

**RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION
MEETING
Thursday, March 24, 2022
5:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

Present: Acting Chair Gail Hughes, Frank Lagana, Alex Herlihy, David Choate, Karin Nelson, Selectmen's Rep Bill Epperson and Mae Bradshaw (by phone)

I. Call to Order

Acting Chair Hughes called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

II. New Business:

• Rye Master Plan Discussion (Chapter 9 Civic Life)

Member Herlihy noted that he has made edits and changes on his own at home. He suggested that each member take the time to do that. Someone could take those changes and consolidate it into the document. There would then be an updated document for the whole board to look at prior to a meeting like this. He pointed out his notes are digital.

Member Bradshaw confirmed that she could take the suggested changes and incorporate it into the Master Plan. She noted that statements about what needs to be accomplished should be updated. It wouldn't take much to update that section. However, the Commission needs to discuss the vision. Having a conversation about what's important going forward is important for the Commission to do.

Member Choate suggested focusing on the vision statements throughout for discussion.

Acting Chair Hughes stated that it seems that page 9-1 is the original vision that was drafted in 2013. On page 9-4, it seems to be the updated vision with more sophisticated wording.

Member Bradshaw pointed out that the introduction is called 'Vision' but it probably should have been called 'Introduction' (9-1). The vision statement is really what is put together on 9-4. She noted that this should be looked at again by the Commission to see if that's where they are still going and what they are hoping for.

Selectman Epperson stated that he didn't have an issue with the Vision on 9-4.

Acting Chair Hughes commented that she thought the Vision on 9-4 was very good. The Commission agreed to keep that Vision for now. As the discussion moves along, it may be tweaked later.

Dominique Winebaum, 52 Cable Road, stated that she was a public member of the Long Range Planning Committee last year. The Planning Board intends to do an update of the Master Plan. Instead of doing a chapter by chapter master plan, the plan is to do a theme based approach. What could happen is there may not be a Civic Chapter, as it would be a different approach. She pointed out that often the visioning comes from the residents. There was a visioning session in November. Prior to that, there was a community survey. There was also a municipal survey and additional visioning online. There has been a lot of information and some of the results are available online. She stated that she knows that the vision in this chapter, from 2013, didn't come from a visioning session. All the visioning that came from residents was done in 2003, 2004 and 2005 for the update to the Master Plan that was adopted in 2007. She noted that the 1985 Master Plan was structured differently and started with the historical background. She feels that information is buried in this chapter. The Commission may want to consider something different than being in Chapter 9, Civic Life. It should be featured more prominently than in the Civic Chapter.

Member Choate noted that when doing a master plan, most towns will hire an outside firm to work with the committees, boards and citizens to write the plan. He asked if the 1985 plan was written by an outside consultant.

Mrs. Winebaum replied that Attorney Michael Donovan wrote the Master Plan in 1985. In 1989, a group of the members of the Planning Board did an update. The structure was very solid with a table of contents, introduction and explanation of the process. There was an implementation chapter which disappeared over the years. Right now, the Town is going to work on a budget for an update. Last year, a consultant worked on the Visioning. She thinks the Heritage update could be more coordinated and have a more prominent place than just Chapter 9. She recommended that there be a steering committee made up a member from each of the committees and members of the public. Right now, a cohesive update of the Master Plan is being planned.

Selectman Epperson stated that he thinks the Commission should go through the chapter and make the edits that they are looking for. If this fits into the Master Plan planning that the Long Range Planning is doing, at least there will be a contemporary documentation that can be modified for that publication.

Member Bradshaw stated that there is wording and information in the chapter that she could clean up on her own. Any written ideas from the Commission would be helpful. However, this doesn't reach the underlying issue of how the members see the Commission going forward in the future. She thinks this is a bigger discussion than just wordsmithing the document. This will get the information ready for the overall update by the Planning Board.

The Commission reviewed the next steps that are in the current master plan. It was agreed that each member would review the chapter and make edits/changes. The members will send their changes to Member Bradshaw who will incorporate them into the current document. The Commission will meet again after those changes are made.

- **Reappointment Demolition Review Committee**

Motion by David Choate to appoint Frank Lagana as a member of the Demolition Review Committee. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

Adjournment

Motion by Bill Epperson to adjourn at 6:32 p.m. Seconded by Frank Lagana. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger