

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

September 12, 2023
1:00 PM – Rye Town Hall

Present: Chair Rob Wright, Patricia Losik, and Planning & Zoning Administrator Kim Reed, Land Use Assistant, Kara Campbell and Jenn Rowden, RPC Consultant

I. Call to Order

Chair Wright called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

2. NHHOP Grant Update

Ms. Rowden talk about the housing public info session at the Jr. High on the 27th. Working draft of the agenda for that evening and copies of survey summary. Been posted.

Chair Wright asked if there was a mechanism for someone to comment.

Ms. Rowden part of public input session. More documenting results.

Ms. Losik no general comments in public input.

Ms. Rowden will be option how people can continue the conversation whether attend the 27th or if unable Ms. Rowden will put in some mechanism. Back of the agenda. Some people have thoughts after attending, having some mechanisms for sharing further thoughts. Continuing to Mid-October. Single question on the Rye Future Website related to housing, scan the URL Code, call in, leave voice mail. Live during the public input session.

Ms. Losik, single question will be “do you have further thoughts on the housing in Rye”.

Ms. Rowden says Kim’s email is there and that they can come to a Planning Board and/or Long Range Planning Committee meeting.

Ms. Rowden goes over the agenda.

Chair Wright, speaking about the survey summary, asks if Jenn can add a link to the Law.

Ms. Rowden for the summary, not add link. She will put it in the presentation.

Chair Wright, the Why are we doing this.

Ms. Rowden, the state law is why you are doing this is one piece and where you are in planning process and decisions housing, infrastructure and schools all relate to people. Need documentation to make decisions. Middle area what people want and where fit in.

Ms. Rowden continues to go over the agenda. If people have questions, there will be Q & A and Jenn will be walking around. She has 3 activities planned.

1st is an ice breaker. Have them tell their neighbor their housing story. Some prompts will be couple of questions. Why do call Rye home? Have you ever lived somewhere else in different kind of housing that

you do now? Are there housing needs that are not being met? Get people to think about their housing needs, a family member or neighbor and get talking and different points of view.

2nd activity is to continue the housing map. One or two versions of the Map printed on in paper form with sticky dots put them on the map where housing ok or not okay and what types of housing will be okay. Pictures of attached and detached ADU's. The pictures of types of housing will be numbered. Photos with different planning techniques. Keep 10 or under pictures.

3rd and final activity builds off comment question in a banner form. Sticky notes and place on the banner the big spectrum. From No More to Build anywhere.

Chair Wright asks if she is going to mention the build out analysis.

Ms. Rowden said refer at the very beginning that you are undergoing the master plan update and build out. Not going to get in too much detail on either of them because want the focus to be on housing. They are not complete but knowing that any actions that will out of come will be informed by this process with build out and master plan process.

Chair Wright concurs bounded by state statute.

Ms. Rowden says any action you take about housing considers wetlands and all other constraints. This process is gathering housing, what feels right for Rye.

Ms. Losik says you can get information/resources from the NRI and GIS.

Ms. Rowden says you basically can't talk about housing without talking about those items, but you can't talk about those items and not talk about housing.

Chair Wright summarizes it by saying can't have a visioning experience and at same time constraint yourself you have to go everywhere you want and see what fits.

Ms. Rowden agrees and the reason for the spectrum thoughts on housing likely shake out, mostly will be in the middle. They want you to think about wetlands and water for drinking. Building up arguments for when you take action.

Ms. Losik asks if apply methods from the Academy.

Ms. Reed states that what Jenn is doing are examples out of the academy. (tell me your story, pictures, sticky notes)

Ms. Rowden do not have luxury of time, but Rye is doing more for outreach on housing than you have ever done. Funding from the State helps. Rye has gotten the farthest the fastest of the outreach for what you are doing than any of the other communities I am directly working with.

Chair Wright asks how much of function we are being closed in, opportunities being narrower since of urgency gone up.

Ms. Rowden since of urgency not unique. Recognition is not enough housing and housing there is - is out of reach for many.

Ms. Reed points out that Rye is using some of the items the Housing Academy pointed out.

Discussion on types of housing and characteristics.

Ms. Reed points out that there is confusion of workforce housing versus low-income housing and concern people have with denser housing.

Ms. Losik agrees confusion about workforce housing and how can they stay and relevance factor.

Chair Wright states it is not rent control.

Ms. Rowden talks about the process, and she is working on a simple document outlining what is market rate, workforce, etc. Try and bring that to the forum. Put on the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, and key of resources.

Ms. Rowden requested a one-month extension have it done mid-October. Ask the Planning Board to make a motion on it that would be fine.

Discussion on the build out analysis.

Full Planning Board on the 19th of September and the Public Forum on Housing is the 27th at the Rye Jr. High at 6:30pm

Ms. Losik asks about Phase II.

Ms. Rowden nothing new, state housing pay phase II must go through administrative rule process and seems unlikely if they do not see it through. All hope is not lost.

Ms. Losik explains the way she sees it and explains the timeframe and the foundation and that it is okay.

NEXT Meeting Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 1pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Reed, CFM
Planning & Zoning Administrator