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MINUTES OF THE MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022

5:00 PM

TOWN HALL

Members Present: Chairperson, Pamela Yonkin, Lorne Jones, Jane Lannon, Rodney Rowland, Conni White

Members Present via Teams: Kathy Richards, Peter Schwab

Others Present via Teams: Jenn Rowden, Rockingham Planning Commission

Chair Yonkin asked for approval of the minutes from the September 26th meeting. Mr. Rowland made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Richards started with a discussion of housing in New Castle. Jenn Rowden provided some statistics:

Total population in New Castle in 2020 is 1,000.

There are 525 housing units 459 are occupied. 66 are unoccupied.

In 2010 the population was 968 with 537 housing units. 449 were occupied. 88 were unoccupied.

Discussion ensued regarding sources of information on housing. Look at tax assessor's records. Rockingham Planning Commission is now compiling data on housing units and affordability. The MP should address how to control growth with new housing and still keep the character of New Castle. Ms. Rowden recommended including info on the overall housing stock and opinions on housing. The MP should also address the growth of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).

Ms. White is working on the Climate Change section of the MP. She is researching other towns' plans to ascertain a structure for the overwhelming amount of data on the subject. Ms. Rowden suggested she look at North Hampton's plan because it has some significant links that could be helpful.

Mr. Jones reported on interviews he intends to conduct in relation to his topic of Town Facilities, ie police, recreation center, fire house, library, Fort Stark (State), cemeteries, Town Hall. He has generated questions for contacts in each of these facilities. It was suggested that he read the just completed town Hazard Mitigation Plan to inform his section of the MP.

Mr. Rowland stated that his section on Historic Structures and Streetscapes will be less quantitative and more stylistic. It all depends on the age of the structure. Where are we now

with our concerns? The future will pull from that. Ms. Rowden suggested including a purpose statement. Consider redevelopment of old structures, reuse, ADU's.

Mr. Schwab reviewed his outline and getting data for his section on Utilities. He's working on gathering trends. Suggested he look at the question if our current infrastructure will hold up with increased climate change pressures. Consider wave energy? Should he look into community solar?

Ms. Lannon discussed her foray into the Transportation section of the MP. Ms. Rowden said she could help provide traffic and safety data. Hazard Mitigation Plan will also be helpful for this section.

Ms. Rowden advised that we should consider holding a public input session when we are 80% to 90% finished with writing the plan. We should ask for public opinions on our recommendations.

Her recommendation on how to structure each chapter is as follows:

- Start with a high-level overview

- Put in data and information

- Support the data with what people have said in the survey or what is concluded in other studies such as the Hazard Mitigation Plan

- Conclude with recommendations moving forward

For our next meeting, Chair Yonkin asked that everyone upload whatever they have on their reports to Google Docs and read through all the entries from all other committee members.

Next meeting is scheduled for SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH AT 4PM IN THE TOWN HALL

Respectfully submitted,

Darcy Horgan

Recording Secretary