

Town of Red Hook Comprehensive Plan - Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 24th, 2026 7:30-9:00pm
Red Hook Town Hall

In Attendance

Committee: Laurie Husted, Jennifer Mañón, Hart Migdal, Sam Phelan, Julia Solomon (Chair)

Liaisons: Sarah Imboden (Liaison, Village of Tivoli), Melkorca Kjarval (Liaison, Village of Red Hook), Jacob Testa (Liaison, Red Hook Town Board), Taun Toay (Liaison, Bard College)

Guests: Eric Pierson (Pattern for Progress), Christine Kane

Regrets

Dennis Kanuk, Chuck Mead, Tricia Reed, Ben Shute

Minutes

Minutes from the February 24th meeting were approved.

Updates

- An additional meeting is scheduled for April 7th to discuss spring community engagement activities.
- Engagement with all of the 7th & 8th grade middle school social studies classes is underway.
- Eric and Julia met with the Agriculture & Open Space committee and will be meeting with additional committees this spring.
- Eric and Julia are scheduled to give an update presentation to the Town Board in April.

Discussion – Comprehensive Plan Topics & Themes

Eric summarized the process he is using to analyze and summarize community input, which includes transcribing and tagging all comments.

Top themes in the ‘keep/working’ category include:

- protecting open space and natural areas
- protecting farms and farming
- preserving Red Hook’s ‘small town feel’
- parks and recreation

Top themes in the ‘change/add’ category include:

- housing affordability
- pedestrian and bicycle safety
- transparent/responsive local government
- connectivity in town (spatial)

- traffic (many comments related to Rte 9/199 intersection in Red Hook Village)

The committee discussed the themes, including potential tradeoffs and complexities in addressing them. They also discussed options for plan structure and draft plan topic areas, which Eric will further refine in the coming weeks. There is a desire to be accountable to those who shared input – illustrating how the community’s ideas informed the plan’s development and how comments have been archived (even those that may be too granular for inclusion or outside the scope of the plan).

Discussion – Workshop #2

The committee discussed the planned Workshop #2. The purpose will be to share community engagement findings, solicit feedback on draft goals and collect ideas for strategies. An expo style event is proposed. This will allow more flexibility for drop-in attendance, will allow participants to engage more with the topics that they care about and will offer a different experience than Workshop #1.

The committee discussed options for workshop date, time and location. This conversation will be continued at the April 7th meeting. The workshop is currently tentatively slated for mid-May.

Next Steps

Next meeting: April 7th, 7:30-9:00pm

Topics will include: Workshop #2 (logistics & promotion) and Apple Blossom Day