

Minutes

Tusten Comprehensive Plan Committee

July 27, 2020

The meeting opened at 6:05 p.m. on the Zoom platform. Attending were Ken Baim, Mike Farrell, Art Hawker, Jane Luchsinger, Ben Johnson, Elaine Giguere, Crystal Weston and consultant Peter Manning.

A motion was made by Ken Baim and seconded by Mike Farrell to accept the minutes of the June 8 meeting.

The order of business was to review the drafted summaries and recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan's chapter on Community Services and Infrastructure previously distributed to committee members by Peter Manning.

Included in the discussions were public safety, transportation, ambulance and fire services, water and sewer, roads and highways, programs for youth and services for the elderly.

For public safety, it was generally agreed that Tusten continue its cooperative relationship with State police.

Art Hawker described some of the issues related to the ambulance corps and fire departments.

Our fire department and ambulance corps rely heavily on volunteers. There are fewer volunteers in part because the training and education requirements have become more rigorous. All agreed that we should pursue resources to ease the burden of volunteerism.

With the fire departments' (Narrowsburg and Lava) extension of boundaries, a centrally located firehouse might be considered in the future.

Recommendations for highway maintenance were created by Peter Manning after a meeting with Highway Superintendent Don Neiger. Drafted recommendations have been sent to Neiger for review and comment.

Water and Sewer

Tusten is currently working with Delaware Engineering to prepare a preliminary engineering report (PER) which may be used when applying for grant funding. The scope of work estimate a cost of \$12,000,000, but at this time the Town will seek \$7,500,000 funding for the most pressing issues. Funds are being sought through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and other sources. The sewer system is approximately 45 years old. Recommendations have been drafted and Peter Manning is awaiting comment from water/sewer Superintendent Dave Bunce.

Youth and Elderly Services

The Tusten Youth Commission is exploring a reorganization plan that will allow active fundraising and volunteer recruitment beyond the township's funding of Tusten Youth Recreation Program. Senior services, for the most part, are conducted through Sullivan County's Office for the Aging.

Peter Manning reminded the committee that the plan, to be submitted to the UDC in August for the purposes of fulfilling the grant requirements, can be amended and edited until it is adopted.

Committee members agreed with Ken Baim's recommendation to meet twice in August to close Part I of the Comp Plan and submit it to the Upper Delaware Council (UDC). August meetings will be held on the 10th and the 18th.

The meeting concluded at 7:49 pm. The next meeting is on August 10 at 6 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Giguere