

Comprehensive Planning Committee Minutes

March 15, 2023

Present: Paula Clark, Jessica Cobb (KVCOG), Greg Durgin, Eric Dyer, Jessica Gorton, Elaine Katz

Absent: Jeffrey Carlson, Chris Cheney, Matt Nazar, Greg Leimbach, Dennis Price

Jessica G. called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in person at the Town Office and via Zoom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eric reported that he put together a page on the website to provide an easy access spot for residents to keep up to date on what is happening with the Comp Plan. It includes information from the minutes, public hearings, surveys, the draft mission statement, and other sources into one place. It can be found at <https://www.readfieldmaine.org/comprehensive-plan-committee/pages/2023-comp-plan-update-documents>

The survey will close to new inputs on March 17.

MINUTES

There was not a quorum, so February's minutes were not voted on. Holly will resend the minutes before the next meeting and will include a correction Greg D. offered.

OLD BUSINESS

Public Meeting Review

About 25 people showed up in person for the meeting, along with some on Zoom. A wide variety of opinions were offered. Eric said he thought it was very useful to hear the various views. A compilation of the comments attendees offered are available on the website.

Chapter Policies and Strategies

Jessica C. said she has inputted and combined all of the comments received from the committee members, various committees and other interested parties. Paula noted that some of the things she had originally thought would go in Future Land Use actually are already mentioned in other chapters. She sees the Future Land Use chapter as being primarily about the growth areas and zoning.

The committee discussed the best way to present the goals and strategies, as they are the thing that most residents are interested in. It was agreed that the chapters should be numbered. The Vision Statement will lead the Comp Plan and not be repeated in subsequent chapters.

Jessica C. noted that the Future Land Use chapter is different from the other chapters, which are mostly a statement of the current status and previous accomplishments, whereas the Future Land Use is a plan. Discussion was held about how often the Select Board will review the implementation of the plan. Paula said that Future Land Use needs to be reviewed more frequently than the entire Comp Plan.

The committee completed a final review of all the remaining policies and strategies for all the chapters except Future Land Use. The focus was on fine tuning and clarifying the wording.

Future Land Use Chapter

Paula had a number of changes for this chapter and reviewed them with the committee. Due to technical difficulties, she did not have a computer copy with her today, but said she would send her changes to Jessica C. for inclusion in a final copy.

The committee reviewed the chapter thoroughly, discussing some issues, such as density, economic development and limiting taxes at length.

NEW BUSINESS

Prep for March 22 Budget and Warrant Public Hearing (FY 2024)

The Comp Plan is the last item on the warrant. Eric said the presentation will be brief, with an explanation of what the plan is, why it's important, what has been done so far, and how much effort has been put into the process.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be March 29, with plans to cover the Future Land Use chapter, a full draft plan review with maps and a summary of community survey results.

Paula asked about the maps. Eric said new maps are unlikely to happen this year, but there is an updated parcel map from April 1, 2022, that will be included.

Paula moved for adjournment; Greg D. seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow