

Unity Comprehensive Plan Committee

Minutes August 29, 2013

Location: Unity Community Center

Attendance: Jim, Tony, Tess, Emily, Sara, Don, Bob, Ken, Mike, Jean, Michele, Aimee (observer) Student guests: Sas, Chris, Larry, John, Ryan, Janis Balda (prof. sustainable enterprise), Jason, David, Zach

Agenda Item: Review/Approve Aug 22 minutes (fix Stucco to Stocco and fix date error on top)

Minutes approved

Agenda Item: Unity Students Welcome

Introductions of students and committee members

Talk with students about their involvement: (we gave an intro of what is comp planning: how do we decide how we grow, how do we decide what's best for the community. Right now we are looking at data to find what is unique about our community and how that influences our community's future. We would like to talk to half of the community members so that when we're done, we are confident we have something that represents the "community vision".)

The students' final project will include documented interviews based on the topic they will be researching involved with this project. They also need to write an opinion piece. They will do both a factual approach and an opinion piece as part of their work and will relate it to comprehensive planning topics. They will have two teams for two areas of the comp plan.

Agenda Item: Working Agreements

We are definitely doing this next time. We are really short on committee members to have that discussion. Again, What are working agreements?: a set of expectations that are set and agreed to by the group. Example: not repeating other people, raising your hand, turning off cell phone..... when a group is working over a long term that has new people coming in and are moving through various activities it is good to establish agreement and have the group own them because they are self-created. Sort of like ground rules but we don't call them rules. For maximizing productivity and creating a safe environment which is helpful in a group doing brainstorming, for example.

Agenda Item: Last Week's action items:

Jim's Elevator speech key points and Q&A: jim shared his work on these two items. The Q&A will need revision and the key points were well received.

Organization meeting kits (one is now located at UBR office)

Dropboxes we will get one at the farmer's market.

Agenda Item: Emily's talk with Sarah Curran this week:

Land Use mapping In order for Katie at Planning Decisions to make land use maps, they need to know what each parcel is: woodland/wildland, agriculture, residential, commercial, public facility, etc... At this time, our tax database doesn't have that data so she has asked the committee to fill out forms indicating what lots are what description. With a mixed group of people, we should be able to do this from computers. Some will need to be filled out by actually driving around. More coming later

Suggestions for Jim for Energy inventory: get data from Unity Energy Committee; federal office of energy <http://energy.gov/data/open-energy-data>; Public Utilities Commission standard offer rates http://www.maine.gov/mpuc/electricity/standard_offer_rates/index.html; Ask local businesses how many solar installs here vs other town over last 5 years (ReVision Energy, Maine Energy Pros, Home Energy Answers). Might also get data from those company's energy audits; Census has how many households heat by oil vs others

Suggestions for Jim on Fiscal: maine.gov links <http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.me.htm> <http://www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/indicators.html> <https://www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/indicators.html>

Emily also shared that if anyone has any questions, she will relay them to Sarah in the same way as with Jim's concerns.

Don wants to know: Who do I talk to who can help me assess what is the economic impact of a small business compared to a business that is owned by people totally outside of unity or maine "big box store" vs "mom n pop". Is there an economic multiplier of either? How does this impact volunteerism. What are the other impacts from one business to another. Avg benefits for one or the other.

Chia has also been super helpful on finding sources for sara by reaching out to mac stocco at the planning office. People are encouraged to go through her in the same way. Mac Stocco has a network of people which he can bounce ideas off from. Sara was able to get leads on Identity projects from other communities by having him reach out to his sphere.

Jean wants to know if she is allowed to put blurbs on the unity page and to send the business the employer survey. Jean found a list of businesses through the personal property commitment list.

It will be put on next agenda for voting on.

Permission from committee is something to consider for working agreements.

Door to Door Canvassing

Concern: too much work load for volunteer students

Jen Olin and Stephanie Wade both have concerns. The two concerns are it looks like 20 hours worth of work. Usually students spend 4 hrs in their freshmen year doing community service. The second concern is that if we use freshmen (who are in the unity experience course that we are targeting), it would be more successful for everyone if they went out paired with a committee member rather than paired together with another student.

Students should also be doing volunteer work that they want to do.

Ken has been out door to door looking for agricultural feedback. Dogs are a concern. Others work a lot and aren't home until 4 or 5 and you have to be done by 7pm.

It was suggested that we would be able to do 160 households with 10 students and 10 committee/community members with 4-5 hrs of canvas time and 1 hr of training.

Still like the neighborhood meetings idea.

If we are going to go door to door and get face time with people, we should allow for more time and ask more questions than these open ended ones.

Should door to door be broad survey or more in-depth?

The group consensus was that the door to door canvassing would be more effective with the Phase 2 survey when we will ask more specific questions.

@ CGCF could get students to get them filled out there.

Agenda Item: Organization Meetings *tabled*

Anyone have a new meeting date set with a group?

Are we missing any critical groups? (Emily has handout of list of groups we had brainstormed before)

Surveys

Collecting print surveys: Boxes will be picked up Oct 9. Print surveys can also be brought to Emily so she can scan them so folks can read them at the link. Committee members: ask Emily for the link or find it in a prior email.

Collecting data from print and online surveys. Jean will lead the effort in getting all of the print surveys entered into the online survey so it can be searched and sorted as a database. Emily will give them to Jean after scanning.

Action Items

Community meal the Sept 7th. We will have a presence. Jean Jim Emily (nevermind for Emily! I will be late if I can make it at all)

Bring your suggestions for Working Agreements if you have them

Jean bring employer survey to show us or email out latest version.