

Fishkill Avenue Corridor Committee

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

6:30 -8:00 PM

Virtual Meeting Zoom

The meeting was held virtually via zoom. A link for public attendance was provided on the City's website calendar.

Attendance: Natalie Quinn, J.C. Calderon, Olga Luz Tirado, Atticus Lanigan, Jay Healey (left at 7:00pm), Nick Guertin, Stephen Clair, Yvonne Caruthers, Brent Stapleton (joined at 6:55pm)

Absent: Garrett Duquesne, Jan Worthy, Brent Spodek

Guests: Dylan Tuttle, Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development

Agenda Item 1: Select Meeting Minute Notetaker

Olga Tirado offered to take meeting minutes, as did Natalie Quinn.

Agenda Item 2: Update from Dylan Tuttle, DCTC

Dylan Tuttle is the County's planner assigned to Beacon, as well as other communities throughout Dutchess County. Dutchess County Planning can be a resource for data, mapping, and planning advice.

Brief update on Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail was provided

- Existing conditions work was conducted over the winter and is ongoing
- Public process work is under way – there is currently a survey available for the public to take. Visit beaconhopewellrailtrail.com to take survey
 - survey currently has over 1,000 responses
 - Committee can respond to survey collectively and individually
- County does not own rail line at this point
- Fishkill Committee could provide input as to (a) assets along Fishkill Avenue that should be connected to rail trail, (b) location of parking for rail trail, and (c) location of access points to rail trail.

Dylan then provided an overview of how the public and committee can use [Dutchess County Zoning Map App](#), [DCTC Traffic Data App](#), [Dutchess County Parcel Access](#), and other [Dutchess County GIS Resources](#) to find data and information.

- See zoom recording for detailed overview of DCTC Traffic data app
- DCTC also has a complete streets expert that can answer questions and review work product

- DCTC has a traffic consultant on retainer than can be used to answer targeted questions
- Dylan can be a resource for demographics data or mapping.
- Nick G. asked about current land use data and where that can be found.
 - Dylan notes that land classification information can be found in parcel access
 - A map of current land uses could be produced by DC Planning
 - Data for land use comes directly from the municipal assessor, so it is only as accurate and up-to-date as their data is.

Agenda Item 3: Update from Planner on conversation with City Administrator

Natalie Quinn provided update on conversation with City Administrator, Chris White, regarding issues the city has identified on Fishkill Avenue and/or planned work or upgrades.

- Two subgroup topic areas make sense – zoning and complete streets
- Materials regarding Fishkill Avenue / Teller Street road improvements are available on the city’s website.
 - 2024 Plan – Received funding, is underway, and includes portion of Fishkill Avenue from Main Street to Blackburn
 - 2023 Plan – Includes full extent of Fishkill Avenue. However, project scope was subsequently scaled back in 2024 plans due to available funding. These concepts should be reviewed by committee.
 - Road width along Fishkill ranges from approx. 33-36 feet
 - Proposed travel lanes are 10’10”
 - Roads are not wide – there will have to be choices made as to what improvements (sidewalks, landscaping, buffers, parking, etc.) can be added to Fishkill Ave.
- The definition of Complete Streets and tools for implementation was discussed
- J.C. recommends that the sub-committee also look at Beekman Complete Streets Study (2018) and the City Council’s policy on complete streets.
- Atticus – Committee needs to understand users of street before they can decide what improvements will make it “complete”

Agenda Item 4: Update from Committee Chair on April 21, 2024 corridor site visit

J.C. Calderon provided update on the committee’s site visit / walk along Fishkill Avenue

- Started in middle a Trax and walked towards eastern end.
- Present: Yvonne, Olga, Nick, JC, Garrett, Brent
- Rail is elevated from street at points. One recommendation might be to match elevation to street.
- Roundabouts were discussed as potential improvement for new road connection from Fishkill Ave. to Matteawan Rd.
- JC showed photos from walking tour
 - New subcommittee: Signage and Welcome Sign

Agenda Item 5: Report back from Zoning Subgroup (Atticus, Garrett, Jason, Nick, Jan)

Nick Guertin provide update on research and work completed by the subgroup thus far:

