

Fishkill Avenue Concepts Committee

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

6:30 -8:00 PM

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

Committee Members Present: Olga, Nick, Yvonne, Jay, Atticus, J.C., Natalie, Garrett

1. Select/Confirm Meeting Minute Notetaker for August 7, 2024

Natalie

2. Approve July 11, 2024 Minutes

Motion by Olga, second by Nick. Will be posted on page.

Let's post agendas going forward. Need to send to Ben a week in advance.

3. Presentation of WSP 2023 Fishkill Plans

- JC - reviewed corridor photos taken by photographer (Steve)
 - JC - Spaces where rail trail is at grade but further away from Road may be good location for pocket parks
 - Jay – corner on 409 Fishkill Ave has been dedicated to City
 - Some photos captured folks walking on street
 - Triangle by car wash and across street from Industrial arts – maybe city can buy?
- Review of 2023 proposed curbs in public domain: J.C. Calderón
 - JC - shows marked up plans with yellow showing land between highway boundary
 - Thomas Wright assisted - Chair of Greenway Committee
 - JC - shouldn't develop southside curb
 - Atticus – should prioritize our goals. What should be done first.
 - Don't think we should prioritize bike lanes or sidewalks on southside if rail trail will go in
 - What is the priority of this committee?
 - JC - thinks the WSP plans show that there is space for two bike lanes within existing right of way
 - Natalie – comments on priority of sidewalks and redundancy of bike lane on Fishkill Ave
 - Olga – safety is biggest concern
 - Jason – the corridor is mixed use already
 - Garrett – skeptical of bike lane
 - Natalie – will provide reference document and guidelines for safe bike lanes

- JC – City has leftover money, \$800,000. Should spend money on improvements on northside of Fishkill Avenue
- Nick – number of variables that would impact bike lane. Menu of options and scenarios should be developed that can be plugged in based on land uses
 - Do scenarios ranging from Gold standard (fully protected bike lane) to sidewalks on both sides w/ sharrows
- Olga – don't let cost be a limit. Let's put it in, and let experts analyze
- JC – seems like plan forfeited a lot of public space. Lets look into that
- Atticus – cost wise, does it make sense to do it all at one time or piecemeal?
- JC – centerline will need to be established and will stay
- Yvonne – same thing with curbs
- Olga – what can we do now to make the corridor safe.
- Garrett – good recommendations made by public
- JC – Complete streets. Rail trail does not make sense.
- Atticus – need to analyze what public asked for. Consolidate.
 - Look at case studies.
- JC – this is an opportunity that won't come again. Beacon doesn't have any bike lanes.
- Atticus – to some extent the uses dictate what the improvements should be

4. Public Engagement Strategy Updated

- Natalie – time to move on from initial public engagement and focus on drafting recommendations.
- Atticus – could do farmer's market later in year.
- Nick – could also put up flyers and continue to push the online form for public engagement
- Discussion of businesses on corridor
 - Natalie will circulate google doc with list of questions for committee to review and add to
- JC recommends Happy Valley for public event

5. Report back from Complete Street subgroup

- Discussed previously under agenda item #3

6. Report back from Zoning subgroup

- Talked about breaking up corridor into various sectors.
 - Industrial, Groverville and Lofts, Middle section with dollar store and businesses, and Delavan to Tallics.
 - Garrett - Retaining industrial seems important
 - Nick – Land Use map received from County Planning. Need to compare to what it is zoned for. This will illuminate trends.
 - Jay – community wants mixed use with mostly restaurants.
 - Atticus – 1 East Main taxes versus Chemprene
 - What is process / formula for assessing taxes?
 - Need to improve layout and form

- Developer said there are a lot of places that industrial can be located within City
- Developer also said - If you want mixed use buildings, are going to have to go higher
- Natalie – industrial uses aren't typically the biggest tax revenue contributors. producers. Contribution comes from job creation and diversity of uses
- Garrett – Groville and Junkyard are RD-5 – allows units at 5,000 sq ft.
 - Under existing code 3.9 acres → could have 34 units. Seems like existing use is already denser than this.
 - Junkyard – 2.3 acres → 20 units
- Look at last piece of lofts – was it approved? What density is permitted? Could this be a model for zoning elsewhere on the corridor?
- JC – look at overlays like in NYC
- Garrett – look at dealership / Dollar Store area.
 - 97,000 square feet or 2 acres
 - At 1500 SF per unit – could build 64 units
 - Not a lot. This could be a barrier to developer.
- Atticus – committee should speak with Conklin lot developer.
 - Garrett – required no variances, 3 stories.
 - Parking is located behind building because it was restricted by access to the lot.
- JC – Will proposed zoning be one consistent treatment along corridor? Or separate areas?
- Nick – don't know yet. Need to look at public input and trends/
- Garrett – LI district does not allow residential.

7. Update on transfer from Drop Box to Google Drive files

Link to folder emailed to committee. Natalie will forward and add to Slack.

8. Discussion on Slack Group Link

Yvonne not on Slack