

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

**Monday, July 26, 2021
1:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

Members Present: Steve Carter and Rob Wright

Ad-Hoc Members: Dominique Winebaum and Patricia Losik (acting as an alternate)

Others Present: Planning Administrator Kim Reed and Julie LaBranche

I. Call to Order

Chair Carter called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Patricia Losik was seated for Katy Sherman.

II. Municipal Survey to go live. Meeting with Select Board 7-26-21

The Committee reviewed the finalized municipal survey, which will be uploaded to Survey Monkey by Ms. LaBranche once the final version is approved by LRP.

- Ms. LaBranche noted that introductory text has been added to the top of the survey. Member Wright's time line will also be added to this section.
- It was agreed that an email with instructions should be sent to department chairs and boards asking that there be only one collective response per recipient group. This will also be added to the second paragraph on the survey itself. Ms. LaBranche will draft an email to send to departments and boards. Boards and commissions will be asked to put the survey on their agendas to be discussed with the other members at their August meeting. A response due date will be added to the response request (September 17th).
- The Committee agreed to add to the first paragraph (beginning of paragraph) an explanation that NH State Statute requires the planning board to update the master plan periodically and this is in response to that requirement.
- Rye Citizens' Handbook (weblink to town's website) will be added to methods of communication, which is addressed in #3 on the survey. Rye Magazine and Rye Civic League (RCL) Newsletter also to be added as "other printed materials".
- Rye residents, property owners, businesses, renters and visitors to replace "other stakeholders" (check boxes).
- Chair Carter and Planning Administrator Reed will attend the select board meeting on 7/26 to request that the Town Administrator send the survey out to department heads and chairs of board and commissions requesting them to fill it out. Close date: Sept. 17th

There were no other concerns or changes noted by the Committee for the municipal survey. All agreed that the survey is ready to be uploaded into Survey Monkey with the revisions discussed.

III. Draft Community Survey

The Committee agreed that a draft of the public survey should be sent to Stacey Smith and Scott Marion to review and give comments.

The Committee discussed what kinds of questions should be on the public survey.

- Ad-hoc Member Winebaum expressed her concerns about the Hampstead survey, as she felt it was outdated. She suggested having more open-ended questions, if Rye is going to have a theme-based master plan. She referred to Exeter's master plan survey as a model to follow.
- Ms. LaBranche also expressed concerns about Hampstead's survey. She noted that the questions are too much about what the individual wants, as opposed to community needs. She reminded the Committee that they are working on the framework for a visioning chapter, which is about how the community functions and its challenges moving forward. It lays out the vision for the future stake of the community.
- Ad-hoc Member Losik noted that the master plan can articulate the desires of the citizens. It has to be connected to the locality, along with consideration of the local region and state, as some things may be limited.

The Committee discussed some ideas for theme-based questions.

Theme-based questions:

- Not topically based; such as, land use, transportation, natural resources and economy. With theme-based questions everything is more integrated and wove into each other; such as, climate change resilience, economic growth and prosperity, and rural character.
- Ms. LaBranche suggested wrapping in some questions that are topically based; such as, coastal flooding and how it impacts your life. For example, environmental issues could be wrapped into one question.
- Ad-hoc Member Losik feels it is important to framework questions so they can use the answers received versus having answers in buckets which would end up in a chapter format.
- Ms. LaBranche explained that it is not a bad idea to put things into "buckets" on a community survey because that is how people think about things, as they tend to compartmentalize things. The questions just need to be parsed out a bit more. Once the results are received, it can be sorted out as to themes.
- Planning Administrator Reed made a suggestion that each member email her three to five themes they would like to see on the community survey with a brief explanation of why it is a concern. She will then forward them to Ms. LaBranche so she can start putting them into questions in a community-based context.
- The Committee agreed to come up with three to five theme-based questions each by Friday, July 30th.

IV. Other

The Committee discussed the format they would be using to send their ideas to Ms. LaBranche. Chair Carter noted that the time line will be addressed at the next meeting, as it may need to be refined a bit. He also asked the members to take a look at Exeter's master plan survey questions before the next meeting.

➤ **Next Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 11th, 1:30 p.m.**

Adjournment

Chair Carter adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger