

TOWN OF JACKSON
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING
June 25, 2024

The Town of Jackson Comprehensive Plan Committee held a working meeting on June 25, 2024 at the Town Hall at 6:30 pm with the following people in attendance:

Committee Members:

Erik VandenBerg
Mark Mahoney
Jennifer VanDeWater
Molly Dixson

Others present:

Lewis Steele
John Pederson
Kelly Donahue

The Committee discussed the possibility of receiving assistance to draft the document from planning firms such as Barton and Loguidice and Labella Associates. 50/50 grant match opportunities are available from the Hudson Valley River Greenway but costs for the planning firms to draft the document are still high and more than what the Town has budgeted. Board members agreed that the best path forward is to take the 2014 draft of the Comprehensive Plan, update and add to it with current aspirations.

The Town Picnic is scheduled for Friday, July 26th at 6:00 pm. Erik VandenBerg recommended the Committee use this opportunity to hand out updated surveys for residents to complete. The Committee members discussed the following points in regards to an updated survey that could be incorporated into the Plan:

- Mark Mahoney stated the 2014 draft's survey was too vague and suggested we provide multiple choice questions to collate information and add as an index in the revised Plan. An additional space for written comment could be added as well.
- Committee members discussed multiple survey options that could garner a larger response from residents. Erik VandenBerg stated there is an available online survey platform called Survey Monkey but the website is timed. He reviewed surveys from other towns that included open ended and closed questions. The Town could provide copies of the survey to hand out at the Town Hall as well as the picnic. To ensure those taking the survey are from Jackson, the first question could ask if you are a landowner or resident of the Town.
- Posted speed signs and questions on Lake Lauderdale Park came up in the last survey and could again be included.
- Erik VandenBerg stated he would like to see more collaboration with surrounding towns and villages. An aspirational section could be included in the survey to include ideas like a farmers' market, community center and no octane parade. Residents could add what aspirations they have for the Town of Jackson.
- A section on where people work and if they travel or work for home could be added. A question regarding the importance of improved broadband service. Ask if people would like to see public transportation in the future.
- Resident John Pederson stated that the age demographic in the Town is older. More people and business in the Town are needed to take the burden off of property taxes. A large amount of undevelopable ASA and State land in the Town does not help with this. Lots of farms have gone in the last 20 years. Mark Mahoney stated that the Plan can add trajectory of where we would like to see the Town go. Erik stated that we could add pros and cons/greatest strengths and

weaknesses of the Town to the survey, as well as satisfaction of life and a question on whether we're better or worse off than we were ten years ago.

- Committee members discussed our Town's Solar and Site Plan Review Laws and the rapid changes happening in rural communities around us. All Committee members agreed that maintaining the rural character of the Town is important.

Committee member Erik Vandenberg will put a draft survey together by the end of the week to share with Town Board members to review prior to the Town Picnic.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Dixson
Town Clerk/Planning Board Clerk