

Town of Red Hook Comprehensive Plan - Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2025, 7:30-9:00pm

Red Hook Town Hall

In Attendance

Committee: Agatha Bacelar, Laurie Husted, Dennis Kanuk, Jennifer Mañon, Chuck Mead, Hart Migdal, Sam Phelan, Tricia Reed, Ben Shute, Julia Solomon (Chair), Doug Strawinski

Liaisons: Christine Kane (Liaison, Red Hook Town Board), Taun Toay (Liaison, Bard College)

Guests: Eric Pierson (Pattern for Progress)

Regrets

Melkorka Kjarval (Liaison, Village of Red Hook)

Community Engagement Plan Presentation

Consultants from Pattern for Progress presented an overview of plans for community engagement throughout the comprehensive plan process. Goals of community engagement are to:

- Reach as many residents as possible
- Engage with representative cross section of the town
- Reach key stakeholder groups and members of the community that may not typically engage with local government
- Provide a variety of opportunities for the community to interact with the comprehensive planning process
- Make sure people feel heard – be clear about how their input will be used and follow through in the plan
- Balance the desire for a community-driven planning process and the need to keep the project on time and in-budget

A variety of engagement tools are proposed, including:

- Workshops
- Focus groups
- Kitchen table conversations
- Interviews
- Existing community events
- Pop-up board
- Youth engagement
- Public hearing

A community engagement subcommittee of the Steering Committee is also proposed.

Community engagement is proposed to take place throughout the duration of the project, with different thematic focus depending on the stage of the project.

The Steering Committee discussed the proposed plan, a preliminary draft interviewee list and potential venues for engagement events.

Next Steps

Committee members were invited to provide feedback on the community engagement plan, preliminary interviewee list and engagement subcommittee description.

Prior to the next meeting, the consultant team will continue working on plans for community engagement and compiling existing conditions data.

The July meeting will focus on existing conditions data and an interactive Smart Growth activity led by a representative from the NYS Department of State.