- Thing done or underway:
 - High level canvas of how zoning boundaries overlay with existing parcels and uses utilizing satellite imagery. Will have some discrete deliverables and images to display this work.
 - Analyzing permitted uses within each zoning district
 - Want to map existing land uses to see how current uses match up with permitted uses
 - Starting to look at patterns of property ownership using County's data
- Upcoming Tasks:
 - Still need info on economic development, jobs, and each parcel's / use's contribution to the city's tax base
 - Where else in City are certain uses provided?
 - Current capacity of infrastructure and services
 - Lack of clarity in code about drive-thru and fast-food uses.
 - Natalie will reach out to Planning Board Chair and City staff to see how those uses have been handled in past.

Atticus – This road has a dual purpose. Road needs to be walkable and drivable.

- Gateway stretches like this often have a mix of uses. Existing industrial uses must be balanced with proposed uses and recommendations for changes to the zoning code.
- Do need to consider cars and trucks here that are necessary to support industrial uses and the tax revenue and jobs that they may provide to the City

Garrett pulled all references to Fishkill Avenue that are included within the existing comprehensive plan.

- Recommendations from committee may include to the comprehensive plan that are required in order to support other recommendations made by the committee.

Agenda Item 6: Report back from Complete Street subgroup

Olga Tirado provide update on research and work completed by the subgroup thus far:

- The subgroups initial focus has been on mapping the location of necessary short-term improvements, some of which include:
 - 30 mph speed limit seems to be a suggestion. There is a lot of speeding.
 - Push button crosswalk is needed by Trax coffee shop and Grovesville
 - Locations where stop signs do not exist, but should (Townsend, Conklin, Dallis Pl., etc.)
 - Relocate fire hydrant to improve passing space on crosswalk
 - Sidewalk is just gravel in parts
 - Sinking grates
 - Mailboxes on sidewalk also makes it difficult to pass

Subgroup would like to create StreetMix images for Fishkill Ave, similar to what was done for Beekman Street.

- Natalie will assist subgroup in using this program. Street width from Engineering drawings can be used to model existing conditions.

Agenda Item 7&8: Discussion of continued outreach, research, and timeline for community engagement

A previous recommendation to eventually Swap groups was discussed. The group decided that we should stick with existing groups for now as we are still in the middle of collecting existing conditions information.

- Brent will join complete streets committee.

Outreach to corridor property owners, corridor residents and other stakeholders was discussed.

- J.C. - What is most effective way to reach out to property owners and residents?
- J.C. - BeCAN has maybe done a survey. CAC and Greenway have reached out.
- Atticus – outreach efforts can be broken up into two groups – (1) Who do we need to contact further research? And (2) Who do we need feedback from regarding draft recommendations?
 - What do we need for further research:
 - Past survey's from CAC
 - Developers – Are these looking at these sites? Marketability
 - What do we need for draft concept feedback:
 - CAC
- Olga – Agree, if survey's have already been completed and ask questions specific to our study area, we should review.
- Olga – one-on-one meetings are also valuable. Has been meeting with her neighbors
 - Need to make sure we are documenting these conversations in some way that they can be referenced in our reports
 - Engage one-on-one with business owners
- Nick – Agree with Olga & Atticus. However, should have a more open-ended request from general public before draft recommendations are crafted. Tabling at local events is one way.
- J.C. – June is a good time to get public feedback. Surveys are a lot of work.
 - JC will ask for survey from BeCAN
- Brent – As local resident on Mead, could gather a group of local neighbors for meeting at Trax
- Atticus – Volunteered to sift through existing survey responses to catalog and categorize. Agree that we should look and see what we have first before creating new survey opportunities.
- Natalie – Make sure we invite residents from all along the corridor, renters, owners, etc.
- Atticus – Google survey is an easy way to engage people
- Yvonne – We should also consider using map exercise that we used at the first meeting

Next Steps

1. Get other surveys:
 - JC to share materials/ surveys from CAC, BeCAN, Greenway Trail surveys.

- Natalie to scan in input from event that Councilmembers held at Trax in October 2023
2. Committee Members to suggest events to table at in June:
 - Strawberry festival
 - Beacon farmers market
 - Start working list in Google
 3. Move July meeting to July 10th to avoid 4th of July