

Town of Candia
HOP Steering Committee
Thursday, May 30, 2024
Unapproved Minutes

Members Present: Carla Penfield, Pattie Davis, Mark Chalbeck, Judith Szot, Sarah Sargent, Brian Sargent, Melissa Madden, Wendy Ducharme

Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission Staff: Cameron Prolman

Carla Penfield called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. She reviewed the agreement between Southern NH Planning Commission (SNHPC) and Candia's Planning Board and quickly summarized the proposed scope of work for the next phases of the project. She expressed a desire to keep the committee in place with its current members because she felt the group worked well together.

On behalf of the committee, Carla brought up concerns about the lack of communication between SNHPC and the committee from January until the current meeting. Cam apologized and committed to improving communication moving forward. Tammy Zamoyski at SNHPC is an alternate contact if Cam is unavailable.

Cameron explained that Candia's Planning Board had requested help from SNHPC to submit a grant application to fund the next two phases of the project, which will include identifying barriers to and opportunities for housing, making sure our zoning regulations comply with state regulations, and providing input about zoning changes to support the community's housing goals. Judith pointed out that the Committee would help the Town be proactive about zoning, rather than reactive when an issue arises. Cam pointed out that the grant was written so Candia can select a vendor other than SNHPC if it chooses. Since crafting regulations will be part of the next phases of work, he said Candia may opt for a consultant that specializes in this area.

Cam presented a draft summary report for the survey. While nobody found the results surprising, Carla pointed out the inconsistency that respondents said that affordability was a big issue yet did not want change. The committee discussed the definition and formula for affordability and the limitations for creating housing, such as problems with wells and septic, and the lack of good, buildable lots.

The Committee felt the report did a good job communicating the results except for the word clouds, which were difficult to read and confusing. Cam will eliminate the word clouds and present short answer information in another format. He will also filter results so responses can be analyzed based on the respondents' ages.

The next step is outreach to the community to share the survey results and provide an opportunity to comment on them. The survey report will be posted on the Candia website with an online survey link for readers to provide feedback. In addition, the Committee agreed that the June 15 Farmer's Market provided the best opportunity to reach people. Melissa will provide a tent from the farmer's market and Cam will bring a table. The Committee discussed providing cards with the Executive Summary for the report on one side and the headline "What Do You Think?" with a space for comments on the reverse

side. The Executive Summary will also be displayed on a poster board and Wendy suggested providing a message board so people could jot reactions and post them on the board for others to read/discuss.

Cam will send an email to coordinate volunteers to staff the farmer's market booth on the 15th.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 20 at 2:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Minutes submitted by Wendy Ducharme