

Town of Candia
HOP Steering Committee
Thursday, June 20, 2024
Unapproved Minutes

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

Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission Staff: Cameron Prolman, Suzanne Nienaber

Carla Penfield called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. Cam then shared a Powerpoint presentation with a project timeline. He reviewed an updated version of the housing needs assessment report, which incorporated the comments made by HOP committee members.

Committee members discussed the disconnect between the master plan vision for housing and the results of the housing needs assessment survey and community engagement. Cam pointed out that the information the committee gathered is being used to supplement – rather than update -- the master plan. He said that the purpose of the assessment is to inform the next phase of the HOP work, which is to identify barriers to and opportunities for housing, make sure our zoning regulations comply with state regulation, and provide input about zoning changes to support Candia’s housing goals. It will be up to the Planning Board how they use the information gathered by the HOP Steering Committee.

The committee discussed the successful outreach effort at the June 15 farmer’s market. More than 80 community members provided feedback about housing in Candia as a result of committee efforts at the market. Committee members volunteered to use the same materials to solicit feedback at the summer concert at the library on July 17. Anne suggested that more community outreach was needed. The committee agreed to host another information-gathering session at the July 20 farmer’s market. Anne and Wendy will staff the booth, but SNHPC staff will be unable to attend.

Cam suggested that visuals of different types of housing may be helpful for community members to talk about the kinds of housing they want in Candia. It was unclear whether these visuals will be used at the two community engagement sessions.

Cam shared the following timeline for the remainder of Phase I for the HOP project:

- July 1 – First draft of the final report
- July 11 – Next HOP Steering Committee meeting to provide final feedback
- July 17 – Community engagement at the Smyth Library concert
- July 20 – Community engagement at the farmer’s market
- July 31 – Final report

Carla mentioned that she had a proposal from Stantec for the next two phases of the project. She adjourned the meeting at 3:35 pm. Committee members lingered long enough for Carla to make copies of the Stantec proposal for the committee to discuss at the next meeting.

The next HOP Steering Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, July 11 at 2:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Wendy Ducharme