

Quality of Community Committee 18 November 2014 Draft minutes

Commencement 6 pm

Present: Jennifer Wallace, Jeff Goodrich, Lee Michaelides, Laura Duncan, Craig Layne

There were no public comments.

A. The group discussed what kind of report it wanted to produce.

To that end the group constructed two lists:

Attributes proposed to be valued by the community (the definitions of which need to be clarified):
Community, diversity (income, vocations, perspectives, etc.), responsibility, charity, change for good, transparency (in government and decision-making), accountability, attention to process, use of local talent, sustainability (energy, transportation, housing, economy, etc.), healthy living, affordability, continuing education, facilitation of job creation, non-insularity, aging in place, a landscape perspective, land stewardship, a regional perspective

Features proposed to be valued by the community (in no particular order):

Swimming pool, affordable housing, bike lanes, connector hiking and biking trails, bridge to Huntley meadow, adequate bathrooms and parking at Huntley meadow, community center, public river access, sidewalks

The importance of communicating “why a recommendation is made” before communicating “what recommendation is made” or “how a recommendation would be implemented” was discussed.

B. The group discussed what to generate and how to generate it.

What –

Identify for select board the types of workshops and charrettes they should hold

e.g. a community values charrette

Specific recommendations about features that would improve “quality of community”

How -

Public input

Past data

e.g. Expert recommendations, commission reports, surveys, progress in other towns

New data

e.g. The Rec dept. will be assessing demographic changes and needs in next 5-10 yrs. with surveying of 3 simple questions at the transfer station.

Additional perspectives of others brought to this committee

Lee will ask someone from the energy committee to speak with us.

Laura will ask someone from aging in place to speak with us.

Jennifer will ask someone from affordable housing to speak with us.

C. Also discussed were:

How do we prioritize?

How do we engage people with skills and knowledge to inform the decision-making process?

How do we balance investment in qualities with a cognizance of costs?
What can help Selectboard implement recommendations?

Adjournment 8 pm

Minutes submitted by C. Layne