

Comprehensive Planning Committee Minutes

April 19, 2023

Present: Paula Clark, Jessica Cobb (KVCOG), Eric Dyer, Jessica Gorton, Elaine Katz, Matt Nazar, Dennis Price

Absent: Jeffrey Carlson, Chris Cheney, Greg Durgin, Greg Leimbach

Jessica G. called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. in person at the Town Office and via Zoom.

MINUTES

Paula had one change for the March 29 minutes. After that was made, Dennis moved that the minutes be approved. Paula seconded. All approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Final Draft Plan Review

The final draft plan was sent to the committee via email. Jessica C. said there are not a lot of changes to most of the plan with the exception of the Future Land Use chapter. She did add PDFs of some maps.

Paula said she had a few changes for the Future Land Use chapter, and she noted one section that was confusing that was corrected. She and Jessica G. are going to connect to discuss the last few final changes.

Eric said that Select Board member Kathryn Woodsum devoted a great deal of time to reading the entire plan for content, grammar, syntax and punctuation, and made those corrections. The committee noted how much they appreciated her efforts.

Eric also noted that there is some confusion among residents about the difference between open space and land that is conserved through easements or other official processes. He said he was going to talk to Jerry Bley and address that issue in the appropriate sections.

Other than a few maps and any changes to Future Land Use the draft plan is complete.

Dennis moved to accept the final draft of the conservation plan as amended. Matt seconded. All approved.

The Select Board will need to have the plan before the end of the month. They will be reading it for final approval the first week of May with a vote on May 8 before the document is officially posted for the upcoming June vote.

Public Information and Education

Eric said it's important that we continue to provide a steady flow of information to counteract efforts to distort the purpose of the plan. Dennis suggested that it might be useful to present a comparison of the plans.

Jessica C. suggested that it would be good highlight the Rural Resource District, which was suggested in the old plan but never followed through.

Paula said it might be helpful to present some of the key points of each chapter.

Eric said he'd like to see open space and recreation highlighted.

Jessica C. suggested making a list of the major changes to highlight at the meeting. Dennis said he thought it would be useful to present it visually, and the committee discussed how to present the plan. Paula said she'd like to see a presentation in addition to any printed matter or Power Points.

It was noted that the residents need to know that this is the final plan and not an opportunity to make suggestions for changes. The plan as it stands will be voted up or down in June.

Jessica G. suggested the information be divided into chunks and each chunk presented by a different committee member. After some discussion, the following was decided: There will be an Introduction by Jessica explaining the purpose of the plan and process of the planning, followed by Public Input - Surveys and Results presented by Eric. Dennis will discuss the chapters that haven't changed, which include Architectural and Historical, Transportation and Public Services. Greg L. will cover Natural, Agricultural and Rural Economic Resources, and Matt will discuss Community Profile, Local Economy and Housing. Paula will close out with Once and Future Land Use.

Eric said there will be a printed tabloid-style explanation printed to send out to voters. Eric said because of absentee voting it needs to be ready six weeks before the election.

There will be a hard copy of the plan at the Town Office and at the library, information on the town website and on its Facebook page. Jessica G. wrote something for the Kennebec Journal, but it has not yet appeared.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting on May 17 will be a public information meeting to present the plan to residents. Before that the committee will approve the maps and any other changes via email.

Dennis moved for adjournment; Elaine seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow