

Fishkill Avenue Concepts Committee

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

6:30 -8:00 PM

City Council Meeting Room, 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon NY 12508

The meeting was started at 6:35 PM and was held in a hybrid format with the public able to view the meeting online via zoom or in person. A link for public attendance was provided on the City's website calendar.

Attendance: Natalie Quinn, J.C. Calderon, Atticus Lanigan, Jay Healey, Garrett Duquesne, Stephen Clair, Yvonne Caruthers, Brent Stapleton, Nick Guertin (attended virtually)

Absent: Olga Luz Tirado, Jan Worthy

Agenda Item 1: Select or Confirm Meeting Minute Notetaker

Yvonne

Agenda Item 2: Approve May Minutes

No corrections. Approved.

Approved minutes are posted online at beaconny.gov, search for "Fishkill" and our committee comes up

Agenda Item 3: Update from Committee Chair

- Current Thoughts
- Summary of BCAN & Beacon Recreation survey info
- Summary on CAC materials

JC: We should pick a date in late June or early July to meet with the public as an info session, for general input as a public relations strategy. He suggests tabling at the Strawberry Festival on June 9th. JC JC will reach out to Sloop Club to OK tent & table.

- Need something graphic – can use same maps from first meeting exercise.
- Have notetakers to listen and record comments
- Attendance:
 - JC 12-5pm. Brent, Garrett, and Atticus can be there at least a portion of the time
 - Stephan can help set up 9-11am
- Natalie to make QR codes directing public to website
- Need to be clear with public that we are brainstorming, but not all suggestions may be incorporated

Other tabling options? The week before school ends would be another good time.

AL: what is the plan for a public meeting? Tabling is the first step leading to a public meeting. Keep a record of ideas that are suggested and post them publicly.

Public feedback materials collected by JC:

- JC has a letter from the CAC requesting a feasibility study based on complete streets act of 2011, city adopted in 2016.
- 13 page document of Beacon's vision of resilience in the face of climate change
- A survey from Beacon Recreation showing public support for biking and ped access
- He checked with BCAN, they said their survey was anecdotal, not a real survey

Agenda Item 4: Report back from Zoning subgroup

Garret provided update.

Think about corridor in 5 sectors:

1. Industrial – From Prospect to Chemprene
2. Residential – Grovevill and Beacon Lofts
3. Central Commercial – Trax to Conklin on North side, then car was to Lank's
4. Western mixed use – From Delevan to Talix
5. Camp Beacon, not technically with corridor, but connection is part of scope

From Land Use & Zoning Observations

- Broad range of uses currently allowed.
- Not many vacancies now or historically
- Camp Beacon – is there a strategic plan we should be reviewing? This site should have it's own zoning.
- Current proposals before Planning Board are mostly aesthetic improvements. There is room for improvement
- Positives of development in Beacon – the ones along Fishkill Cr, either took advantage of trails or built new ones, which could be an example for future development.
- Roundhouse: the roads are private, but feel public (good concept to draw inspiration from)
- Rail Trail: would be a game changer! would be very positive, it flips how we should think about it. If it didn't exist for 100 years, we would think differently. But we know it's being seriously considered for near future
- Good business – Trax, Diner, Healy properties, electric bicycle, kempgreen
- JH: Old Freedom Ford – trying to become multiple small businesses.
- AL: The entrance to Fishkill is basically industrial. Need a comparison to see how those businesses affect the city's tax revenue. Does industrial contribute more? Will Chemprene stay? it gets in the way of a walkable corridor. She wants more info about what might happen at
- Need more information from Groveville
 - Atticus talked to Beacon developer – infrastructure is needed.
 - Is there a new gas line from Fishkill to Beacon? Can it be tapped?
 - City passed regulation that you cant use natural gas.

- Not a lot of places with HI/LI zoning (industrial zone) but are there are a number of other places that industrial uses are permitted?
- The cost of development due to regulations can be prohibitive (parking, height, energy uses)
 - Right now zoning height is capped at three stories. 5 seems too much
- Need grants to fix up sidewalks and other aspects. This is very costly for businesses.
 - JH: what is the incentive for developers to make improvements to sidewalks
 - AL: where are the parcels that we can recommend better sidewalks so it doesn't look piecemeal?

Agenda Item 5: Report back from Complete Street subgroup

Natalie provided presentation to PB on complete streets. Available on city's YouTube channel

Road improvement plans from Wolcott to Blackburn are underway by City

2023 Plans for Fishkill Avenue from Blackburn to municipal boundary are currently unfunded

- committee subgroup can ask county to look at the plans and ask for recommendations
- the original plan of Fishkill to the city line, but only the part from Wolcott to Blackburn is happening due to funding

Garrett reminds us of his idea for a roundabout

Beacon Hopewell Rail Trail

- Discussion of bike lanes to connect rail trail to Fishkill Ave
- Discussion of lawsuit regarding rail trail – class action
- Current plans show lanes narrowed to 10'6"
- JC suggests trying to buy a few feet from property owners
 - property negotiations are tough
- AL: sidewalks and shading is more important than bike lanes when there is already a "protected bike lane" in the rail trail.
- NQ: Rail trail is a protected bike lane – gold standard of bike infrastructure improvement.
- YC: pointed out there has to be access from the rail trail
 - Where do users go when they get off rail trail
- "suggestions for a zip line and an elevator"
- Maybe a bike lane is not feasible, but there are road improvements that can make it safer to bike on street
- Greenway trail will come up to Wolcott

GD: Eastern city limit – very difficult to make a left onto 52 from Prospect. Problem intersection! Sight distance to left is very low. Aggressive driving is a huge issue

BS: pointed out lots of dangerous intersections. Conklin and Townsend also have issues making left onto Fishkill

GD: what are the impediments to complete streets? (key question!)

Next step:

- Can we have conversation with WSP? Why were bike lanes not included
- Complete streets call with Emily Dozier
- Zoom with subcommittee to review plans

Agenda Item 6: Discussion of continued outreach and research.

- Could have event in Stephens parking lot
- At Industrial arts
- Farmers market
- Trax
- Make google doc of places and events
- Google survey
- Late June and early July – June 29th
 - Look to September big event
- Strawberry Festival
 - Focus on getting contact information, making people aware.
 - Share QR code
 - Can only speak about the project vaguely at this point

Next Steps

- Location for September event
- Survey
- Pop location
- How will we use social media

Good to offer zoom option

July meeting has been rescheduled for July 10th, the 2nd Wednesday

End meeting at 8:05 pm