

Fishkill Avenue Concept Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

6:30 -8:00 PM

1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon City Hall (City Courts)

1. Select Meeting Minute Notetaker – Steve Jacobs

2. Approval of December 4, 2024 Minutes

3. Review of potential schedule & location for Public Hearings

4. Review Potential Edits on Memo to City Council (20 minutes)

5. Mapping Exercises (30 Minutes)

- Identify opportunities for open space and public plazas
- Identify key opportunity sites for development

6. Work Session (40 Minutes)

- Zoning Subcommittee and Complete Streets Subcommittee breakoff to workshop and refine goals and strategies

- Each subcommittee to craft specific recommendations for proposed connection road to Matteawan Road

7. Next Steps

NOTES:

- Attending:
 - In person: Garrett, Natalie, JC, Yvonne, Brent, and Steve
 - Remote: Olga and Nick
- Minutes from previous meeting:
 - Yvonne moved to approve
 - Steve seconded
 - Unanimous approval
- Discussion of draft memo
 - JC and Natalie presented the draft memo to the planning board
 - Feedback from planning board, mayor, and city attorney
 - Pedestrian safety should become pedestrian infrastructure since crash data does not show high number of crashes, etc.
 - Usage vs. design. Planning board feedback was that this committee should not focus on building/land use and more on design/form.

- Nick: Strong disagree with this feedback. The purpose of this committee was to envision the future of this corridor in the city and that means expressing an opinion on usage.
- JC: Understands the feedback but also doesn't agree.
- Brent: We're not kicking out any of the existing businesses, just saying that we shouldn't allow new ones.
- Gentle suggestion from Mayor Kyriacou: Phasing out storefront apartments in the 90s – you can't immediately get rid of them if there's nothing ready to take its place, so one option is to put different phases in the zoning recommendations. I.e. for the next five years, zoning is x, but then after that zoning is y, etc etc.
- Garrett: Should we present to the public for their feedback?
- JC: Plan to do two hearings – late Feb and March. Saturday afternoon either at Industrial Arts or at Olga's apartment building.
 - Steve recommends that we approach these public feedback sessions with a judicious eye. Not all public comments are created equal and they're not all representative of wider public opinion.
- Regarding fast-food: We are aligned that we do NOT want there to be drive-thru businesses and that we will not allow a special permitted use.
- Gas stations, auto repair, auto sales: We recommend prohibiting these businesses. No possibility of including them with stringent design

recommendations. Overall consensus on this topic, but Garrett personally wants more time to think about it.

- Rail trail: We want to state that we support it.
- Bikeability/Right of Way:
 - We should notify businesses that they are currently in violation using public land to store vehicles.
 - We should give them fair warning that they will be cited in the future. Perhaps starting June 1.
 - Natalie will run this section by the City Attorney because this section was added after his review
- Public meeting: Natalie will circulate a doodle poll to find a good time
- Committee ran out of time to fully address agenda items 5, 6 and 7.