



**Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Zoom Hybrid Meeting
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2023
Approved: October 5, 2023**

Committee Members Present: Roxanne Marino, Elizabeth Weatherby, Mo Klein, Rebecca Schneider, Rose Hanson, Diane Cohen
Committee Members Present on Zoom: Chair Ann DiPetta, Katelin Olson
Committee Members Absent: Tai Basilius, Alison Weaver
Town Staff Present: Niels Tygesen, Mollie Duell

Proceedings

Chair DiPetta called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm at Town Hall.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Weatherby made a motion to approve the agenda; Schneider seconded.
Vote: Klein, aye; Marino, aye; Weatherby, aye; Hanson aye; Schneider, aye; Chair DiPetta, aye.
Motion Carried.

Approval of Past Minutes

Motion: Klein made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes; Weatherby seconded.
Vote: Klein, aye; Marino, aye; Weatherby, aye; Olson, aye; Hanson, aye; Chair DiPetta, aye; Schneider, abstain.
Motion Carried.

Privilege of the Floor

No members of the public addressed the Committee.

Old Business Items

Consultant Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

Tygesen provided an update on the RFQ draft. Improvements include reworking language to be consistent and inclusive, providing further details throughout the document, clarifying meeting attendance requirements, qualifications, and other expectations from the consultant.

Schneider noted that the scope of work for the plan is very thorough and detailed, but seems like it could be expensive, and the scope may need to be narrowed to be affordable.

Discussion ensued over whether the plan is too extensive.

Klein suggested pursuing bids with the current draft to determine how to proceed.

DiPetta and Weatherby stated that as a consultant, they appreciate the detail provided in the document.

The Committee discussed where the RFQ will be posted.

Discussion ensued over the development timeline of the Environmental Impact Statement.

Tygesen stated that it is imperative potential candidates thoroughly understand New York State's SEQR and EIS processes.

The Committee considered improvements that could be made to further clarify language throughout the document.

The Committee discussed issues other towns are facing within Tompkins County, such as the subdivision of a large farm.

Marino stated that Ulysses is known for its farmland and such a subdivision within Ulysses would be undesirable by the community.

Schneider stated that managing the impact of excessive precipitation, flooding, and drought events needs to be emphasized, referencing recent storms in Massachusetts and Vermont.

Klein agreed that destructive weather events are happening at an increased rate.

Marino suggested providing clarification about what the consultant will need to provide versus what resources are already available.

The Committee discussed a deadline for submitting additional comments on the RFQ. The deadline is Tuesday September 19, 2023.

New Business Items

Community Visioning

The Committee briefly discussed possible community visioning strategies and locations for related meetings.

Schneider suggested distributing a survey.

Klein suggested posting flyers at the Trumansburg Farmer's Market, Ulysses Library, and the local supermarket.

Weatherby noted that approximately one third of Ulysses resides in the Ithaca City School District.

The Committee planned to have a broader discussion about community participation at the next CPSC meeting, following the submission of suggestions by Committee members to the Town's Planning Department by September 27.

Next Steps

The Committee scheduled their next meetings for October 5 at 5:30 pm and November 2 at 5:30 pm.

Motion: Klein made a motion to adjourn; Schneider seconded.

Vote: Klein, aye; Marino, aye; Weatherby, aye; Olson, aye; Hanson, aye; Chair DiPetta, aye; Schneider, aye; Cohen, aye.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.



Mollie Duell

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Secretary