

Town of Candia

HOP Steering Committee

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Pattie Davis, Judith Szot, Anne Lacey, Wendy Ducharme

Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission Staff: Cameron Prolman

Pattie Davis called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. It was determined that four members present out of eight Steering Committee members did represent a quorum.

Cameron Prolman asked for feedback about his revisions to the draft community survey. Members commended him on the changes he had made, which committee members felt resulted in a survey that would generate more meaningful information.

The Committee discussed question #9, which read “When you think of housing in Candia in the future, what concerns you?” Cameron was concerned about presenting the question as a negative. The Committee debated changing the question to “when you think of housing in Candia in the future, what are your priorities?” but concluded that the two questions would result in different information. Judith Szot pointed out that concerns about water table issues, for example, would not be expressed if the question focused on priorities. The Committee agreed that the survey should incorporate two questions: one focused on concerns and a separate question about priorities or hopes. Cameron will incorporate the revision into the next version of the survey that he presents to the committee.

Wendy Ducharme was concerned that question #12 presumed that the respondent felt that maintaining rural character was a priority. Cameron pointed out that maintaining rural character was part of the master plan and the Committee agreed that a line should be added to question #12 that framed preserving rural character as part of the town’s master plan.

The Committee discussed questions 13-15 and felt it would be difficult for respondents to answer those questions, but Cameron pointed out that the information would be helpful to the Planning Board. It was agreed that these questions about the location of specific types of housing would be discussed/addressed as part of in-person outreach sessions.

Cameron will solicit feedback on the survey from missing Committee members prior to the next meeting. The goal is to get the survey out by the end of January with community outreach in March. The Committee discussed ways to get the word out about the survey, including local Facebook groups and communications through the Moore School, as well as copies and a postcard with the online link at the post office, Mason’s breakfast, communications at the transfer station, and library. The Committee discussed approaching the librarians to ask them to encourage patrons to fill out the online survey when they are at the library. Specific responsibilities will be determined at future meetings.

Cameron will be out on paternity leave for 4-6 weeks at the end of January. The goal is to get the survey out before his leave and use the time he is gone to gather responses. Cameron will then tabulate

responses and issue a report when he returns so results can be shared at community outreach sessions in March.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 14 at 2:30 pm. The January meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 2:30 pm. Approval of the minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Wendy Ducharme*