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To: Canaan Planning Commission
From: Jesse Noone, Kyle Dwyer, NVDA
Date: April 11, 2024
Re: April Planning Commission Meeting Review

Overview

The Commission met with NVDA representatives to talk about roles and responsibilities, goals and action step review, and contacts for finding more municipal information.

Context

The Planning Commission is looking to pick up the plan as it currently stands, find what is useful to learn more about, and remove and/or appendix what is not useful and not easy to read.

We began by going through the goals and action steps and getting a step on what progress, if any, has been made on the topic.

Body

The Planning Commission had an open conversation about demographic changes in the community, including population decreases, youth population leaving and not returning, and economic and small business changes. The departure of Ethan Allen may also influence this. There was also a comment about an inability to fill local positions, such as surveyor and realtor.

Many comments revolving around changing demographics included the influx of seasonal household owners, the reliance on tourism and the need to diversify the town's attractiveness.

We continued to discuss how to conduct outreach, beginning with compiling contact information of people from different departments and organizations within the community, getting a sense on what changes have occurred in the community, what type of support or capacity they have, and how their contributions may inform the plan update.

Conclusions

Going forward, Kyle and I will reach out to people on the contact list Gail has provided. If you know other people in the community, feel free to reach out to them in the capacity as a neighbor/community member and ask them if they would be okay having their information shared.

Additionally, please think about any upcoming community engagements – I.e Seasonal Festivals, community centers, or other high volume engagement opportunities. Maybe there is a way we can utilize these interactions in our planning efforts.

Kyle and I will also work to cut down the information in the current plan so that it only has relevant information. Hopefully, doing this will help us all in understanding what is useful. We've asked you as Commission members to **a)** continue to think of individuals in the community that may be helpful to reach out to, and **b)** take a look at neighboring communities' municipal plans and the state's planning manual.

Our goal is to ensure that this process doesn't become a heavy burden for you; that we are able to increase community capacity through this process and update the plan to a workable scale.