

August 27, 2013 Joint Meeting with CP AD Hoc Advisory Committee—discussed second round review of new drafts (Economic Development Element & Actions and Land Use Element & Actions)

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SESSION: (with AD Hoc Advisory Committee)

Planning Director Garber thanked members of the CP Ad Hoc Advisory Committee for attending this evening's meeting and reported that before Special Fall Town Meeting on November 4, 2013 a substantial plan consisting of the compilation of six elements will be ready for public view. Director Garber also reported that a Planning Board or Staff member will present a ten minute overview of the drafted Comprehensive Plan at Special Fall Town Meeting.

Chair Cohen asked if the public would be given time to respond to the draft CP prior to Special Fall Town Meeting.

Director Garber stated that prior to Special Fall Town meeting Planning staff will publicize on Planning's website and Facebook page a copy of the draft CP Plan, and also provide a link on the Town's website (front page) and the Town's Facebook page giving residents opportunity to view it and respond if necessary.

Chair Cohen asked if there are plans to host another public workshop regarding the outcome of the draft Comprehensive Plan.

Director Garber commented that Planning staff has been extremely busy with the workload of the Comprehensive Plan and with an increase of development reviews and regulatory item demands; however, if possible, staff will try to fit in a follow-up public CP workshop.

Catherine Perry, Assistant Planner, commented that the follow-up public workshop focus could be how the chapters of the Comprehensive Plan came together and implementation.

CP Discussion on second round review of new drafts--

Planning staff provided the Board and CP Ad Hoc Advisory Committee members with handouts in preparation of this evening's discussion regarding a second round review of new drafts of the following:

- Economic Development Element
- Economic Development Actions
- Land Use Element
- Land Use Actions

The following are some highlights from the discussion regarding the second round review of these new drafts:

ECONOMIC AND LAND USE ACTION PLANS—

Overall participants favored the Economic and Land Use Action Plans. Only a few minor edits were suggested in both plans and in the Land Use Action Plan a suggestion was made to include Land Use action items #12 and #13 in the Service chapters.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT—

Participants shared some minor edits that staff agreed to include. The following is a list of items that were discussed and suggested to be included;

- In the Summary of Issues and Opportunities; it was observed that there is opportunity to wordsmith and include some positive language in the summary.
- Under Goals; include reviewing commercial signage standards for businesses. It was suggested that this could be inserted in a later section.
- Explore the option to establish a connection between DeAngelo Drive and Wiggins Avenue.
- Explore more transportation options (busing and shuttle services) for the Wiggins Avenue area.
- Include information regarding Healthy Bedford/Board of Health seeking a CHNA 15 Healthy Communities Implementation Grant with a focus on Transportation needs.

LAND USE ELEMENT—

Participants shared some minor edits that staff agreed to include. The following is a list of factual items that were discussed and suggested to be included;

- Land Use Vision Map (needs clarification)
- More public areas are needed (parks/playgrounds/recreation) especially in the Middlesex Turnpike area.
- Under Strategies; include information on Board of Health's current discussion regarding animal regulations because of interest in backyard farming.

GLOSSARY—

The Glossary was very well received by all and needed only one minor edit; however, there was some discussion/debate regarding **where** the Glossary should be found within the CP. Most participants believed it should be placed at the beginning of the plan while others thought more towards the end.