

Town of Red Hook Comprehensive Plan - Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2025 7:30-9:00pm
Red Hook Town Hall

In Attendance

Committee: Laurie Husted, Dennis Kanuk, Jennifer Mañón, Chuck Mead, Sam Phelan, Tricia Reed, Ben Shute, Julia Solomon (Chair), Doug Strawinski

Liaisons: Sarah Imboden (Liaison, Village of Tivoli), Christine Kane (Liaison, Red Hook Town Board), Melkorka Kjarval (Liaison, Village of Red Hook), Taun Toay (Liaison, Bard College)

Guests: Eric Pierson (Pattern for Progress), Courtney Zwart (volunteer)

Regrets

Hart Migdal

Minutes

Minutes from the August 26th meeting were approved.

Committee Updates

Bids have been received from potential consultants for the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). The NRI project will coordinate with and inform the comprehensive plan.

Discussion – Community Engagement & Outreach

Hardscrabble Day – Eric and Julia provided an update on successful tabling at Hardscrabble Day and a summary of the themes from the community input. (See meeting slides.)

Communications – A fall newsletter was emailed to people who have signed up for notifications. The Town’s comprehensive plan website has been reorganized and updated. The committee discussed ways to optimize use of the Town’s Notify Me notification system.

Kitchen Table Conversations – The kit for hosts is completed and will be emailed to committee members. The committee discussed how to adapt this tool to a virtual format, whether and how to collect demographic information about participants and ideas for how to streamline the hosting process.

Community Engagement Subcommittee – Tricia has been in touch with some potential members, with the goal of a first meeting ahead of the October 21 workshop. Courtney Zwart, a potential member of the subcommittee, attended this meeting to discuss workshop promotion and outreach.

Visioning Workshop – October 21st, 7-9pm, Red Hook High School cafeteria. Eric brought flyers for committee members to distribute. Virtual versions of outreach materials will be emailed to committee members after the meeting.

The committee discussed potential outreach channels for promoting the workshop (physical locations, online forums, social media, groups/organizations, media) and systems for tracking what outreach has been completed.

A question was raised about the workshop discussion topics – for all of these topics, how active and involved do people want the local government to be in accomplishing the goals? This will be more of a focus for later engagement opportunities but may also be discussed in the visioning workshop breakout groups.

Information generated during community engagement activities will be collected and analyzed by Pattern for Progress and will be shared with the Steering Committee periodically throughout the planning process. Summaries will also be shared with the public.

Next Steps

Next meeting: October 28th, 7:30-9:00pm

The October meeting will include a debrief of the October 21st Visioning Workshop, updates on other community engagement and review of themes from community input to date.