

CCURC Minutes 10-14-2020

Present: Abi Mesick, Tim Mackerer, Jeanne Veillette Bowerman

Absent: Dave Everett, Donna Staron, Jeff Cox

Public: Troy Weldy, Angus Eaton

Start: 6:05pm at Chatham Town Hall

Resume discussion on updating 2004 survey.

Question 19: Discussion with Troy Weldy, President Columbia Land Conservancy.
Town of Chatham can use taxpayer dollars to obtain easements, but could also be done through CCLC.

Troy suggested we simply ask the question as follows, with one "Yes," "no," "no opinion."

"19. Would you endorse Town-sponsored conservation actions such as acquiring easements, regulations or landowner agreements that would lead to the permanent protection of scenic views, critical environmental areas, active farmlands, and historic structures and landscapes."
Yes, no, no opinion.

If yes, would you be interested in doing so using which of the following funding options: (Check as many as apply)

- Town budget
- Real-Estate Transfer fees
- NYS grants
- Private donation

Follow-up: Write up a couple of versions of #19 and send to Troy for feedback, if desired.

Note: Troy mentioned that Chatham is one of the few towns allowed by NYS to do a real-estate transfer tax. Abi to check.

Possibilities: If Chatham could institute the real-estate transfer tax, could use those funds for matching grants from NYS.

Survey: Ask CAP and CABA to review.

Hamlet meetings: Will pursue continuing them via Zoom and in person, if possible. Also send list of questions for the meeting to the hamlet liaisons to share with their community for anyone who would want to email responses if they cannot attend the meetings. Committee with reach out to hamlet liaisons to see what their preference is.

RESUME SURVEY DISCUSSION: Compiled survey notes from previous minutes and started reviewing again from the beginning to discuss further.

Q 1: fine as is.

Q 2: What is your relationship to the Town of Chatham? Home owner, Land owner, Tenant, Business owner, or Other (line for "other" to identify) Check as many that apply.

Q3: Omit

Q4: Are you a part-time or a full-time resident? Part-time; Full-time, I am not a resident but own land; I am not a resident but own a business in Chatham

Add after 4 on the first page: Do you live in a hamlet? If so, which one? Would you like to see special provisions in the zoning law for your hamlet?

Q5: omit

Q6: omit; use census data

Q7: omit – asked earlier

Q8: Please indicate the location(s) of your place of work: (Data trying to obtain: Commuters, traffic flow, number of people who are employed in the town)

Within the Town of Chatham; Outside the Town of Chatham but in Columbia County; Outside Columbia County but in NYS; Outside of NYS; Capital District; Telecommute/home-based; Other location; Do not work/retired

Q9: Are you self-employed? If yes, do you run your business from your home? Y/N Is this your primary income or supplemental income?

Q10: How do you feel the town should discourage, encourage, invest or take no action in the following areas:

Change responses to: "Discourage, Encourage, Invest, No Action"

- Change to just "Affordable Housing"
- Change to "cable television"
- high speed internet connection
- Take out hillsides and ravines;
- Omit historical sites, structures, cemeteries
- Take out litter control;
- omit "low crime rate"
- Omit question on dirt roads (becomes separate question below)
- define "open spaces" more specifically to address ag spaces vs open spaces – change to "open space (non-agricultural)" and "open space (agricultural)"
- Keep "historic character" and "rural character" but remove "overall aesthetic character"
- "involvement in local government"
- "sense of community"
- Create separate lines for "water service" "sewer service"
- Omit "recreational opportunities" – note: Park & Rec to add their own section
- Change "scenic views and landscapes" to "scenic views"
- Omit: school districts
- Omit: Sensitive environmental sites
- Add "ridgeline protection"
- Remove "sensitive environmental sites"

- Remove “small farms/recreational” and add “Small farms”; and “Agri-Tourism” (separate lines)
- Remove “streams, ponds” and confirmed by Jeff Cox as wetlands are already protected
- Omit: well-maintained roads and highways

Note: If 2004 survey item not listed above, it stays in survey, as is.

New Question on Dirt Roads:

Do you support paving existing dirt roads? Y/N Limiting paving Y/N or Prohibiting paving Y/N.

Placing speed limits on town roads Y/N

Q11: omit – we cannot control who moves here or who moves away

Adjourn: 8:10pm

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Veillette Bowerman