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

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**Town of Shandaken  
 Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting  
 July 10, 2023**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00; members present

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

Others Present: Sophie Grant - Housing Committee, Peter DiSclafani - Supervisor

**New Business:**

Vivian Welton says there has been an article recently about Town of Esopus having updated their Comprehensive Plan. Since the Comprehensive Plan passed, they have updated their Zoning Code, and following that a lot of people are not happy as a result of what the new zoning allows (ie: multi family buildings and possible expansions that the new Zoning allows that it previously did not.)

Sophie Grant of the Housing Smart Committee is in attendance. She has come to introduce herself and inform the Committee that the Housing Smart Committee will be reviewing the Comprehensive Plan and will provide feedback. They do intend to do a Housing Inventory study and may send out a survey to residents in the future. They are still looking for more members, they currently have four.

A conversation regarding Accessory Dwelling Units is held. Mary Herrmann says there is grant money available to home owners to construct either apartments in their homes, or free-standing accessory dwelling units on their property if they are rented below market for 10 years. Current Shandaken Zoning Code makes that type of construction a Special Use Permit approval.

## Old Business:

Leah Perloff asks that per last months plan, the committee begins the process of reviewing the current plan together. The committee comes to the agreement that while it may be time consuming, reviewing the plan together will give them a shared understanding of the plan.

Leah Perloff reads the "Vision Statement" from the current Comprehensive Plan. Committee reviews the statement. James Amenta likes some of the specifics, but feels a discussion regarding quality of life would be a good addition. Mark Loete feels community character should be included. Vivian Welton agrees that more emphasis on people who live here is important. James feels that what a person's experience is vs. what they expect, and how the government could work towards that expectation would be helpful. These could all lead to helpful survey questions. Mary Herrmann says that the last Comprehensive Plan addressed some of these things, but that feedback was never addressed. Leah Perloff feels that the vision statement should be less specific (ie: non-intrusive signage) and should include more of the cultural elements of the Town that makes it special.

Housing occupancy is discussed. James Amenta has data on housing occupancy, he has information from 2010 and 2021 and states there is not a large difference. He is pulling information from the Census. Mary Herrmann feels that even given that information, the occupancy has changed more than those numbers suggest.

Mary Herrmann says there have been many economic drivers over the course of Shandaken's history (quarries, tanning, rail roads etc.) Roy Dignes feels that tourism is our biggest economic driver, and asks what else it could be. Leah Perloff says the question is why people move to this area, and feels that a lot of what was read in the Vision Statement is still relevant today to that point.

Hilary Smith feels that as a community we have a responsibility towards environmental conservation, outside of DEP and DEC regulations. She also feels that we could bolster the importance of historical resources/preservation in the statement.

In summary missing from the vision statement are a focus on:

- Housing
- Historical Resources
- Environmental Protection/Climate Resilience
- Population Loss
- Community Character
- Economic Diversity/Inclusion
- Population Diversity/Inclusion
- Recreational Resources/Facilities
- Agriculture
- Emergency Services
- Communications (internet, phone, cell service etc)

The committee agrees that adding questions to the survey that would inform this discussion is important.

Leah Perloff reads the Introduction from the current Comprehensive Plan. She says that nothing seems wrong with the introduction. Committee agrees.

Next meeting:

During the next meeting the Committee will review Section II Shandaken Today.

There being no further business to discuss, Mary Herrmann makes a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Kevin VanBlarcum; all in favor.

Next meeting will be held on August 7, 2023 at 7:00pm.