

City of Claremont Master Plan
Transportation Subcommittee
Meeting - October 10, 2008 - 9 a.m.

Minutes

Present: Alan Grigsby, Dennis Osgood, Jr., Lisa Paquette, Tom Ford, Steve Picano, and Bernie Folta

Tom Ford, former Claremont Fire Chief, works for Community Alliance Transportation and would like to join the committee. Mr. Folta is a member of the Master Plan Advisory Committee. The remainder of those in attendance are committee members.

Ms. Paquette, who is not a resident of Claremont, will be a non-voting member of the committee.

Chairman Grigsby reviewed the contents of the binder of information regarding transportation that was provided committee members by City Planner Eric Giles. It included information from previous master plans, parking studies, truck route studies and traffic flow studies.

Then, the committee reviewed a discussion the Claremont Planning Board had about a transportation component to a master plan in 2004 when the board decided it would be good to include such an element in a plan when it was done.

Last, the list of items mentioned at a 2007 Master Plan visioning session transportation breakout group were discussed.

Members discussed items they had in mind for inclusion in a transportation section.

Mr. Picano suggested grouping like items from the the various sources we had discussed.

Ms. Paquette said a study of a bus network for Newport, Charlestown, and Claremont was under way.

A question was raised about whether Claremont had an emergency evacuation plan and Mr. Ford said Fire Chief Peter Chase would know about that because he is the city's emergency coordinator.

A committee member said that the timing of transportation changes and priorities before a growth spurt affects the city is important for this group to consider.

One person suggested that a Washington Street service road might be important to ease congestion in the future.

Mr. Folta said the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission had a subcommittee which dealt with transportation and that Bruce Temple, Claremont DPW superintendent, was the city's representative.

Mr. Grigsby said he had asked Mr. Temple how he would like to be involved in this committee's work. Mr. Temple said he would provide assistance if we needed it.

Mr. Folta said that meeting in Newport might be considered by some to be inappropriate. That criticism might be about the committee's process rather than its product. Mr. Grigsby said that Ms. Paquette and Mr. Ford work at the meeting site and it saves them time and driving to meet in their conference room. And, he said, other three retired members of the committee would prefer to meet during the day. Mr. Grigsby added that there was plenty of room at the table for the public. Mr. Folta suggested that the discussion be put in the minutes so that it was clear the issue had been considered and the action taken was for good reason. He said inclusion in the minutes may help defuse future criticism.

Mr. Grigsby said he had intended to hold one-hour meetings. Ms. Paquette said that it was acceptable for her and Mr. Ford to hold meetings up to two hours in length and that amount of time was probably needed to make good progress.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, October 24, 2008, 9 a.m. in the conference room at:
Community Alliance Transportation Services
940 John Stark Highway
Newport, NH 03773

Respectfully submitted by:
Alan Grigsby, chair