

City of Cold Spring Community Conversations Project: Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Summary

May 16, 2022, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Meeting Objectives

- Review and discuss elements of the engagement plan
- Review and discuss protocol questions (for community conversations)

In Attendance

Ad Hoc Committee Members Carol Sell, Patty Keeling, Jane Conrad, Chantal Oeschle, Alissa Brickman, Jennifer Wirz, Wendy Drontle, Ron Ferguson, Bill Molitor and Kelly Springer. City Administrator Brigid Murphy, Council Person Fran Ramler, Council Person Mike Fall and Mayor Dave Heinen were also in attendance. The meeting was facilitated by DeYoung Consulting Services.

Welcome and Introductions

Karen DeYoung of DeYoung Consulting Services opened the meeting. The group introduced themselves.

The group reviewed the following ground rules:

- Listen actively -- respect others when they are talking.
- Speak from your own experience or perspective instead of generalizing ("I" instead of "they," "we," and "you").
- Respect the truth in everyone's perspective and stories
- Do not be afraid to respectfully challenge one another by asking questions but refrain from personal attacks -- focus on ideas.
- Participate to the fullest of your ability -- community growth depends on the inclusion of every individual voice. In this context, we are all equals. All perspectives are welcomed and valued.
- Be conscious of body language and nonverbal responses -- they can be as disrespectful as words.
- Assume positive intent while striving for positive impact.

Discussion of Guiding Research Questions

The subcommittee had previously brainstormed guiding research questions that will ensure we gather key learnings to help Cold Spring succeed.

The group reviewed the drafted guiding research questions and discussed the following prompts:

- Which of these guiding questions feels particularly compelling to you?
- What else would you like to learn from this project, if anything, that is not listed as a guiding question yet?

The group liked the questions and no changes were made.

Discussion of Stakeholders

The subcommittee reviewed the stakeholder list that was generated by the subcommittee. As they reviewed this list, the group discussed the additional questions:

- Whose voices or perspectives are missing from this list, if any, who should be included in this project?

The following stakeholders were identified as additions to the list:

- Appointed officials
 - Fire Department
 - Cold Spring Brewery
 - Cold Spring Granite company
 - One person suggested splitting the businesses in to “small” and “large” business
 - Care Givers/Childcare
 - Assumption Court
- What individuals could potentially be good conduits or “connectors” to each stakeholder group?

The group identified people who can help connect us with applicable stakeholder groups.

Discussion of Conversation Protocol

The DeYoung team had drafted questions for the community conversations based on the guiding research questions (discussed above). These were presented to the group and the group was asked to provide feedback by discussing the following:

- Which of these questions feel particularly impactful?
- Which questions feel less relevant or less impactful?
- What other questions should we ask stakeholders so that we gather key learnings that will move us forward as a community?

The group offered suggestions to change the wording of some questions, reorder others, add additional questions or eliminate others.

Close and Next Steps

Next steps are as follows:

- Call for next subcommittee meeting
- Revise the conversation protocol
- Draft a world café protocol
- Revise the engagement plan with connectors/conduits
- Begin the outreach communications