

Comprehensive Planning Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2017

Mount Vernon Town Office, 6:30 pm

In attendance: Paul Crockett, Brad Jackson, George Smith, Susan Herman, Lucas Rumler, David Fuller, Trish Jackson, Joel Greenwood

I. Q & A with Joel Greenwood, KVCOG Planner

Mr. Greenwood provided an overview of the comprehensive planning process, explained a state-compliant plan is beneficial for both regulatory and legal reasons, and shared ways KVCOG could assist the town. He also discussed how other towns created their plans and explained time lines range from 18 months to four years, depending upon the amount of outside assistance, and the cost of a consultant runs from \$17,000-\$25,000.

II. 1991 Goals Discussion

Most ordinance-related goals from the 1991 plan were achieved. Other goals missed the mark, primarily due to lack of follow up. Many of those ideas should be resuscitated now. It was agreed the new plan should be less aspirational and more realistic, and contain mechanisms to ensure goals are met.

III. 2017 Goals Discussion

The 1991 vision for a future Mount Vernon that has maintained its rural character is still valid. We also hope to increase opportunities for farmers and small and home-based businesses, facilitate low-income housing, help citizens age-in-place, protect our natural resources and expand recreational access. There was discussion of tax increment financing (TIF) to assist with community improvement projects, and asking high school and college students for help with data collection, trail building and other aspects of the plan..

IV. Planning Checklist

Our goals can be easily folded into the state guidelines, and preliminary responsibility for checklist categories is as follows:

Ordinances- Sue

Land Use- Paul

Water Resources- Dave and Paul

Recreation- George

Aging in Place- Dave and Trish

Economy- Brad and Lucas

V. Assign Actions

We'll check with towns that have recently updated plans to ask about timelines, hiring help, public involvement and best practices. (New Portland, Trish; Unity, Lucas; Belgrade, Dave; Wayne, George; anyone else?) George will check with the Ag rep about planning data. Susan will request building permit info from the CEO. We will be ready to come up with a basic plan and timeline, and ways to involve our citizens, at our next meeting.

VI. Next Meeting: Monday September 11, 6:30pm Town Office.

VII. Adjourn- 7:40pm.