Comprehensive Plan Committee

March 30, 2017

Enfield Community Building

Present: Beth McGee, Nancy Spero, Dan Walker

Beth McGee called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC) introduced themselves.

Agenda points were reviewed by the CPC members. (Agenda is attached to the end of these minutes)

Discussion and questions:

Who is on the CPC? Besides, Beth McGee, Nancy Spero and Dan Walker who were in attendance at the meeting, Poney Carpenter and Becky Sims were also appointed to be on the original CPC.

Is there an expiration date on the Comprehensive Plan (CP)? There is no expiration date on the CP but it is recommended to review the CP every 5 years. If a CP becomes “out dated” it is less relevant for town usage. The Town Board votes and enacts the CP after holding a public hearing. The CP can be based on a time frame of 20 years and reviewed every 5 years. There is a need to find a document/basis on how to judge or think ahead in planning 20 years in the future.

Beth McGee stated she would like the CP approved by end of 2017. There was discussion on the town hiring a Planner to look at the CP in 2018. There is currently no money appropriated in the budget for a Planner.

Beth McGee discussed the New York Upstate Revitalization Initiative. This a program aimed at revitalizing the economy of Upstate New York. Receiving a grant through this program is better if there is a current CP in place. There are grants to apply for which provide funding for how prepare the town to write grants A grant writer for the town is needed.

Beth McGee referred to Draft Section of the CP (March 2017) Town of Enfield Strengths, Opportunities, Weaknesses and Threats. She invited to attendees to view the table and let the committee know of additions/changes/recommendations.

Henry Hansteen, Enfield Resident, stated he would like to see industrial farming “mega farms” limited in the size of the farm. He referred to the pollution of Salmon Creek in Lansing from a farm. He feels there is too much toxic waste being imported from other towns by farmers who are out of town and renting town land.

Joe Dawson would like to see a community park. It was suggested an area near the Highway Department property would be a good location for a park

Beth McGee read the Vision Statement from the Built Environment (page 30) as an example of what the Vision Statements in the CP cover. They would like a consistency of the vision statement with the goals and actions in each section.

Comprehensive Plans from towns inside and outside of Tompkins County were looked at when writing the CP for Enfield. Census data is from 2010, the next census will be in 2020.

Discussion on what the CP needs: Is the language “wishy-washy”? Is better wording needed? Census facts need better presentation. Is an appendix needed? Flood Plan – FEMA, Enfield has no flood mapping – expensive process. Are more pictures need? A list of pictures is needed.

Communications involving the town residents and government is located in the Municipality Section. This section was not in the original CP. All town employees were asked for their input on the CP. The committee still needs a response from the Fire Company on the CP.

There is need for an increase in volunteerism and an increase in public involvement in the democratic process for the town.

A review of the suggestions on page 2 of the Agenda was reviewed. A financial plan involving funding/grants is needed Aquifer study should be added to the plan.

Sue Thompson discussed the different sites from Tompkins County showing Enfield History. A new site is being working on Names on the Land – Tompkins County. <https://tcnames.wordpress.com/>.

Mike Carpenter, Enfield Town Board member, stated he wants to become more familiar with the CP and how to move forward in what the town wants for the future.

Beth McGee reviewed what she learned at the Association of Towns workshop. The CP should serve as a guide for town government to address the issues resident feel are important going into the future.

There was discussion on if the current CP (reference 2001) was used or referred to at all. There have been some goals in the old plan that have been completed and continued to be used.

**Next Meeting: April 20, 2017 – 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**

**Recording Clerk, Sue Thompson**

**Comprehensive Plan Meeting- March 30, 2017**

* Welcome
* What is a comprehensive plan? Why is it important? Benefits? Goals?
  + A comprehensive plan is not a law. It is an expression of a community’s goals and the recommended actions to achieve those goals. An outline for orderly growth, providing continued guidance for decision making. A document focusing on immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development. – NYS Division of Local Government Services
  + State Statutes define a comprehensive plan as “the materials, written and/or graphic, including but not limited to maps, charts, studies, resolutions, reports, and other descriptive material that identify the goals, objectives, principles, guidelines, policies, standards, devices, and instruments for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development” of the municipality.- NYS Division of Local Government Services
  + Land use regulations by the Town must be in accordance with the plan.
  + Other government agencies shall consider the town’s plan while proposing capital projects.
  + Helpful with the annual budget, capital plan, and grant applications
  + Helpful with growth management and prioritizing work
* Timeline of work on new Draft Plan
  + In late Fall of 2013, the town put together a survey of residents to solicit input with regard to the demographics and needs of our community.
  + In January 2014, the Planning Board gave their draft of the Town Board
  + In Spring of 2014, the Town Board created a new committee “to develop and refine the Comprehensive Plan in the form it needs to be to bring to the Town Board for approval.”
  + *Councilperson Carpenter moved, with a second by Councilperson Howe-Strait to form a working committee to develop the charge and to develop structure so work can continue on the Comprehensive Plan, with Councilperson McGee as chairperson, and as many Planning Board members as were interested and town residents who were interested in working on the Plan. It would be the focus group to develop and refine the Comprehensive Plan in the form it needs to be to bring to the Town Board for approval.- Town Board Minutes- 2/2/2014*
  + In Summer of 2014, the new committee began meeting and taking further public input.
  + In Spring of 2015 the committee began reviewing and refining the goals and actions in the draft plan.
  + Fall of 2015, development of the narrative portion of the sections (the part that describes the current conditions that necessitate the goals and actions) began.
  + Late Summer 2016, the draft sections were available to the committee for editing and comments. Throughout the Fall, changes were made to reflect those additions and comments.
* Discussion of Draft Plan sections provided- Start thinking about the following:
  + Should answer these questions:
    - What is this town?
    - What does it want to be?
    - How can it become that?
    - What will we do to become or remain that?
* Existing plan from 2000
  + How does it compare?
  + Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT)-
    - Newfield Plan had this and it seemed to me like an important piece to include.
  + Vision Statements, Goals, Actions
* Plan Needs-
  + A financial plan. What is our community’s long-range financial plan?
  + More definitive language about our intentions?
  + A simpler representation of the statistics information
  + Flood Plan consideration
  + -
  + -
* Section needs-
  + Vision Statements- some enhanced wording
  + Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats- is anything missing?
  + -
  + -
  + -
  + Solutions to Weaknesses and Threats- are there goals and actions missing based on the SWOT?
  + -
  + -
  + -
  + Unrealized Opportunities and ways to capitalize on Strengths- Are there goals and actions missing based on this?
  + -
  + -
  + -
  + Comparison to 2000 Plan- Are there goals and actions that have not been met from the current plan that should continue to be included in the new plan?
  + -
  + -
  + -
* Next Meeting Date
* Adjourn- 8:15 PM