

Comprehensive Plan Committee  
Minutes from Meeting of March 3, 2021

Present were: Jonathan Hall, Co-Chair; John Gray, Co-Chair; Allen Kratz; Bud Fisher, Nancy Sanford; Sarah Cox; Jackie Pike; and John Kimball  
Friend of the CPC: Phyllis Cox  
Jarod Farn-Guillette, Planner with the Hancock County Planning Commission  
Debbie Grimmig, Secretary.

Jonathan Hall convened the meeting via Zoom. He previously distributed via e-mail the agenda, minutes of the 2/17/2021 meeting, latest drafts of the Public Facilities section, Housing section and Recreation & Health section. The meeting was posted on the Town website and the public was invited to attend.

1. Discuss steps taken and strategies planned for soliciting public comment on Drafts of Plan (including scheduling where pertinent) – Gayle Clifford sent out an e-mail informing residents that draft sections are on the Town website and the public is encouraged to review them and provide comments. Some Committee members received the e-mail, but others did not. Jonathan Hall will forward a copy to the Committee members. Copies of the drafts and copies of the e-mail are also available at the Town Office. Gayle Clifford also placed a notice in the Weekly Packet. Committee members are encouraged to forward suggestions to Jonathan Hall of other ways to notify residents of information posted on the website. Jonathan Hall has received one response from the community already.
2. Discuss status of sections in progress – Housing, Recreation & Health, and Historical & Archaeological, and Public Facilities – Jonathan Hall e-mailed these sections to the Committee.

Historical and Archaeological section -- Some Committee members e-mailed comments on this section, which will be incorporated into the next draft.

Recreation & Health section -- Jarod Farn-Guillette demonstrated the interactive GIS map on the recreation facilities and open spaces. The maps will be color-coded for the different types of recreation facilities as well as types of open spaces (private land, state-owned and town-owned properties and lands in the Heritage Trust). The map will also include information on how the public may gain access the open spaces. Committee members should contact Jarod Farn-Guillette if they have additional information to be included on the map. One version of the map will be in the final plan. Members of the community are interested in being able to walk via paths and trails as an alternative to walking in the roadways. There are many paths that cross the community. There was a suggestion that the Recreation Committee generate maps for these paths and work with private landowners to gain public access.

Housing section – Allen Kratz distributed the Housing section from the Town of Islesboro 2017 Draft Comprehensive Plan. This section ended with a series of questions relative to affordable housing and development; the answers to which may generate options for future development. The questions serve as place holders for discussion after the plan was approved by the State. He suggested that the Committee review these questions to determine if the language would be appropriate for Brooksville’s Comprehensive Plan as the housing issues in the two communities are similar.

Public Facilities section – the Committee jointly developed goals, policies, strategies, and timelines for this section. The overall goal for this section – To advance for the health, safety, and welfare for the Town of Brooksville by providing government services in a fiscally responsible way.

Policy (1) – Ensure the Town House can meet the needs of the public and municipal employees and officials.

Strategy – Expand the Town House to accommodate for increased programming and functions.

Policy (2) Explore staffing/duty options for municipal services and authorities.

Strategy – Explore feasibility of changing from elected to appointed positions/offices. This policy and strategy reflect the need to have flexible options for recruiting personnel, should the Select Board need to go fill critical vacancies from outside of the community.

Policy (3) -- Explore opportunities for and feasibility of inter-municipal provision of services.

Strategy – Communicate and coordinate with neighboring municipalities on opportunities for cooperation. The Town has set up an account of \$10,000 to pursue inter-local agreements should opportunities become available.

Policy (4) -- Mitigate the amount of waste entering the solid waste stream and reduce municipal costs for garbage disposal.

Strategy – Increase inter-town cooperation to explore alternative options and methods for solid waste disposals. The Town of Brooksville is already engaged in discussions with surrounding municipalities on the provision of joint solid waste disposal services and facilities should the town be unsuccessful in its negotiations with the Surrey Transfer Station.

Policy (4) Ensure that land and equipment required for road maintenance keep pace with evolving needs for road maintenance, repairs and regulations.

Strategy – Research alternative materials and methods and adjust as needed. Monitor and maintain equipment for longevity. \$150,000 has been reserved for a sand/salt shed to accommodate the sand used in a typical winter. The size of the storage shed needed will exceed the lot available. Rather than build-out on a larger lot, the Town is looking into using liquid calcium as opposed to sand and/or salt as the storage requirements are less. Changing to liquid calcium will also necessitate changes to the vehicles. Money is not likely to be available for widening the roads in order to provide improved safety for cyclists and pedestrians. However, this is still a goal and should remain in the plan. It will be addressed in the Transportation section. The Town will research the deeds currently in existence on certain roads that provide for wider roadways.

Policy (5) Ensure fire protection is available and adequate for all residents of Brooksville while not being an overly burdensome tax expense.

Strategy – The Fire Department will work with the Town to communicate all of its needs. The Fire Department purchased the former Grange site in Cape Rosier to meet the needs of the Cape Rosier residents. The Town recognizes that maintaining adequate fire protection will entail additional investment in plant and equipment as well as needing to address the difficulty of basing fire protection solely on volunteers.

Broadband services critical and will have its own section. In addition, it will be addressed in each section where it is relevant.

Jarod Farn-Guillette, John Gray and Jonathan Hall will continue to work on policies and strategies for education and will distribute drafts to the committee.

3. Discuss/edit Marine Resources section – Sarah Cox will share the Marine Resources section with the Harbor Committee, which meets on 3/9/2021. It will be helpful to receive the Harbor Committee’s feedback prior to the CPC’s next meeting on 3/17/2021.
4. Discuss format and strategies for completion of Water Resources, Natural Resources and Agriculture & Forestry sections – Jarod Farn-Guillette will create a template for each section and will fill in the state data. Other information will be provided by the Committee. Bud Fisher will assist with the Natural Resources section. John Kimball will assist with the Water Resources section and Nancy Sanford will work with Jonathan Hall on the Agriculture & Forestry section.
5. Discuss (if time) ways of soliciting public views on housing short of conducting a Survey Monkey questionnaire – Jonathan Hall will informally survey some of the employers in town to see what their employees face for housing issues. Jackie Pike will talk with teachers and others at the school regarding affordable housing challenges.
6. Public Comment – No members of the public were in attendance.
7. Schedule next meeting – Wednesday 3/17/2021 at 6:30 pm.