

Town Plan
Mapping the Vision Workshop
Wednesday May 4, 2016
6 – 9pm
Richmond Free Library

Workshop Notes

Present: Jon Kart, Ernie Burford, Karen Yaggy, Juliana Dixon, Brian Tellstone, Colin Green, Wright Preston, Bob Low, Trevien Stanger, Whitney Smith, Lauren Esserman, Amy May, Steve May, Rick Barrett, Jean Bressor, Art Herttua, Eric Recchia, Kristin Novotny, Patty Brushett, Gary Bressor, Heidi Bormann, Martha Marciel, John Hammerslough, Bob Stafford, Marshall Paulson, Mary Houle, Joy Reap, Brad Elliot, Alan Buck, Sam Granly, Maddie Ruth, Julie Welkowitz, Judy Rosovsky, Jim Shallow, Lauck Parke, Mark Fausel, Marc Hughes, Bruce LaBounty, Chris Granda

Facilitators: Clare Rock, Dave H. and Rebecca S. from Community Workshop LLC, Melanie N., Emily N., and Peter Keating from CCRPC.

Clare Rock, Town Planner welcomed attendees and provided a short background presentation. The Mapping workshop will help inform the future land use plan of the town plan. The future land use map is intended to be a graphic representation of the town's vision for the future. It is not the zoning map. The future land use map will provide the basis for a future new zoning map.

Dave H. and Rebecca S. from Community Workshop LLC presented information about the process so far including the vision process and the instructions for this evening's workshop.

People were given the following instructions:

- Choose one of the topics (see 1-6 below) and find a chair at that table
- At each table was a large scale map, a clear plastic mylar sheet, markers, a copy of the vision statement, and an Instruction Packet.
- Each table was tasked with: 1. identifying a note taker, time keeper and reporter 2. reviewing the vision 3. inventory places relative to the table's topic 4. discuss the trends 5. identify strategies 6. identify hopes/concerns

Then each table reported out to the whole group. Then each group was tasked with discussing, revising and prioritizing the top five strategies and areas. The following is a list of the top priorities from each group:

1. Natural Lands Group:

The group outlined the core forest habitats, the floodplain and the Camels Hump view from the park and ride and the VYCC view from the 189 on the map. The group identified the following priorities:

- Density based zoning/cluster development;
- Core forest overlay district (and identified connections);
- Design review, conditional use that respects the natural features developed by the conservation commission;

- Identify on future land use maps potential and existing trail networks connecting all neighborhoods to the village;
- Explore options for financially incentivizing large land owners to conserve large parcels of land
- Protect riparian/floodplain areas.

2. Working land Group:

The group outlined the major working farms and forests on the map and identified the following priorities:

- Zoning changes to increase minimum lot sizes in working land areas;
- Protect riparian buffers by incentives, education, easements...;
- Allow for farm worker housing (such as seasonal housing);
- Allow for/attract a community food processing facility.

3. Economic Opportunity Group:

The Group outlined the areas of current economic activity and identified the Gateway Commercial Zoning District and the area around Harrington's on East Main Street as areas for economic opportunity. The group identified the following:

- Support home based businesses;
- Commercial opportunity at east end of Village;
- Gateway Commercial District and the Creamery parcel as key commercial locations (could include high tech firms, health services and small hotel, include sidewalks and design standards);
- Discourage box stores or large chain businesses;
- Needs include quick stop for coffee and muffins, diner/affordable breakfast restaurant.

4. Village and Downtown Group:

The group outlined the Village area, the downtown area, and the Jonesville Village area on the map plus identified the following priorities:

- New downtown streetscape plan that addresses parking concerns and improves the downtown appearance
- (Re) establish Jonesville as a destination and work to bring an anchor businesses to the historic commercial area (such as recreation industry based) and help re-enforce the neighborhood center.
- Encourage the establishment of a "Third Place" similar to the On The Rise Bakery.

Additional discussion included to the need to ensure that any future zoning doesn't de-value private property.

5. Housing and Neighborhoods Group:

The group identified the following neighborhoods: Riverview Commons, Southview/Hidden Pines/Valley View, Graystone, Jonesville, lower Wes White Hill, Fays Corner and the Village. The group identified the following priorities:

- Redevelopment of Jonesville;
- Encourage density in Village, Jonesville and other key areas, by providing incentives for smaller lots and smaller homes;
- Encourage sidewalks, shared spaces plus block parties, green up activities and email lists (social networks);
- Encourage denser, clustered development with green space, promote bike and pedestrian connections between and thru neighborhoods;
- Promote housing cooperatives, housing trusts, and other housing ownership and development options.

6. Character and Culture Group:

The group identified the following areas: the Multrup Farm, Conant Farm, the Village, Jonesville Village, Fays Corner, the Huntington Gorge, the VYCC/Monitor Barn, Cochran's Ski Area, the Schools and the cemeteries. The group identified the following priorities:

- Marketing/promotion of social and recreational opportunities, info kiosk, signage and wayfinding (including re-vamp the "Welcome" sign, consider a brand like the Town of Waterbury);
- Director position to help with the marketing and promotion.