

TOWN OF CAPE ELIZABETH
MINUTES OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE

December 1, 2005

7:00 pm Town Hall

Present: Barbara Schenkel, Chair
Jay Chatmas
Elaine Moloney
Frank Strout
Julia Beckett
Maryann Lynch

John Herrick
Skip Murray
Marybeth Richardson
Anne Swift-Kayatta
Bob Dodd

Also present was Michael McGovern, Town Manager, and Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner.

Mrs. Schenkel opened the meeting and held a brief discussion concerning the vision statement. Comments included the statement should be a short paragraph, easy to read and understand, concise.

TELEPHONE SURVEY

MaryEllen Fitzgerald, Critical Insights, gave an overview of the survey, and the perspectives of the public's feedback. She stated there were phenomenal response rates with very low refusal rates as far as answering the survey. The survey itself was actually 18 minutes in length. The overall satisfaction rate with the Town was very high, with the highest marks going to the transfer station, Parks and recreation, and police protection. Areas that the public felt needed improvement included streetlights, sewage disposal and storm drainage.

The survey also indicated that preservation of the wetlands, farmland, and retaining the Town's rural character ranked high in importance. Of lesser importance included improving the Town Center, and attracting new development.

Ms. Fitzgerald stated the survey indicated that the benefits of living in Cape Elizabeth included its proximity to the ocean, the natural environment, and physical attractiveness. The tax level was not considered a benefit.

Other areas of interest include:

- ❖ 50% of residents encourage housing less than \$300,000.
- ❖ 8 out of 10 residents feel there is sufficient access to coast, ponds & streams
- ❖ 60% of respondents feel there are dangerous intersections; with the most interest being at the Scott Dyer, Shore, and Rt. 77 intersection and the Rt 77 and High School intersection.
- ❖ 49% wanted traffic lights, 49% did not.
- ❖ 37% thought road repair was needed, especially on Spurwink Rd.
- ❖ 71% felt there were adequate existing retail and service establishments.

- ❖ 63% are in favor of regionalization, favoring Fire & Rescue (49%), Police (39%) and Public Works (29%).

Ms. Fitzgerald stated that the survey was overwhelmingly positive about the community. She was surprised about the lack of negativity. People who had lived in the town the longest had the highest favorability towards town services.

Citizens indicated that there would be some level of support for increase taxes to benefit biking trails, public education, and walking trails.

There was discussion concerning road repair and the roads that are in most need. It was also determined some roads were in more need of repair during different seasons.

Mrs. Schenkel questioned Ms. Fitzgerald concerning the number of people surveyed. She had understood that there would be 400 citizens interviewed and the survey reflects 303 respondents.

Ms. Fitzgerald stated that that could be a typographical error and she would get back to the Committee with that information. She also stated that if there were only 303 answers the survey would still be valid.

Mrs. Schenkel thanked Ms. Fitzgerald. There were a number of items that the members wanted cross-tabulations on and Ms. Fitzgerald confirmed she would get those to the Committee.

VISION STATEMENT

Discussion was held concerning the vision statement and was determined that it would not be introduced at the Public Forum. Questions could be fielded at the Public Forum asking participants how they envision the Town in 5 years.

PUBLIC FORUM

It was determined that Ms. O'Meara would give a brief introduction to the Comprehensive Plan after the Committee introduced themselves. Mrs. Schenkel will give an explanation of why the Town does a Comprehensive Plan. It was determined that the agenda would be televised on the local cable channel; however, the meeting itself would not be televised.

The next meeting will be the Public Forum on December 8th, 2005. The Committee also agreed to cancel the scheduled December 22, 2005 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Palanza

