

**TOWN OF SALEM
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 16, 2007, 7 p.m.**

In attendance: Dorothy Schneider, Chair, Joseph Childs, Bruce Ferguson, Chuck Alexander, Rob Laukaitis, Eileen Ryan

Absent: Judy Flagg, Brigid Nosal, Bill Eberle, Nancy Hand Higby, Anita Witten

Dorothy informed the group that Steve Alexander the Town supervisor was going to be joining the group to discuss grant money available for developing an agricultural portion of the Comprehensive Plan. Unfortunately Mr. Alexander did not make it to the meeting before it adjourned.

Previous meeting's action items:

Dorothy gave out a copy of the survey that was used in the development of the last Town Comprehensive plan.

Joseph Childs stated that due to other issues at the Village Board's last meeting he did not get a chance to discuss a joint comprehensive plan with the Board but felt that we could move forward with the concept of developing a joint plan as he did not think it would be a problem. Joseph will discuss the issue of a joint plan at the next Village Board meeting.

Eileen sent the meeting minutes for both May and June to Mary Kilpatrick, Town Clerk for filing and Joseph stated he put the meeting minutes on the Town's website.

Chuck reformatted and revised the listing of Salem Businesses provided at the June meeting by Anita.

New Business:

The Group reviewed the listing of businesses that Chuck provided after the last meeting. This list may be part of the comprehensive plan as an appendix or in general as a way to identify the types of businesses within the community.

The following were determined to not be in the Town of Salem, no longer in business or duplicates:

Bunker Hill Inn

Bud Clark Chain Saws

J & K Beef

Aerosystems Consulting	Coldwell Bike Shop	John Steele DBA
Alan Craig Realty	Chamberlin Mills Construction	Kay Tomasi
Atticus Communications	Curiosity	Mapleland Farms
Battenkill Goat Milk Soap	Hi Brow Farm	Nails to Treasure

Ron Jamieson Contracting
Salem Scenery B & B
Shushan Covered Bridge Assn.

The following needed additional follow-up:

Gallagher Piano	Northeast Computer systems
Hopkins House	Ryan Kirschner
Lookin Good	Tax Return Prep. Services
Milkhouse Artworks	Serenity

If anyone has additional information to provide on businesses they should send the information to Chuck and he will keep the Master list.

The Group then discussed the possibility of having consultants come in and speak to the group about what they could provide in services. Possibly these consultants could give some insights on developing a joint plan (Town and Village), how to minimize costs, and some sort of roadmap. Chasen, LaBerge and Saratoga Associates were all discussed as possibilities. Dorothy mentioned that she saw a letter to one consultant from Greenwich stating they were not pleased with the work this was LaBerge. Bruce mentioned that we should still speak to them and make our own judgment.

Dorothy agreed to speak with Rob from Saratoga Associates and Bruce will contact Stuart Messenger from Chasen.

Dorothy also agreed to talk to the Mayor of the Village of Cambridge and Bruce will talk to someone from Greenwich to see if they have any ideas for Salem to move forward with a comprehensive plan.

Survey discussion

There was a brief discussion regarding the copy of the survey from the last comprehensive plan. Chuck stated maybe this time we could try to develop a survey that will be able to get more explanation of ideas and concepts from those people that fill out the survey. It was also mentioned that if the survey was too long we may not get many to participate in completing the survey. We need to find a balance. The group discussed trying to find out what other communities such as Greenwich and Cambridge did when developing their comprehensive plan. Joseph suggested trying to find other surveys that have been used for some ideas. He stated the survey used for the Village's last plan was on the website.

Bruce suggested that we try to find a way to inform the public about the costs of development such as more town roads and expansion of the school. The Group agreed that keeping agricultural would be ideal. A new survey should try to get ideas for what

the public wants, what is the priority of the public. Based on information gathered, one approach is to have the group develop a vision and see if the community agrees with this vision and to articulate the restrictions of committing to a vision.

Action items:

Dorothy will talk to Dede Nash the Mayor of the Village of Cambridge to see if she has any ideas, approaches to a comprehensive plan.

Dorothy will speak with Rob from Saratoga Associates to see if they would be open to speaking with the Group.

Bruce will talk to Greenwich officials for ideas, approaches to a comprehensive plan.

Bruce will talk to Stuart Messenger from Chasen about speaking to the Group.

The next meeting will be August 13 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.