

Colden Planning Board Special Meeting

August 11, 2021

Planning Board
Members Present: Walt Kammer (Chairman), Andrew Gow, Jackie May,
Peter Newsom, and George Reinhardt

Excused: Frank Hrycik and Bobby Walker

Also Present: Jim DePasquale (Town Supervisor), Wendy Salvati (Sub-
Consultant), Justin Steinbach (Project Engineer)

Walt called the August 11, 2021 Planning Board Meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the courtroom at the Colden Town Hall. The meeting was also hosted via GoToMeeting.

Town Of Colden Comprehensive Plan Update

Walt turned the meeting over to Justin Steinbach to review the steps of starting the Comprehensive Plan update. Justin reviewed his information and introduced Wendy Salvati as his Sub-Consultant. Wendy will be the prime contact for the Agricultural planning portion of the Comprehensive Plan.

Justin confirmed with Walt that the meeting will be recorded by the Town of Colden. Justin's firm will provide the minutes, agendas, and documents for upcoming meetings. Wendy will also be taking minutes during the meetings. Justin and Walt agreed that files will be able to be shared via drop box and files will be in PDF format. Walt requested that the documents will need to have a revision control, so old documents will not be reviewed as a current document and/or modified. The Town Clerk will need hard copies to keep on file. Justin reviewed the sharing of upcoming meetings and posting documents on the Town's website and on Facebook. Walt mentioned that the town's policy is to supply the Town's Supervisor with a PDF copy and his Assistant will post the document to the website and/or Facebook. Walt and Peter reviewed the concern for Facebook to have updates made by Citizens and have incorrect data posted. The solution is to only post a notice when the public is allowed to interact with the Board and Consultants. Walt mentioned turning off comments when the scheduled meeting is finished. The Town's website is still reliable to post notices but doesn't allow comments, so Facebook will be a useful source if comments are limited by date and monitored.

Justin reviewed the scope and schedule for upcoming meetings. There are two different projects and two different methods of funding for the project. All Board Members were provided with a copy of the schedule. The time frame is 12-14 months.

Justin asked in ten years from now, what kind of community do you want to be and some of the Planning Board comments were: Keep the Town of Colden the same, climate friendly (municipals and services), have the water district expanded, be more proactive on conservation of resources, the viability of farming, to remain a close knit community, but also attracts families (vitality), preserve the nature features as assets (e.g. Pipe Creek Canyon) and for protection, maintain community character but open to development “pressure”, slow down conversion, and review wastewater.

Justin reviewed the O.R.F. and Framework regarding the Comprehensive Plan Discussions of water district and climate change were notated. Walt noted that they're important topics to be reviewed. One Region Forward would also be added to the list. Commercial activity and interested was reviewed by Walt and the Erie County Rails to Trails (ECRT) was also mentioned by Walt as it has potential opportunity for the Town of Colden. Walt also mentioned a rapid transport for Colden, Concord, and Springville if the population was a higher number in the future. Wendy suggested talking with the Greater Niagara Buffalo Transportation Council (NBTC) for information.

Walt mentioned that land conversion and Agricultural Plan Protection will need to be reviewed in addition to: Land conversion and solar energy, flag lots, slow down Ag/Farm and forestry conversion, Ag and Agro-tourism by emerging farmer and Eco-tourists facilities, code review in conjunction with NYSDAM to determine impact to Ag/Farm activity, and road frontage development impact to Colden's rural and rural residential character.

Walt reviewed the three C-zones on Route 240 with the Planning Board Members. The topics are from previous meetings but will be addressed in future meetings. Walt also reviewed recreational concerns such as National Gas. The need to re-evaluate that data and conclusions in the existing Master Plan in the context of 2021-2031 recreational expatiations and changes in citizen lifestyle(s) was notated. The topic of EMS/Fire concerns was also reviewed and discussed. The last topic of discussion was regarding Planning Board Code concerns.

Walt reviewed the CPL's feedback desires of:

- Visioning questions
- Community self-reflection
 - Strengths and Opportunities (positives)
 - Limitations and Challenges (negatives)

Walt shared a slide of upcoming meetings and topics for Planning Board Members to add to their calendars.

New Business

No new topics to discuss.

Peter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 PM, and Jackie seconded. All were in favor.

Submitted by: Crystal Barrett