

Fishkill Avenue Concepts Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

6:30 -8:00 PM

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

2024-09-04 Minutes

By Yvonne Caruthers

present: JC, Nick, Garrett, Olga, Yvonne, Brent, Jay via zoom

Nick motioned, Olga seconded, approved minutes from Aug meeting

short discussion of meeting protocol

59 responses to the survey so far, Nick checks periodically

we had dropbox, we have switched over to google drive, JC will send the link that connects to it

decided not to switch over to Slack

what will get built with the \$800K that's "left over" from the Teller Ave project?

JC summarized that sidewalks are being built on both sides on Teller, but only on the north side of Fishkill Ave from Hanna Lane to city line

Garrett: left turn pocket at delavan? according to WSP plans

JC clarified he doesn't think there will be repaving yet on Fishkill Ave between Hanna Lane and Prospect

Olga broke down FA into sectors and identified problems in each one (such as dropped drainage grates)

Garrett marked key traffic improvements on WSP plans—we looked at the plans. Do we endorse those earlier plans, or ask for changes?

Jay weighed in on some of his family's plans for their properties. Residential? business fronts? height restrictions? almost impossible to attract small business into (expensive) new buildings

zoning: Nick reviewed county planning of existing uses (not just what is allowed by zoning)

County said it's based on digital data, might be different on the ground

Nick checked to see if the map matches what's there, the county is mostly accurate

one idea is to go with future zoning approval instead of past (auto use)

one parcel is approved as car use (Carvana), some are actually vacant

the county consolidated what's called commercial. Is the strip mall the same as the stand-alone businesses?

Garrett wonders if any current uses are grandfathered in

Nick checked viewsheds....he has photos of several spots which he matched to the map. He wants to re-check after fall foliage has dropped. How many trees are in back of the businesses, not on their property?

current zoning allows for 35' for general business, 3 story building

complete streets: Lee asked JC to meet with him informally, county commissioner's email responded to Garrett's earlier mixed use path

we glanced at Lee's markup of the plans

JC pointed out the time factor for the city's plans. Once the plans have been approved, and the money is in hand, it's hard to turn on a dime and change plans

Nick: we should outline different scenarios, since most people won't have the benefit of having walked the route repeatedly.

do we have the rail trail with access points?

do we have bike lanes?

do we need sidewalks on both sides?

do we re-zone, or keep zoning as is?

Olga left at 8

Garrett pointed out possible upgrades of Schoolhouse Rd—bike lanes there would need to connect to 52, where none are planned yet

do we want fast-food drivethroughs? or do we want zoning to say “expressly prohibited”?

discussion of next steps, what should public engagement look like, when should we do it?

next meeting is Wed, Oct 2nd

meeting adjourned