

Update on Progress

Town of Chatham Comprehensive Plan Implementation-Ad Hoc Advisory Group

January 19, 2017

Before I report on the progress of our hard working volunteers, I wish to correct certain misinformation that is spreading about our community: that this advisory group has thrown out the work that was completed by the Zoning Implementation Committee (ZIC) and submitted to the town board in December 2015. **This is simply not true.**

As those attending the Town Board's public forum in April know, where planning consultant Nan Stolzenburg (who worked extensively with the town to create the Comprehensive Plan), the ZIC product forms the basis for the work that is now being undertaken. Soon after that forum the town board decided to form this committee and utilize Ms. Stolzenburg as our consultant. *Phase One* includes an edit and reorganization by our consultant which was submitted to our group in late August. This includes a line-by-line review editing, modifying and posing of questions we consider necessary to clarify the zoning language by our group. *Phase Two* will tackle those areas that were not addressed by the ZIC over its five years of deliberation.

Our goal is to create a readable, understandable and well organized document that will eliminate as many of the grey areas as possible. In doing so we will provide our Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals clear direction to make solid, objective decisions that are firmly rooted in, and will consistently uphold, the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

To date we have met 14 times since September and continue to meet on Wednesdays from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at the North Chatham Library. We will be meeting with Nan Stolzenburg on February 1. We are roughly 75% through Phase One and hope to have that work completed by the middle of February. We have been publically posting our minutes and updates of our work. The next step will be to present this completed work (after a full legal review) to the town board for their consideration.

We welcome any questions and comments the town board and community may have. All documents can be found at <http://www.planningbetterplaces.com/chatham.html>. Feel free to contact me at bobbalcom.townofchatham@gmail.com and thank you.

Best,

Bob Balcom

Chair of the Comprehensive Implementation Advisory Group