



Town of Carlisle

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Office of

PLANNING BOARD

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MINUTES MEETING OF NOV. 22, 1993

Chair Ernstoff called the meeting to order at 8:09. Board members present were Duscha, Chaput, Yanofsky and Hughes; also present were Tara Hengeveld, Cindy Nock and Wayne Davis, who had been facilitators on Community Day, and Mike Benfield and Bill Holland. There were no minutes available for the Nov. 15 meeting; bills were approved as presented.

Town Hall Space: Ernstoff reported that the committee which had been formed to consider the Congregational Church/Fox land/building proposal has been asked to broaden its charge to consider whether the Town might be willing to give up the Banta-Davis land for the Church, its land, and some part of the Malcolm land, and further, to consider all other possible sites for a Town Hall.

Community Day Debriefing: There seemed to be a general agreement among participants who had contacted Chaput and Duscha that the small group discussions went well, raising many thoughtful ideas, but that the double group discussions were too short and had too many participants to allow effective winnowing and consensus. Therefore, in the rush to finish, some of the more complex ideas were passed by entirely and some of the ideas which were placed on the final lists were overly homogenized in order to become acceptable quickly. Duscha assured one caller that the final selection round, which the caller felt might be invalid as a result of the rushed discussion, was not meant to eliminate a large number of ideas, but to winnow out a few of the least feasible ones. The facilitators agreed with the general comments mentioned above. Davis mentioned that the small groups worked effectively to generate ideas and to educate participants, but that larger groups (like the double groups) cannot refine ideas effectively. He felt, therefore, that the large group discussion was not effective, and that we might take the ideas of the small groups, arrange them in categories, continue to educate people, and eventually come back with another Community Day for the purpose of winnowing and consensus building. He later suggested that if we use the small group lists as we review the double group lists and tabulate the green cards we might get a rather accurate picture anyway. Benfield commented that his double group was composed of two small groups which had worked on different levels; as a result, their double group interaction was difficult. Nock felt that it was an excellent exercise even if imperfect; the small group discussion was very educational. If people focused too much on bike paths (which was mentioned by others as an example of the inability of the double groups to reach consensus on enough important

items) then at least they discovered that their assumptions - that they share a common definition of bike paths- were wrong.

Ernstoff felt the lists consisted of goals again, rather than ideas for implementation.

Hughes thought that goals and concepts always overlap no matter how discussion is structured, and that the very fact that ideas have been repeated probably indicates that they are important to people.

The Board and the four Community Day participants then sorted the green cards by final lists of the double groups, I through III, and then by individual concept within the group; they then reviewed these to see if there were ideas which all three, or even two, of the groups shared, and grouped the cards according to those concepts. The P.A. will enter these into the computer and prepare a report for the Board. All work sheets, lists, and green cards will be saved as well.

The Board discussed what the goal for Town Meeting should be; there was some agreement that the preparation of a document outlining the results of Community Day and our subsequent research on the possibilities for implementation, which would provide a context for future regulation and bylaw changes, would be a reasonable achievement for this year. The issues of growth limitation, open space protection, cluster and the provision of assistance to the elderly seemed at first review to be the major emphasis of the Community Day's participants; the Board will begin to review possibilities in those areas. Although the Board had originally planned to conduct one more round of concept selection by mail, the concerns raised about the effectiveness of the double group and final concept selection processes left the Board unsure whether to go ahead with the mail-in process.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25.

Sandy Bayne, Planning Assistant