

Town of Red Hook Comprehensive Plan - Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 25, 2025 7:30-9:00pm
Red Hook Town Hall

In Attendance

Committee: Laurie Husted, Hart Migdal, Tricia Reed, Ben Shute, Julia Solomon (Chair), Doug Strawinski
Liaisons: Sarah Imboden (Liaison, Village of Tivoli), Melkorka Kjarval (Liaison, Village of Red Hook), Taun Toay (Liaison, Bard College)

Guests: Eric Pierson (Pattern for Progress), Jake Petersen (Bard College intern)

Regrets

Dennis Kanuk, Jennifer Mañón, Chuck Mead, Sam Phelan, Christine Kane (Liaison, Red Hook Town Board)

Minutes

Minutes from the October 28th meeting were approved.

Updates

Eric shared that Pattern for Progress CEO Adam Bosch will be leaving his position at the end of the year. A search for a new leader is underway. Adam did not have an active role in the Red Hook project; no changes are anticipated for this project.

Process & Timeline

The committee reviewed and reaffirmed the upcoming steps and timeline for the comprehensive planning process. The visioning phase will remain open through early 2026, followed by goal setting and development of recommendations later in the year. There will be two additional workshops, focus groups and other community engagement opportunities.

Visioning Workshop Findings

Eric presented preliminary findings from the October 21 visioning workshop. These findings will be augmented by additional information collected during the visioning process and may evolve. More detail on these findings is available at <https://www.redhookny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5069/10-21-25-Visioning-Workshop-Summary>.

What's Working:

- Sense of community
- Open space
- Farms and farmers
- Natural environment
- Local events and festivals
- School district

- Bard College
- History

Issues:

- Housing
- Bike and pedestrian safety
- Environmental protection
- Town government communication
- Hotel
- Transportation
- Senior services
- Childcare

Community Engagement Update

To date: 85 survey responses, 4 Kitchen Table Conversation submissions. These engagement opportunities will continue to be promoted through December and January - plan to revisit engagement at the January meeting to determine whether it has reached a broad cross section of the community and if additional outreach is needed. Tricia relayed that the Subcommittee is also discussing these questions and feels that a pop-up display will be useful in reaching additional audiences.

Preliminary discussion of focus groups was held – these will be small topic-based or audience-based meetings to get focused input on a few key subject areas. They will be designed to tap into the knowledge of active town committees. Proposed topic areas include Environment & Sustainability, Housing, Agriculture, Business & Economy. Transportation and infrastructure were also brought up as important subjects. Exact topics and format for focus groups will be confirmed at a future meeting. These are planned for the goal-setting phase of the process.

Next Steps

The visioning survey and Kitchen Table Conversations will continue through the next couple of months. Meanwhile, the consultants will continue to consolidate and analyze community engagement findings to date and will prepare a public-facing version of these findings. They will also work on design for focus groups and the next workshop. Eric will share some sample comprehensive plans with the committee for their review, specifically to guide discussion of the organization of Red Hook's plan.

The committee voted to cancel the December meeting due to proximity to the holidays.

Next meeting: January 27th, 7:30-9:00pm

The January meeting will include discussion of community engagement progress and gaps, and a discussion of the sample comprehensive plans and possibilities for organizing Red Hook's plan.