

Comprehensive Plan Committee
Minutes from Meeting of May 26, 2021

Present were: Jonathan Hall, Co-Chair; John Gray, Co-Chair; Allen Kratz; John Kimball; Bud Fisher; Nancy Sanford; and Sarah Cox.

Doug Cowan and Kathy Bonk, Brooksville Broadband Committee

Jarod Farn-Guillette, Planner with the Hancock County Regional Planning Commission

Debbie Grimmig, Secretary

Jonathan Hall convened the meeting via Zoom. He previously distributed by e-mail the agenda and minutes of the 5/12/2021 meeting. A digital version of the current land use map was distributed to the Committee members and paper copies may be picked up at the Town House. The agenda was posted on the website and the public was invited to attend.

1. Jonathan Hall proposed a resolution thanking Secretary Debbie Grimmig for her work on behalf of the Comprehensive Plan Committee. She appreciates their kind comments and thoughtfulness and enjoys working for the Committee and the community.
2. Discuss status of the following Plan sections in progress:
 - Housing – Allen Kratz will reach out to representatives of the Town of Stonington for information on their Workforce Housing Programs.
 - Public Facilities & Capital Investment – Jarod Farn-Guillette continues to work with John Gray on the financial information.
 - Marine Resources – Sarah Cox has completed this section with the exception of data on marine licenses. Jarod Farn-Guillette will obtain the missing information from the Bureau of Marine Resources.
 - Current Land Use – Jonathan Hall and Jarod Farn-Guillette as well as some Committee members met twice with the Select Board to review the current land use map. They compared the map to tax records and believe the version is accurate. This update has been distributed to the Committee. Jonathan Hall asked the Committee to review the map and contact him if they note any inaccuracies.
3. Discuss and continue editing draft of the Broadband section – Jonathan Hall reviewed the draft with Kathy Bonk, Doug Cowan and Abbie McMillen of the Broadband Committee. The latest draft, dated 5/26/2021, incorporates their changes. The Committee reviewed this draft through screen sharing and made a number of edits to improve clarity of the issues, especially for community members who may not be familiar with the technical aspects of internet service and options. Kathy Bonk fact-checked the names and years of the federal legislation that includes funding for internet infrastructure. Jarod Farn-Guillette will do a document search for the term “high-speed” to make sure the term is hyphenated. The Broadband Committee endorses fiber optics as the best alternative for the community. The Committee added four new goals. They are:
 - Provide technical assistance regarding internet usage to any interested community member.
 - Continue to seek and secure outside funding for internet related education and technical assistance.

- Seek and secure all government and non-governmental (philanthropic) funding to expand high-speed internet service.
- Seek and secure the benefit of high-speed internet access on a regional basis at the lowest possible cost.

Due to thunderstorms in the area which affected internet service, the meeting was adjourned before the discussion on future land use.

4. Next meeting – Wednesday June 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm.