

Master Plan Steering Committee
Tuesday, May 2 2023
1pm-2pm
Rye Town Hall

***Members Present:* Chair Rob Wright, Rob Patten, Kathryn Garcia, Joe Persechino, Ann Fox and ad-hoc member Pat Losik.**

***Also Present:* Planning Administrator Kim Reed and Land Use Assistant, Kara Campbell
Public: Emily Friedrichs from Libra Planners from UNH local representative**

Call to Order

Chair Wright called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Losik is seated for Howie Lazerowich.

Ms. Reed explains to the committee the process which led to today's meeting. The RFP's being posted: NHMA, Portsmouth Herald and Town of Rye Website and the bids close date was Friday, April 28, 2023 at 2pm for both the Master Plan and Build Out. There were three (3) packets submitted. LIBRA, FB Environmental Associates and RESLIENCE Planning & Design, LLC. On Monday, May 1, 2023 Ms. Reed with Kara Campbell opened the bids with the Live Stream running in the Town of Rye court room and on Zoom was Master Plan Steering Committee Member, Howie Lazerowich. (Due to internet connection problems, zoom was in and out). LIBRA had two packets and proposals one for the Master Plan and one for the Build Out. FB Environmental Associates a bid for the Build Out and Resilience Panning had a bid for the Master Plan.

Ms. Reed hands out to each committee member the bids along with a score sheet typed up for each bid.

The committee talks about the process of scoring and reading through the application/bids and how to weigh them.

Mr. Persechino would like time with just committee members to meet to discuss it in private.

Ms. Reed explains must be in public.

Ms. Losik says the committee can look at the Long-Range Planning when they discussed the bids for the NHHOP in public. She states that we have advise from Attorney on criteria and review.

Ms. Losik stated that she attended the planning seminar on housing and will have Ms. Reed send out the email/links to the committee members.

Chair Wright assumed there would be more responses.

Ms. Reed stated she spoke with Jenn Rowden from RPC and she stated that there is so much planning work going on right now, everyone is really busy and picking and choosing which projects to bid for and accept. Ms. Reed stated she got a couple of emails of asked for the RFP but they did not respond.

Ms. Reed also spoke with the Hampton Planner. He received an email from a Rye resident asking how many responses they had. Hampton had five (5) responses and the went with Resilience Design and Planning.

Ms. Reed stated the committee has a couple of weeks to review the packets and score them and the next meeting will be on Monday, May 15, 2023 at 1pm to pick and recommend a consultant(s) for the Build Out and Master Plan to make the recommendation to the Planning Board which meets on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. The Planning Board will then make a recommendation to the Select Board on which firm/consultant(s) they would like the Town to contract with on the Build Out and Master Plan.

Mr. Persechino asks if there will be time to meet without public to discuss candidates.

Ms. Reed will consult with the attorney.

Ms. Fox throws out a suggestion on reading through the bids, try to focus on the criteria while reading. There are 6 parts to help guide them on the scoring.

Open to the Public.

Ms. Friedrichs introduces herself from LIBRA and talks about the firm and partners with the firm and they come from architectural, public service and come from working with data. There is a strength in combining work with a variety of organizations. The opportunity to hear from different firms which can be a strength. She has a question in reviewing proposal the chapter format and also last updated 2018, ask what other reasons Rye at this intersection re-envision.

Ms. Garcia asks for clarity. She wants to know if she asked why we are going from chapter base to theme base and why we are doing a master plan at this juncture.

Ms. Friedrichs wonders what large narrative underlies all of this. Reaffirm or reevaluate the town's future.

Chair Wright says great question. There were three (3) things pushed in that direction. One the current master plan and other resources cumbersome to get through. Along with that legacy chapters were more resource material, less vision. From the outside Rye has gone under a lot of change on the outside accelerated by Covid and fairly rapidly evolving demographic and at the same time we have constraints on buildable land, when you take into account natural resources that need to be protected and use (portable water and water we swim in) all of these things coming to the fore front it all felt like we needed something more accessible that addressed the totality of the needs of the Town which are changing faster. Another factor, a number non-governmental organizations which are trying to put out their information about what should be

happening, a big push to put all the stuff we have, best of class and put through it through the rigor of a governmental body like this, which is a subcommittee of our Planning Board and come out with something everyone feels they can access, has current information and defines what our state is and what can we go on and what is possible.

Ms. Reed says we have a good master plan and don't want to throw it out taking what Rob said put all the update data in one place. We do not want to put it on a shelf, we want to implement it.

Ms. Losik started this discussion in October 2021, looking, talking with Dept Heads and having public vision. A Greater awareness with our community which are interconnected. A great understanding of all related and that relationships that can benefit our community and coupled with those better tools. Science faster and readily available. We have that information we are using bits and pieces. Those two things. The information we sampled reinforced our need to go forward.

Ms. Friedrichs thanked the committee and hopes that their firm is a consideration.

Chair Wright asked how often they get together.

Ms. Friedrichs says about 4 times a year. Kim and Steven are husband and wife and Emily is Peter's sister.

Mr. Patten asked if there was a question.

Ms. Reed says to send me an email to call.

Motion to Adjourn.

Adjourn

Motion by Rob Wright to adjourn at 1:40p.m. Seconded by Joe Persechino. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly Reed