

Regional Plan Advisory Subcommittee

June 25, 2013

3:00 – 4:30 pm

NRPC Conference Room

AGENDA

1. Update on Regional Plan Progress
 - a. Workshop Updates
 1. Community & Econ Vitality – Wrap up
 2. Water Infrastructure Workshop – July 18, 2013
 - b. Subcommittee meetings
 1. Transportation
2. Outreach and Engagement
 - a. Website and social media updates -Ideas for promoting the on-line forum
 - b. Neighborhood Conversations – Discussion Guide and group selection
3. Regional Visioning Process
 - a. Local Master Plan Vision Review – Water Infrastructure
 - b. Scenario planning - discuss tools & techniques, brainstorm ideas for fall sessions
 - c. Telling the story – what does this mean to you?
4. Committee Schedule of meetings
5. Comments
6. Adjournment

Granite State Future Regional Advisory Sub-Committee
June 25, 2013
3 to 4:30 PM
Nashua Regional Planning Commission Office
9 Executive Park Drive, Merrimack, NH

ATTENDEES:

Beth Todgham, Southern NH Services – Community Action Program
Liz Racioppi, Nashua Art Commission and the NH Creative Communities Network
Sarah Marchant, Town of Amherst
Bill Parker, Town of Milford
James Vayo, Visualize Nashua
Kerrie Diers, NRPC
Jen Czysz, NRPC
Kim Goddu, NRPC

Meeting Start: 3:10 PM

Diers opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda items.

Update on Regional Plan Progress

Community and Economic Vitality Workshop

Diers gave an overview of the Community and Economic Vitality Workshop results and distributed a summary report of what was heard during the breakout group conversations. There were over 30 attendees at the workshop and several common issues emerged during conversations. Generally, participants were satisfied with the region's highly educated workforce, safety, local schools, and accessibility of conservation and recreation areas. Areas of concern included the affordability of state universities, lack of entertainment and activities for young adults, unmet infrastructure needs, and visitors don't make the region their destination but stop to shop while driving through. Needs identified included stronger regional collaboration for economic development, promotion and marketing of art, cultural and historic resources, and investments in job training and higher education programs. Participants felt NRPC could serve as an information and communications hub for planning and economic development, establish an economic development coordinating committee, and continue to develop coordinated planning studies.

Water Infrastructure Workshop and Master Plan Review

Goddu gave an overview of planning thus far for the upcoming water infrastructure workshop. Themes identified for the workshop are public investment, regulation, and education where water infrastructure is defined to include the physical and green infrastructure systems for drinking, storm, and waste water. For the presentation, the intent is to have a series of speakers to cover case study examples from throughout the region that illustrate the three themes and three types of systems. Marchant suggested Carl Quiram, Goffstown DPW director, as a potential speaker on stormwater. The Great Bay study has good ideas and solutions for managing stormwater. Parker will ask Milford's DPW director about possible wastewater speakers. Goddu noted that Marchant has agreed to speak on Amherst's recent efforts to revise and streamline their water resource based regulations and associated outreach and

education efforts. Pennichuck Waterworks was suggested as a possible speaker to address the green infrastructure and conservation needs associated with drinking water provision.

Subcommittee Meetings - Transportation

The transportation committee has begun to meet to review draft goals and objectives for the regional plan. The committee would like to hold a second transportation workshop to engage additional members of the public that were unable to attend the first workshop. To do so, they are looking to host the workshop in a different location, possibly downtown Nashua to enable those that do not drive to be able to attend, and also during the evening to accommodate those who couldn't attend the afternoon workshop in February. Vayo offered the use of his office space in the Hunt Building in Nashua for a workshop.

Outreach and Engagement

Website and Social Media Update

Vayo suggested a contest to encourage more active participation and use of the online forum and Facebook page citing recent examples of Visualize Nashua's work.

Neighborhood Conversations

Diers gave an overview of the upcoming neighborhood conversations. Staff have developed a discussion guide with some basic questions to help guide conversations. The conversations are intended to be small focus group style sessions with identified organizations that represent those populations that don't traditionally participate in the planning process. The committee then reviewed a list of contacts for the conversations and brainstormed additional suggestions and/or contact persons for those organizations already identified.

Regional Visioning Process

Scenario Planning/How do we tell our story?

Diers discussed the scenario planning process scheduled for this coming fall. It would take place tentatively at the end of August/September with three workshops. The goal is to have our plan drafted in 2014 with the first draft completed by June 2014.

Other Comments

There were no additional comments or business

Future Meeting Dates/Times

The next meeting will on Tuesday, July 23, 2013, from 3:00 – 4:30 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.