

DRAFT
Town of White Creek
Comprehensive Plan and Ag Protection Plan
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2011

Attendees: Jim Perry, Carol Moore, Peter Hetko, Don Sweet, Sarah Ashton

Absent: Rich Moses, Ed Gulley Tim Smith, Rupert Jennings, J. Tudor, Bill Badgley, Darryl Caputo, Roady Walker,

Minutes: The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Nan was on speaker phone due to the weather. She had forwarded a draft of the Comprehensive Plan in advance of the meeting. The goal of the meeting was to obtain comments about the draft. In general terms the Committee felt great progress had been made. Comments included:

- from Sweet, it is good particularly up to page 24.
- Moore liked the introduction and overview description of a comprehensive plan.
- She noted that she tried to read the report with fresh eyes and questioned the heavy focus on agriculture, noting that though retaining the agricultural character was desired an overweight focus had been a critique of some members of the public and hence she wondered how the plan would be received in view of this. The section on the land use law was hard to follow and formatting needed to be revised. It was suggested that perhaps some reorganization might pull some of the economic development sections up to the front and the plan be shared with resources like Mark Galough former head of the Wash Co LDC to suggest ideas to improve the economic development section consistent with the plan vision. Nan noted that many of the recommended actions meet multiple goals and the agriculture section was also compatible with the community character and environmental section; ultimately these are really integrated. Hetko noted that the plan is farm centric. Sweet suggested that the introduction acknowledge that the plan was funded by the NYS Department of Agriculture had to include an ag protection plan within and therefore contained a lot of information about agriculture.
- Organizationally, Ashton suggested that in advance of the topical goals and recommended actions an brief introduction include provide an overview of the topics that would be covered in the report (i.e., economic development, agriculture, housing, environment, infrastructure).
- A section needs to be added to ground the report in the realities of White Creek. It was suggested that portions of the Executive Summary of the data collection report (covering land mass character, demographics, economic and housing data etc) be included along with a brief review of existing land use regulations like site plan review and subdivision law.
- Executive Summary: The committee asked Nan to draft the Executive Summary in provide an overview of the plan. This summary could be published in the paper and shared widely with members of the public who may not have the opportunity to read the whole plan. It would inform the public about the key recommendations in the plan
- Perry noted that the town board and the planning board may have ideas to strengthen and the Steering Committee will set up a meeting in March to review the plan with them.
- Add sections in about the current land use regulations (site plan review, sub division, right to farm and mobile home ordinance) and summarize the recommended actions with regard to updating these in the main report (with details of the audits in the appendices.)
- Hetko suggested removing hunting leases example (Appendix F) as such leases are often purchased by people outside the community limiting opportunities for hunters locally.

- There was discussion about the table prioritizing recommended actions and adapting the key. The steering committee will review this table in detail at the next meeting. It has to be useable. Nan noted that it was a table for the Town Board. Perry suggested that it note the ‘year in which/by which’ the action might be accomplished. Nan noted in her ranking she suggested that the establishment of the Agricultural Committee be a key priority as well as updating land use regulations. Perry noted that the Town recently had to appoint a committee member to the IDA and he had brought to the board’s attention the plan’s suggestion to appoint someone with an agricultural background. This did not happen.
- Nan noted that the new governor was particularly interested in learning about the ag economic development efforts in farmland protection plans. He wants to grow jobs.
- Subdivision regulations: Perry suggested leaving it to the next committee to review and consider whether or not to change what constitutes a minor subdivision.
- It was suggested that the tables documenting the findings from the public meetings as well as some of the section recounting the public engagement process be made more concise—in part using footnotes. Ashton will take a crack at it and forward to Nan.
- Other minor typographic and organizational edits were suggested throughout.

Next Meeting: Weds. February 9th at 7:30pm. In advance, Nan will advance a revised copy of the plan and draft an Executive Summary. Ashton will ask Lisa Austin-Cuddihy to make hard copies of the revised Draft and make them available to committee members to pick them up.