

Report to the town board from the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CoPIC)

by Joan Breslin (Chair) and Bernard Rivers (Deputy Chair)

13 September 2020

The Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CoPIC) has six working groups, one for each of the main recommendations in the town's 2020 Comprehensive Plan. The working groups, their convenors, and the work they have conducted during the past month, are as follows:

- **Improve communications** working group (Convenor: Karen Rothmyer Rivers):
 - The group has been meeting every two weeks and its sub-groups have met additional times.
 - The group submitted to the town board proposals for the town to send out an email blast every month and to send out a printed newsletter every six months. The town board approved these at its September 1 meeting.
 - The group is working on a design for the printed newsletter, which will be called the "Durham Courier." The first issue, in November 2020, will include articles about the town budget, about how local businesses have coped with Covid-19, about the snowplow crew, and about CoPIC's achievements thus far.
 - The group initiated an idea for the creation one or more publicly-accessible WiFi hotspots in town, then handed responsibility for this to the broadband group.
 - The group is planning a meeting with a few local people as part of creating a full list of everything that needs adding or changing at the town website. The town clerk will then talk to the company that looks after the website about how much of that work could be done at no cost.
- **Increase community activities** working group (Convenor: Terry Ward). The group has continued looking into options for swimming holes, options for hiking trails within Durham, and the availability (or not) of the former Durham Elementary School and other locations for community activities.
- **Enhance economic development** working group (Convenor: Joanne Schindelheim):
 - The group submitted to the September 1 town board meeting a preliminary proposal for CVS to provide a free flu-shot clinic in Durham, with a final plan to be submitted to a later town board meeting. (CVS are already on board.) The town board was supportive. The group is looking into whether the clinic could be carried out at the East Durham fire house.
 - After reading of the County's desire for an in-county medical facility, the group reached out to legislator Patti Handel to discuss whether the County might help with the establishment of a small medical facility within Durham. Patti promised to pursue this at the Legislative meeting scheduled for 9/16.
 - The group is in touch with the Cairo-Durham High School regarding whether the school might establish an agriculture support program as is done in Greenville and Berne.
 - The group is reviewing ways to present a "graphic" on how to start a business in Durham.
- **Advocate for improved broadband** working group (Convenor: Rosemary O'Brien);
 - The group has taken over from the Communications working group the development of a proposal to be submitted to the town board for the creation of one or more publicly-accessible free WiFi hotspots within Durham for use by residents and their guests.

- The group is continuing work on its database and map showing which residences in Durham cannot access broadband, and which of these include school-age children. It is seeking data for this from Mid-Hudson Cable, the Greene County Economic Development Corporation, and the Cairo-Durham School District.
- **Improve historic preservation** working group (Convenor: Dan Clifton):
 - The group is focusing on creating an enhanced history page at the town website. This will include checking existing data for accuracy, and adding a photo gallery and a map.
 - The group is in touch with the Durham Historic Preservation Commission, the Durham Center Museum and the Town Historian (who is already a member) regarding possible divisions of responsibility and/or forms of cooperation.
 - At a later stage, the group might establish a project for repairing damaged headstones in the Town's Meeting House Hill and Cornwallville cemeteries.
- **Encourage better property maintenance** working group (Convenor to be determined). This has not yet been established.

Each of the six Convenors will serve, with the two of us, as the members of CoPIC. We expect CoPIC to meet once every month or two. The first meeting will be held on September 25.

Further details on CoPIC and the working groups, and a copy of this report, are provided at www.durhamtogether.com/comprehensive-plan.