



# Town of Poughkeepsie

1 Overocker Road  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

845-485-3600 Phone  
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**Date:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019

**Time:** 5:00 PM

**Location:** Town Hall – 1 Overocker Road

**Purpose:** Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting #8

**Comprehensive Plan Review Committee Attendance:** Bill Carlos (absent), Ann Shershin, Jeffrey Renihan, David Silver (absent), Yvonne Laube, Carl Whitehead, Maribeth Rubenstein, James Challey, Daniel Salvatore

**Town Staff Attendance:** Mike Welti, Kristen Gaynor

**Members of the Public Attendance:** Doreen Tignanelli, Jim Beretta, Brian Dimisko

| AGENDA ITEM                               | NOTES   | TASK |
|---|---|------|
| <b>Welcome and Agenda Review</b>          | Ms. Shershin called the meeting to order. Mr. Welti asked that the Discussion Topic: Fire Departments be the first item on the agenda.  | N/A  |
| <b>Discussion Topic: Fire Departments</b> | <p>For the benefit of the Fire Department Chiefs, Mr. Welti provided a brief overview about what it is the CPRC is tasked with doing and he noted that the committee is interested in learning more about particular topics that are important to the future growth and development of the Town. Mr. Welti then asked the Fire Department Chiefs to introduce themselves and to provide the CPRC with information about each of their fire departments.</p> <p>Chief Jeffrey Renihan<br/><i>New Hamburg Fire Department</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Covers approximately 5 square miles</li> <li>▪ 1 station</li> <li>▪ Department is comprised of all volunteers</li> <li>▪ Not much vacant land left for growth within district</li> </ul> <p>Chief William Steenbergh<br/><i>Arlington Fire Department</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Covers approximately 22 square miles</li> <li>▪ 4 stations</li> <li>▪ Department is comprised of 74 career firefighters, 1 civilian paramedic, and 50 volunteers</li> <li>▪ 28 of the career firefighters are paramedics and the rest are EMTs</li> <li>▪ Areas in the Town that may impact AFD with ability to grow or be developed include Salt Point Turnpike, Rochdale, and areas along Route 9 that are currently vacant/commercial</li> </ul> | N/A  |

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|                                  | <p>Chief Chris Maeder<br/><i>Fairview Fire Department</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Covers approximately 5 square miles with approximately 3.3 square miles of the district falling within the Town of Poughkeepsie</li> <li>▪ Approximately 55% of this district is off of the tax rolls</li> <li>▪ Department houses paid and volunteer staff</li> <li>▪ Approximately 20 career personnel with at least 4 on shift 24/7</li> <li>▪ Department is outgrowing the aging Violet Avenue fire station and therefore working on plans to build a new facility immediately north of the existing firehouse</li> </ul> <p>An informal discussion ensued, with members of the CPRC asking questions and Fire Department Chiefs responding. There were several recurring themes as a result of the discussion including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The trend toward walkable communities still needs to accommodate the necessary emergency access for vehicles and equipment</li> <li>▪ Some larger non-taxable institutions contribute to Fire Districts annually; others do not – for example Marist and Dutchess Community College contribute to Fairview Fire Department whereas Vassar does not contribute to Arlington Fire Department</li> <li>▪ False alarms and their impacts on Fire Department resources</li> <li>▪ Volunteers – numbers dropping locally and nationally and is a long-term issue</li> <li>▪ Communication in plan reviews from start to finish could be improved between planning department, building department and the fire districts – standard map notes for the fire department to be enforced and not forgotten about</li> <li>▪ Development of a sprinkler ordinance for the Town</li> <li>▪ The calls fire districts are responding to are largely EMS related</li> <li>▪ Education costs are high for fire department training in order to house qualified candidates and wages are low resulting in low volunteerism in the Town and everywhere</li> <li>▪ PILOTS place burden on the fire districts</li> </ul> |  |
| <p><b>Committee Business</b></p> | <p><i>Grant Applications</i><br/>The Town was awarded the Hudson River Valley Greenway Council Compact Grant for \$20,000 on 9/12/18 and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Climate Smart Communities Grant for \$45,000 on 12/18/18.</p> <p><i>Consultant Procurement</i><br/>Staff are continuing to work on a draft request for proposals (RFP), but due to the nature of the grant recipient guidelines, the process for issuing the RFP will be slowed, as contracts with NYS are developed, reviewed, and signed. Critical</p>  | <p><i>Staff to work with DEC to complete contract documents and will continue preparing a draft RFP/RFQ.</i></p> |

