

Town of Red Hook Comprehensive Plan - Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2026 7:30-9:00pm
Red Hook Town Hall

In Attendance

Committee: Laurie Husted, Dennis Kanuk, Jennifer Mañón, Hart Migdal, Sam Phelan, Tricia Reed, Ben Shute, Julia Solomon (Chair)

Liaisons: Sarah Imboden (Liaison, Village of Tivoli), Melkorka Kjarval (Liaison, Village of Red Hook), Jacob Testa (Liaison, Red Hook Town Board)

Guests: Eric Pierson (Pattern for Progress), Suzanne Button (Community Engagement Subcommittee)

Regrets

Chuck Mead, Taun Toay (Liaison, Bard College)

Minutes

Minutes from the November 25th meeting were approved.

Committee Membership Updates

Jacob Testa has been appointed as the Red Hook Town Board's new liaison to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Christine Kane has expressed interest in remaining involved in the comprehensive plan update project although she is no longer on the Town Board. The committee supports appointing her to an open seat on the Steering Committee. Doug Strawinski has resigned from the committee for personal reasons.

Project Updates

The [summary of the October visioning workshop results](#) was posted on the Town's comprehensive plan webpage and shared as part of a [winter newsletter](#). Eric and the consultant team have been working on plans for the second workshop, to be held in Spring 2026 with a focus on goals and strategies for achieving them.

Discussion – Community Engagement

The committee discussed progress on community engagement and upcoming plans. A number of Kitchen Table Conversations have been held in the community. Additional Kitchen Table Conversations are planned for February, along with events at Red Hook Community Center and Red Hook High School. The committee hopes to complete additional outreach with a number of groups, including, for example, Bard students, middle/high school students, new town residents, emergency service providers, people working in business and trades, seniors, and Spanish speakers. The committee set a target of completing vision-related outreach by the end of February. The visioning survey will close at that time and future community engagement will focus on goals and strategies.

Discussion – Sample Comprehensive Plans

The committee discussed various comprehensive plans from other community shared by Eric. These included:

- City of Kingston - [Link to Kingston's Plan](#)
- Village of Rhinebeck - [Link to Rhinebeck's Plan](#)
- Town of Chatham - [Link to Chatham's Plan](#)
- City of Poughkeepsie - [Link to Poughkeepsie's Plan](#)
- Town of Boston (NY) - [Link to Town of Boston's plan](#)

The committee discussed pros and cons of various plan formats and organizational structures. The committee expressed a desire for the plan to be clear and easily usable for its primary audience (Town government including committees) while also being approachable and engaging for the public. The committee wants to ensure that the plan is written and formatted to be relevant over a long timeframe, including effective, durable mechanisms for including and/or linking to related and supporting documents. The committee discussed options for how the plan might address implementation.

Next Steps

Next meeting: February 24th, 7:30-9:00pm

Topics will include: community engagement check-in, Workshop #2, focus groups