

Pentwater Community Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting
May 4, 2020 – 4 pm – via Zoom

Attending: Chris Conroy, Tony Monton, Terry Cluchey, Scott Karaptian, Kendra Flynn, Michael Haack, Heather Douglas, Mary Shumaker, Claudia Ressel-Hodan and Keith Edwards – Zoning Administrator.

Absent: Mark Benner – Resigned.

Minutes of February 14, 2020:

Tony Monton moved to approve the minutes of February 14, 2020. Chris Conroy seconded. All yeas, and the minutes were approved.

Old Business:

A. Summary of the Small Harbor Study – 2015

Tony Monton provided a summary of his review of the Small Harbor Study that began with a charette at the Pentwater Water Yacht Club in April of 2015. This study provided recommendations for a Marine Institute and Boat Works, expansion of the Municipal Marina, a Destination Restaurant at the Snug Harbor Marina and long-term maintenance of the channel (dredging). The plan seemed to have extensive community support, but lacked support from local government and an implementation schedule. The charette also identified other barriers to develop a stronger community including: the lack of affordable and/or senior housing; the seasonal nature of business activity and lack of full-time employment, water quality issues, the desire to develop biking trails and to create connectivity in within the community; and the lack of a robust marketing plan to promote the Pentwater Community.

An executive summary of the Small Harbor Study will be prepared for the next Community Master Plan.

B. Summary of the Pentwater Community Survey (2008) and Master Plan (2009) by Chris Conroy.

C. Review of the 2015 Village of Pentwater Master Plan Update and 2016 Pentwater Township Master Plan Update by Chris Conroy.

Chris Conroy provided the highlights from the documents listed in items B and C above. Many of the same issues that were brought up during the Small Harbor Study and previous survey and planning efforts from 2008 to 2016 were repeated by public participation in the Pentwater Community Visioning process of 2019 including:

- Affordable housing choices for all stages of life
- Address short-term rentals in single-family neighborhoods
- High Speed Internet Service throughout the community

- Too short retail season – unsustainable seasonal economy
- Lack of basic goods and services for residents
- Infrastructure, transportation, parking
- Nurture a community-wide continuous collaborative planning culture. “We plan together... all the time...”
- Pursue expressed community support and interest in joint-use school facilities and continuing adult education/special interest classes/activities.

D. Comparison of A, B, and C above to the Overall Themes produced by the Pentwater Community Vision Team 2019 – Discussion led by Chris Conroy.

Chris Conroy led the Committee in a discussion of the similarities and differences between the Plans listed above and what was learned from the Pentwater Community Vision process of focus group meetings, town hall meetings and surveys. The consensus of the Committee is that the key to getting things done seems to be the creation of an implementation section of the plan and finding those that can champion the issues.

New Business:

A. Review and Discussion of Master Plan Outline.

Committee members reviewed the draft outline prepared by Keith Edwards. Claudia Ressel-Hodan suggested adding a section on Community Economic Development. Members generally agreed – we will address the outline again at the next meeting

B. Discussion and Integration of Overall Major Themes from the Pentwater Vision Team – see attachment.

Some discussion ensued on this topic, however, due to time constraints. Keith Edwards will provide some information for further discussion on this topic and the Master Plan Outline at the next meeting.

C. Engagement with Young families.

Chris Conroy announced a Zoom meeting to take place on May 7 at 4pm. Chris will lead the meeting and Keith will host it on Zoom. Approximately 30 people have shown interest in attending the meeting or talking to Chris about issues regarding young families at some point after the Zoom meeting.

D. Update on Maps.

Keith Edwards will provide an update and hopefully a demonstration at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: May 18, 2020 at 4 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.