

Salem Town Vision Survey Committee

Minutes for Meeting of Oct 13, 2010

Present: Frank Abetti, Dick Asafaylo , Cheryle Cassidy, S. Diamond, Carole Eckart, Len Giambra, Janet Griggs, Tom Woronik. Absent: None

Janet Griggs opened the Meeting at 7:22 PM.

There were no public comments. Minutes of 9/22/2010 meeting were discussed. There were no changes. Minutes M/S/A by T. Woronik/J. Griggs

Carole reminded the group that the purpose of the meeting was to finalize the cover letter and plan for the BOS meeting.

The group first discussed Point 1: "What is a Vision?" using the various definitions that Cheryle had compiled from the internet and other sources. After 25 minutes identifying which of the various definitions, and concepts within those definitions, were appropriate for our purposes, it was recommended that the synthesis of the concepts into one definition be taken off line by a volunteer. Cheryle agreed to draft one definition (using the concepts from the definitions the group did not eliminate from the list).

Dick distributed minutes from BOS meetings of 5/06/2008, 7/17/08, 8/05/08 and 9/2/08, and excerpts from the Town Charter.

The discussion then focused on the approval process and "authority" of the vision (i.e., "how to put teeth" in to the vision). Options discussed were: BOS could pass a resolution, or could take the resolution to a Town meeting for a vote. It was decided that the options need to be discussed at the BOS meeting.

It was reiterated that the purpose of that meeting would be to get answers to our 4 questions:

- What is the process to get the Vision approved?
- What is the "authority" of the Vision?
- What is the review process for updating the Vision?
- What is the process for the BOS to determine alignment of the Boards and Commissions' decisions with the Vision?

Dick suggested, and committee members agreed, that all Vision committee members should go to the BOS meeting, if they are available on Nov 9. We should also include the cover letter with the Vision statement, and send both ahead of time to the BOS.

We should include in the cover letter our recommendation that a resolution be passed that the document be accepted as the Town Vision.

We should also share our plans to disseminate and promote the Vision prior to approval, specifically, to bring before selected Boards and Commissions (whose actions affect the town's future the most) to gain consensus.

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Recap of point that should be covered in cover letter:

- You commissioned a Vision, which we have completed and would like to discuss with you
- Definition and purpose of a Vision:
 - Point 1: "What is a Vision?" (definition TBD - Cheryle)
 - Point 2: "How should the Vision be used? Proposed wording of purpose is as follows: "Salem's vision provides guidance for Salem Boards and Commissions to function proactively to progress toward integrated objectives for the planning, regulatory and financial functions" (from Sep 22 minutes).
- You asked for it to be simple and concise (we believe it is)
- Here's what we did to develop the Vision (See Len's history)
- Here's the Vision statement (attached)
- We would like you to review it and tell us if you have major objections to anything that is stated in it
- We are prepared to discuss our recommendations for next steps, including:
 - approval process (it should be either the object of a BOS resolution, or a town resolution)
 - process to socialize and promote the vision to gain consensus (go out to selected Boards and Commissions to ask if their future actions are expected to be in alignment with the vision)
 - process for maintaining the vision (recommendation from Sep 22 minutes: "We expect the BOS to review the vision from time to time as the need arises to evaluate whether the Boards and Commissions are making decisions consistent [that are aligned] with the Vision.")

Motion by C. Cassidy/S. Diamond to adjourn at 9:00 PM.