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|                       | <p>language will be taken from the contracts and utilized in the RFP. Staff look forward to moving this process ahead as efficiently as possible.</p> <p>When the time comes, the proposal review subcommittee will review RFP responses. The subcommittee will include Bill Carlos, Ann Shershin, Maribeth Rubenstein, and Dan Salvatore.</p>   |  |
| <b>GIS Mapping</b>    | <p>The Town has been working with the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development in order to obtain updated Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping for the Comprehensive Plan update. The County has provided a revised set of draft mapping per Town staff comments, received November 2018. Draft maps were placed on the CPRC website following the November CPRC meeting.</p>  | <p><i>Members of the community and CPRC members to submit any comments pertaining to mapping via the CPRC email.</i></p> |
| <b>Next Steps</b>     | <p>The next CPRC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 5:00 PM at Town Hall.</p> <p>Project Website:<br/><a href="http://www.townofpoughkeepsie.com/planning/cprc/index.html">http://www.townofpoughkeepsie.com/planning/cprc/index.html</a></p> <p>CPRC Email:<br/><a href="mailto:CPRC@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov">CPRC@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An automated email response has been generated for when members of the public submit comments to the CPRC email.</li> </ul>  | <p><i>Town staff to work with CPRC to identify the Discussion Topic for the April 24, 2019 CPRC meeting.</i></p>         |
| <b>Public Comment</b> | <p>Jim Beretta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A former AFD commissioner</li> <li>▪ PILOT impacts on the fire districts are significant – only revenue is tax levy</li> <li>▪ Challenging for fire departments to plan for the future when new developments are proposed in an area previously not ever requiring emergency services</li> <li>▪ If nothing else, development projects should still commit to paying fire district taxes, as the district still responds to emergency calls in project areas that are partaking in PILOT programs</li> <li>▪ The Landings – a lot of EMS calls</li> <li>▪ False alarms are a drain on fire department resources</li> </ul> <p>Doreen Tignanelli</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vassar College emergency calls still include calls related to smoking on campus and cooking in dorm rooms</li> <li>▪ PILOTS – like school districts, fire districts see these as problematic</li> <li>▪ Call response includes many staff and vehicles/equipment from AFD</li> <li>▪ Developer David Silver still missing from the CPRC meetings</li> </ul> | <p>N/A</p>   |

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|                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Need to do a better job at protecting natural resources – for example clearing old Hudson Heritage trees versus planting ornamental trees</li></ul> <p>Brian Dimisko</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Works for Central Hudson</li><li>▪ Application currently before the Planning Board</li><li>▪ Happy to attend these and similar meetings to be informed about the community Central Hudson is working in</li><li>▪ Great information from the Fire Departments</li></ul> |     |
| <b>Adjournment</b> | The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.  | N/A |

Thank you,

*Michael A. Welte*

Michael A. Welte, AICP  
Director of Municipal Development

Attachment A  
Meeting Agenda



**Town of Poughkeepsie**  
**Comprehensive Plan Review Committee (CPRC)**  
**Committee Meeting #8**  
**Wednesday, March 27, 2019 @ 5:00 PM**  
**Town Hall Meeting Room**

**Agenda**

- I. Welcome and Agenda Review
  
- II. Committee Business
  - a. Grant Applications:
    - Hudson River Valley Greenway Council Compact Grant awarded 9/12/18.
    - NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities grant awarded 12/18/18.
      - Staff working with DEC on contract execution
  
  - b. Consultant Procurement:
    - Staff working on a Draft RFP
    - Proposal review subcommittee: Bill Carlos, Ann Shershin, Maribeth Rubenstein, Dan Salvatore
  
- III. Discussion Topic – Fire Districts
  - a. Fairview Fire, Arlington Fire, New Hamburg Fire
  
- IV. Next Steps
  - a. Next CPRC Meeting:
    - Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 5:00 PM
  
- V. Public Comment
  
- VI. Adjournment

**Comprehensive Plan Review webpage:**

<http://townofpoughkeepsie.com/planning/cprc/index.html>

**Committee email address:**

[CPRC@TownofPoughkeepsie-ny.gov](mailto:CPRC@TownofPoughkeepsie-ny.gov)