

# Town of Chatham Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

3/16/05  
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
Chatham Town Hall

Meeting called by: Mike Hart                      Type of meeting: Special meeting  
Facilitator: Mike Hart                              Note taker: Mary Gail Biebel

Attendees: Mike Hart, Kary Jablonka, Ira Marks, Jean Rohde, Mary Gail Biebel  
Audience Guests: Randi Walker

## Agenda

**Call to Order**    **Mike Hart**    **5 minutes**

Discussion: Meeting called to order by Chairman Mike Hart @ 7:00 PM. Two items on the agenda: discussion of the Community Education Subcommittee recommendations and review of the revised project schedule.

Action items: None

Person responsible:

Deadline:

**Community Education Subcommittee****100 minutes**

Discussion: Kary presented the proposed. Community Education Plan (previously distributed), saying that it is consistent and compatible with our work plan, also simpler and more compact. There was immediate agreement on the importance of community education and the plan as presented for March/April, May, July, and June-August. A lengthy discussion followed about the proposed June workshop (Rural by Design – Randall Arendt). We discussed the target audience for the workshop; is it the general community or those involved in planning and zoning decisions? We discussed the costs and benefits of the workshop; would we get the same people who attended Joel Russell’s workshop and if so, is this the best way to invest the \$4000/day that Arendt charges? A suggestion that the CNA fund the workshop led to a discussion about the perception of some residents who equate Arendt with the CNA. Mike reminded us that we need to stay non-political and avoid any shadow of special interest. We don’t want our work to be challenged for its integrity before it is even complete.

Points of agreement include:

1. We have an excellent resource in Nan, our consultant, and we need to leverage her expertise where possible.
2. We don’t want our work to be perceived as political or partisan; perceptions become reality for some people.
3. Community education is very broad; its purpose is to prepare people to participate as informed consumers.
4. People involved in planning and zoning decisions need to understand the tools and options available.

A motion was made to accept the Subcommittee’s plan as presented with the exception of the June workshop, which will target key decision makers (Town Board, Zoning, Planning, etc.) as well as interested citizens. The motion was unanimously approved.

Action items: The Subcommittee is charged with discussing the June workshop with Nan, getting her suggestions and feedback about possible presenters, and moving forward. The June workshop should be presented by someone with appropriate tools and background who is perceived as a “neutral” resource.

Person responsible:  
Kary & Subcommittee

Deadline:

We agreed unanimously that the subject is now closed and that we will move forward with other critical work related to comprehensive planning.

All

Ongoing

Mary Gail will ask Glynwood about Joel Russell’s fees.

Mary Gail

ASAP

**Other Discussion****10 minutes**

We discussed the impending vote on the moratorium. Mike said that the moratorium and temporary zoning should not get in our way. We are not dealing with just land use; we are comprehensive planning. We will proceed with our schedule and work plan.

Mary Gail reported that the Town of Chatham received a \$3000 grant from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation Green Pastures Fund for education and communication related to the Keep Farming Program. Thanks to Lael Locke for her guidance.

The second agenda item (revised workplan and schedule) was tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Jean will send us the email with information about the grant possibility for historical work.

Jean

ASAP

Mary Gail will ask Nan to send the most current work plan and schedule with the date in the footer.

Mary Gail

ASAP

**Adjourn**

**Mike Hart**

**5 minutes**

Discussion: Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

**Additional Information**