing an RFP. He noted that County Planning felt that if the Committee is not very specific in the tasks requested from consultants, the time frame will be much longer and more expensive. He added that County Planning is taking a new look at planning, with a focus on economic development. They had suggested that Ron Hicks come to a Committee meeting to discuss economic development. Mr. Angell commented that it seems County concerns and Committee concerns dovetailed.

**Mr. Bell arrived.*

Mr. Layton stated that he is not sure if the Committee should meet with the County first or work on narrowing down the Committee's focus first. He noted the Committee has compiled a list of issues without suggestions on what to do about those issues. Mr. McKeough asked if County Planning has reviewed the

draft master plan and if they will give comments. Mr. Angell replied that it is not their intent to make suggestions about the content of the master plan.

Mr. Burdick asked that Mr. Lovett clarify his position regarding the RFP. Mr. Lovett explained that he is worried that the RFP will delay the process by 6 months to a year. He added that he believes the Committee could hire a consultant on an hourly basis and ask them for an estimate of overall cost. Mr. Angell commented that the Town is not required to put out an RFP, but it seems that the Town Board would like to go to bid.

Mr. Bell commented that either way, the Committee will need to narrow down its focus before they will have a sense of how long it will take or what the result will be. Mr. Lovett commented that writing an RFP, interviewing and writing contracts will have a significant impact on timeline. Mr. Angell noted that he has done an abbreviated RFP process through the County. Mr. Bell commented that the cost and scope of work is what will lead to a formal RFP process.

Mr. Layton commented that he is confused about how much time the RFP will take, noting that the County offered to help them with the process. Mr. Angell explained that drafting the RFP takes months, then they will wait for responses to come back, which are voluminous and will need to be reviewed, then interviews are done and a recommendation is made to the Town Board. Following that, contracts are drafted. He noted the process takes at least six months.

Mr. McKeough commented that he thought the County could help the Committee. Mr. Bell commented that the Committee needs to come up with suggestions, that the County will not tell the Committee what is important or not important. Mr. Angell noted that the County suggested that the Committee figure out what we do want for the Town as opposed to focusing on what we don't want for the Town. Mr. Bell stated that he feels leery that the County is coming to the Committee with a single lens of being pro-development.

Mr. McKeough commented that before they talk about growth, we need to stop our decline. Mr. Lovett commented that he didn't get the sense that anyone in Town wants to see growth, they seem to like it the way it is. Mr. Layton commented that the Town needs to grow slowly as the schools are closing and the population is dying off. Mr. Burdick commented that weekenders are buying the real estate as it comes available. Mr. McKeough added that there has been a

dramatic change; Town has lost tons of businesses. Ms. Mosher commented that the businesses in Town need more than weekenders to survive.

Mr. Burdick agreed with Mr. Lovett's comment that the Committee needs to know what the Town wants. Mr. Angell stated that was the sense he got from the County also. Mr. Burdick stated that the draft master plan grew out of the first Saturday informational meeting where a large portion of attendees were weekenders, but that the public hearing drew a totally different population. He noted his discussion with County Planning where he commented that he hears from the weekenders at his farm stand that don't like the town center plan despite the fact that their participation influenced its creation.

The Committee discussed the town center plan and its economic viability. Mr. Lovett stated he is willing to have a discussion on alternatives to the town center. Mr. Burdick asked if the Committee agrees that the PDD is the biggest issue. Mr. Angell commented that he thought the biggest concern is promoting growth, noting Mr. McKeough's focus on business growth is related to where growth takes place. He explained that the Town has been there before, back in the 80's, where they looked at soils. He noted that there appeared to be very few places available to locate growth relying on septic systems, with those areas that are most accommodating tending to be our best agricultural soils.

Mr. Burdick stated that he is in favor of having the County come speak to the Committee. He noted that he would like to hear their new concepts on growth before the Committee narrows down their focus and added that Committee members are mature enough not to be swayed by them if they don't agree. The Committee agreed to ask the County to talk to the Committee specifically about economic development. Mr. Burdick will contact the County. Mr. McKeough asked if the Committee could invite a Town Board member to attend. The Committee was in favor of doing so.

NEXT MEETING-

The Committee scheduled meetings on April 28th, May 12th and 26th, and June 9th and 23rd. All meetings will take place at 7pm at the Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT-

The Committee adjourned at 8:07 pm.

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Submitted By: _____

Michelle Turck, Secretary

Approved By: _____

Mark Burdick, Chairman