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"The Heart of the Park... Where the Eagle Soars"

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**Town of Shandaken
 Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting
 December 11, 2023**

Meeting was called to order with the pledge of allegiance at 7:05pm; members present

Mary Herrmann	Present
Vivian Welton	Present
Mark Loete	Absent
Allen Vella	Present
Kevin VanBlarcum	Present
MJ Reiss	Present
James Amenta	Absent
Leah Perloff	Present
Hilary Smith	Present
Roy Dignes	Absent
Grace Grant	Present

Others Present: Peter Disclafani – Supervisor, Robert Drake – Town Board Member

Minutes

While the November minutes record Leah Perloff as absent she was in attendance. Motion to approve the November 2023 minutes with the correction by Mary Herrmann; seconded by Vivian Welton; all in favor.

New Business

A copy of the Government Operations Climate Action Plan drafted by the Shandaken Conservation Advisory Council & Climate Smart Task Force has been provided to each committee member. There will be a hearing held soon to adopt it.

Peter DiSclafani informs the committee that the Town did not receive the Climate Smart Grant for Planning, but there may be another opportunity to apply in the Spring of 2024. He will speak with the people who review the grant applications, and will let the committee know why the Town did not receive the grant.

Hilary Smith informs everyone that there is another grant that awards \$10,000 that the Town can apply for, and asks if members of the committee can assist in writing the next grant.

Given that the Climate Smart Grant for Planning would have funded the Planning Firms consultation with the committee we will have to wait and see if grant money becomes available to hire them in the future. In the meantime, the committee will continue its review of the existing Comprehensive Plan and move forward with putting together a survey. They will also discuss how the document can be modernized/streamlined. The updated plan should include more graphics, tables, examples, pictures, etc. It should have less generalized ideas and more actionable ideas for future growth.

There is also money available to the Housing Committee that they can use for a housing study that could assist in the development of the updated Comprehensive Plan.

Robert Drake addresses the committee to inform them that there are many grants that Shandaken either is not qualified to apply for, or have been denied because our Comprehensive Plan is so outdated. There is a grant the Town would like to apply for in 2024 that we will not qualify for unless an updated Comprehensive Plan is adopted by the Town Board prior to the applications submittal. He asks if it would be possible for the Committee to have an updated plan for the Town Board to review by May of 2024.

Committee members present agree that it is likely possible to present an “revised” version of the existing Comprehensive Plan based on the review that has been ongoing for the past few months. With the understanding that the committee will continue with the update following that draft.

Old Business

The committee continues it’s review of the current plan beginning with Section IV Implementation (B)

B. Economic Development

1. Chamber of Commerce/Business Attraction

- a. The wording here should be changed from Chamber of Commerce to “Local Business.” Phoenicia Business Association, PH2, The Rotary, Central Catskills Chamber of Commerce, and the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce should all be noted here, along with the Towns desire to work closely with all of the above.
- b. Since the adoption of the current plan the Town has developed a website and a brochure. The town also uses some social media for information and promotion of local businesses. The updated plan should encourage the use of multiple social media platforms.
- c. Since the adoption of the current plan County has leased the section of the trail between Phoenicia and Boiceville to Rail Explorers, plans to improve the trail between Highmount and Big Indian to rail trails are moving forward. Ulster County has dedicated the remaining sections of the Right of Way to rail trails.
- d. This section will be moved to “Shandaken Today.” Committee should explore how to promote the use of the Interpretive Center and coordinate with their operators to find out how Shandaken can use the Center to promote local businesses/Shandaken.
- e. Rail Trails will connect the hamlets, this can be moved to c.
- f. This section can be removed as DOT has regulations for signs on State roads that supersede our jurisdiction.

The committee will continue it's review of the current plan at 2) Incentive Programs during its next meeting.

Adjournment

A motion to close the meeting was made by Leah Perloff; seconded by Kevin VanBlarcum; all in favor. Meeting closed at 8:05pm.