

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE

April 12, 2017

7:00 p.m. Town Hall

Present: Timothy Thompson, Chair
Peter Curry
Elizabeth Goodspeed
Kevin Guimond
Penelope A. Jordan
Sara W. Lennon
Susana Measelle Hubbs
Victoria Volent

Absent: Harvey Rosenfeld

Also present: Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Thompson opened the meeting and called for public comment. No one chose to speak, so the public comment was closed. Mr. Thompson introduced Kevin Guimond as the new Committee member.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 3, 2017 were unanimously approved.

REVIEW PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY PROPOSALS

The discussion of the proposals began with a difference of opinion about the need for statistical significance. Many of the committee members were opposed to having a telephone survey. They said they either no longer have a landline, or that they would not answer it if called. Ms. Volent was adamant that they need to have randomness in order to have a statistically significant survey. Mr. Thompson agreed that they would get flak if they didn't have a statistically significant survey.

The Committee decided to interview three of the proposals. They will interview Chris Chop, Community Opportunities Group and Kelly Myers, RKM. They also decided to hold an extra meeting for those interviews on May 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION: Why are the members here.

Ms. Volent said she is passionate about public policy, and she is looking forward to discovering what the citizens want in their opinions.

Ms. Lennon said she too is excited to hear from the citizens. She hopes the plan is bold and aspirational.

Ms. Goodspeed said that for her it is a way to get involved before it comes to the level of the Town Council.

Ms. Measelle Hubbs said this is what being in a small town is about. She wants to be sure that the schools are not lost in this plan.

Mr. Guimond said the town is at a crossroads. Half of this town is owned by one family and we have to respect that. He wants affordable housing that is not apartments, but ownership.

Ms. Jordan likes the journey. She said the old families needed to embrace the newcomers. She wants it to be affordable, an inclusive town, not exclusive.

Mr. Curry loves the town with its open space and parks. He wants to accommodate more people with housing for young families and the elderly. He'd like to hear from the town staff about what is working or not working.

Mr. Thompson said when he moved here 30 years ago he was told to go to Cape Elizabeth for the schools. He wants this to be bold, even though he is a cautious person.

DRAFT SCHEDULE

Ms. Jordan asked about the process of how this would work.

Ms. O'Meara replied that she would draft a chapter and include all the data required by the state. Then the Committee would make the changes they wished to make and Ms. O'Meara would make those changes and bring them back to the Committee the following month. If further revisions were asked for, it could be put aside until a few months down the road, in order not to keep working on one chapter for many months. Near the end of the process, the Committee would revisit the chapters they have set aside. The Committee has the ability to revise this proposed schedule and to revise the structure of each chapter. When you make goals, they need to be measurable, not just a vague statement.

She also urged the Committee to get the Public Participation Consultant in motion as soon as possible, and get the Public Opinion Survey onboard as soon as possible.

Mr. Guimond said he thinks we need to have a "parking lot" for a chapter that has already been before the committee twice, so they don't keep revisiting the same topics each time. They would take up the issues in the "parking lot" at a later time.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS

Mr. Thompson said he had been at a FOAA training meeting with the Town Manager within the past week. He asked Ms. O'Meara to circulate a handout from the session. They passed out the summary.

The committee made a plan of the items for the next two meetings. On May 3, they will interview the three applicants for the public opinion survey. Each Committee member is to bring in their questions, and after the interviews they are to make their choice of the applicants.

On May 10, they are to work on the draft public participation plan with Ms. Colby-George. They are to be sure that there are plans for other interactions besides meetings. They want to know what has worked in other towns. They want to get together a list of groups to bring into the discussions, and to be sure to keep the schools vibrant and prominent in the town.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one came forward to speak, so the public comment period was closed.

The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiromi Dolliver,
Minutes Secretary