

Comprehensive Plan Committee
Minutes from Meeting on October 13, 2021

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

Friends of the CPC: Abbie McMillen

Jarod Farn-Guillette, Planner, Hancock County Planning Commission

Debbie Grimmig, Secretary

Jonathan Hall convened the meeting via Zoom. The minutes of the 9/29/2021 meeting were previously distributed by e-mail. The meeting was posted on the Town website and the public was invited to attend.

1. Finalize logistics and presentation strategy for 10/14/2021 7:00 pm community meeting at the Community Center – Jonathan Hall will pick up the key and will open the Community Center. He made a sign that masks are recommended and Deb Grimmig will provide masks. Abbie McMillen has the laptop and projector. Abbie McMillen has all of the information for the meeting – Complete versions of the plan, chapter summaries and FAQ's. There are 8 complete copies of the plan for the audience to reference. The whole plan is loaded into the laptop and specific sections can be referenced on the screen for the audience.

The Weekly Packet mistakenly wrote that the meeting is a Zoom meeting as opposed to an in-person meeting. Abbie McMillen included text in the posters that it will be an in-person meeting and Gayle Clifford's e-mail of 10/13 stated both meetings are in person. At this point, it is not be easy to convert the meeting to a Zoom meeting. The acoustics are poor and it is a complicated process. Special equipment is needed in order to make a Zoom meeting effective. In order for the meeting to be done well, it has to be done professionally and no one on the Committee has this experience.

Jonathan Hall asked John Gray if he has reviewed the draft letter prepared by Deb Grimmig on the upcoming community meetings. He had not seen the e-mail with the letter. John Gray will review the draft and it can be modified for distribution prior to the meeting on 11/4.

Jonathan Hall requested the Committee members to be available at 6:00 pm to help set up the chairs, tables, projector and screen.

Meeting Presentation – John Gray will welcome the members of the public and will say a few introductory remarks. He will also note the importance of the plan in light of providing better opportunities for obtaining grant money to fund projects. The audience will be given the opportunity to ask questions. If none, then the Committee will review the recommendations in the plan. This can be done for each chapter or addressing those areas of the plan that the audience is interested in. Jonathan Hall expects the next meeting at the BES will unfold the same way.

The Committee thanked Abbie McMillen for her preparation of the informational materials. The summaries are engaging, inviting, readable and with the pictures, look great.

2. Discuss any further public relations and publicity issues – Members of the Committee have been reaching out to key community members about the Comp Plan. Some people have indicated that the Comp Plan is a necessary step and are fine with it going forward. It is a very busy time of year and people have not had time to be more involved in the process. This may be a case of “no news is good news” and people are satisfied with the process. Neither Jonathan Hall nor John Gray have heard back from Don Condon, member of the Planning Board, on his thoughts on the Plan. Jonathan Hall will contact Chris Raphael to solicit his thoughts. Other people to contact include Bruce Stahnke, David Zachow and Annie Guppy. John Gray said that the Select Board recently established a Housing Committee. He will appoint Bruce Stahnke if he is interested. Other people who might also be interested in serving on this committee include Chris Raphael and Eric Chase.

Jonathan Hall asked the Committee to contact him with names of other opinion leaders in the community to whom he may reach out to discuss the Comp Plan.

The public engagement chronology will need to be updated with all of the recent activity before the draft is submitted on 12/1/2021. Deb Grimmig generated a list of public outreach activities that have taken place since the chronology was originally drafted. Jarod Farn-Guillette was copied on this list.

3. Discuss logistics and presentation at Brooksville Elementary School – The Committee is enthusiastic about the possibility of working with the students at the Elementary School. This was originally suggested by Hal Snow. Having students involved is important because they are the future citizens. Jonathan Hall and Jarod Farn-Guillette have had some very positive experiences with school projects. Jonathan Hall suggested working with the students on drafting a questionnaire about the town they grew up in. What about your community did you like and what did you not like; what would you like to see more of or less of? The responses could be tallied like a regular survey.

Jarod Farn-Guillette suggested an exercise using a base map of the town and asking the students to map out the current infrastructure and then what they wanted for an infrastructure. What would they like to see in the future? It might include more sports fields or trails. Where would they put these facilities if they could create their own village? It is a lesson in geography, village government, economics etc. Another suggestion including the students taking on an actual project, surveying, mapping and working in the field on the actual project. For example, restoration of the Walker Pond Watershed takes a lot of volunteer hands-on work. Work includes taking down beaver dams and tracing the river. Some of this work might be safe for students to do.

Tony Ferrara has done some similar work on the peninsula.

If there is a teacher willing to devote some class time, then Jarod Farn-Guillette would like to partner up with the teacher to work on a project that is tangible, relatable and concrete.

4. Public Comment – No member of the public was in attendance.
5. Schedule next meeting – Wednesday October 27, 2021 at 6:30 pm.