

Regional Plan Advisory Subcommittee

January 29, 2013
3:00 – 4:30 pm
NRPC Conference Room

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Overview of Committee
 - a. Roles & Responsibilities
 - b. Schedule
3. Outreach update and next steps
 - a. What We've Heard & one page handouts for topics
 - b. Plan Development Process & Outreach Strategy
4. Regional Visioning Process
 - a. Local Master Plan Vision Review
5. Future Meeting Dates/Times
6. Comments
7. Adjournment

Granite State Future Regional Advisory Sub-Committee
January 29, 2013, 3 to 4:30 PM
Nashua Regional Planning Commission Office
9 Executive Park Drive, Merrimack, NH
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Beth Todgham, Southern NH Services – Community Action Program/Family Resource Center of Greater Nashua
Kathy Hersh, City of Nashua
Liz Racioppi, Nashua Art Commission and the NH Creative Communities Network
Bill Parker, Town of Milford
Janet Langdell, Town of Milford
Shaunae Nolet, Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce
Sarah Marchant, Town of Amherst
Kerrie Diers, NRPC
Jen Czysz, NRPC
Mary Brundage, NRPC

Meeting Start: 3:05 PM

Diers opened the meeting with introductions and gave an overview of the agenda items.

Overview of the Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Diers went over the roles and responsibilities of the NRPC Regional Plan. She mentioned that the Regional Plan Advisory Sub-Committee was accepted by the Board of Commissioners as an official committee and is subject to the Right to Know law. She talked about the different committees of the Regional Plan and mentioned that we needed more people to serve on the Natural Resources Committee. Members of Sub-committee gave some suggestions including ENH, Pennichuck, Milford Conservation Commission and the planning department at the City of Nashua. Diers also mentioned that there will be additional outreach outside of each of the committee. She further described the Regional Advisory Sub-committee's role which would include continued outreach, developing the story of the Nashua Region and neighborhood conversations. She reviewed the schedule for the team for the upcoming two years.

Outreach Update and Next Steps

Diers reviewed the "What We Heard" document which has the summary of the comment cards to date. The goal is to have one page sheets for each topic and will be posted on the website. There were some questions about the data collection. Czysz mentioned that the data was downloaded into Access and the comments were then categorized into themes. The two major themes were rural character and public transportation. She also mentioned that each comment card might have more than one idea on it so even though there were 771 comments, there were even more suggestions on those cards. For example, someone could mention wanting both better public transportation and also bike paths. Some of the members of the team were interested in getting individualized results for their community or

group. Brundage told them that she could query the results for them in Access and send them in an Excel spreadsheet. She advised the team to contact her.

Diers described the process for each committee, starting with Transportation Committee. Each Committee will start with a workshop. The workshop will start with an overview of existing conditions and where the region is on that topic and then identify strengths and needs of the region. Then there will be a small group breakout session. The committee will then come up with common themes found in the breakout sessions. Following the workshop, there will be neighborhood conversations where NRPC staff will reach out to people who may not traditionally attend a meeting at NRPC. These conversations will be brought back to the committee. From there vision and goals will be developed. After all the chapters are brought together, the next step will be scenario planning. Diers mentioned she was looking for more business leaders to be on the committees. A few companies mentioned were Hitchner, Dell and Oracle. It was mentioned that housing would be one of the big issues that companies have in attracting employees.

In addition to work of the committees, Brundage will be providing monthly updates via a Constant Contact email list. She will also continue with Facebook and Twitter updates on weekly basis.

Regional Visioning Process

Diers talked about the Regional Visioning Process. NRPC will be looking at local Master Plans for common themes. Hersh mentioned that the Nashua Board of Aldermen updated their vision in 2005. It is located in Ordinances. There was some conversation about looking at local company vision statements such as PSNH and Pennichuck. It would be interesting to look at the community vision and to what the corporate vision is and see if there are in sync or not. Nolet mentioned the United Way Community Assessment as another document to look at. Diers mentioned that they will be looking to set up some regional visioning events at venues that have access to public transportation. She also mentioned that NH Listens will be having their event in Nashua on April 30, 2013. Location is TBD but will most likely be at a school.

Nolet asked about videotaping the workshops for people who are not able to attend. Diers said that it could be done. There was some discussion on how people can add their own comments. Cysz said that a link could be set up to the topic forum on the Granite State Future website. Langdell also added that there should be a public education piece to include more people. She mentioned to look at the downtown associations. Libraries were also mentioned as another outreach forum.

Future Meeting Dates/Times

Diers suggested meeting on monthly basis. The consensus was that the 4th Tuesday of the month from 3 to 4:30 PM was good day and time. Diers will follow up with a meeting schedule.

Follow Up Items

NRPC will follow up on the meeting schedule, list of outreach events, an outreach strategy and vision.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.