

Comprehensive Plan Review  
Open Meeting ~ WMHS Library  
July 10, 2019 ~ 6pm

**Minutes**

In attendance: Kim Andersson, Mary Ellen Barnes, Judy Flanagan, Anne Leslie, Katie Bryant, Zach Gray, James Kochan, Kim Dolce, Katherine Martin-Savage, John O'Connell, Carla Dickstein, Jamie Sonia, Colleen Gilliam, and Christopher Juntura.

6:00, Kim Andersson called the meeting to order.

Introductions; the group went around the table, introduced themselves and said why they are interested in the comprehensive review process.

Andersson made a presentation: Introduction to Comprehensive Plan. Presentation was followed by an around the table comment period. Carla Dickstein said the new plan should include information on demographics and broadband. John O'Connell said it is important to start with the strategic planning because people can get burnt out or bored doing the inventory first. James Kochan commented that sprawl is an important issue and that we have not implemented our comprehensive plan on route 1. Anne Leslie wondered if we would have professional help with the process. Mary Ellen Barnes shared some financial information relating to comprehensive planning in Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, Newcastle, and Damariscotta to illustrate hiring out a full process (Newcastle at \$140,000) to doing it on their own with one facilitator for a group meeting (Damariscotta at \$10,000).

Overview of 2008 Wiscasset Comprehensive Plan - the sections of the plan were reviewed. There was discussion about completing the inventory section before or after the planning section. Anne Leslie and Mary Ellen Barnes both said that it will be challenging to do strategic planning work without an updated inventory. Kim Andersson said that a lot of the review/update materials necessary had already been provided by the State. Mary Ellen said there was a Master Plan that should be looked at so we do not need to reinvent the wheel.

Appoint a representative local planning committee -- The group brainstormed types of people to be included on the official planning committee, which should be appointed by the Select Board. In addition to these recommendations:

- A member of the Board of Selectmen or Town Council.
- Representatives of other local boards or agencies.
- Representatives of key town departments, such as fire, police, school, sewer and water district, and recreation.
- Representatives of local businesses, including self-employed people like fishermen, farmers, and real estate professionals.

- Representatives of a local land trust or conservation group.
- People with special interests (environment, day care, housing, historic resources, etc.).
- Long-time residents and new residents.
- People with specific skills (foresters, surveyors, attorneys, architects, etc.).
- People with media and public communications experience, when available.
- People who tend to support land use regulation and people who are suspicious of it.

The group came up with:

- Fundraisers
- Bicycle coalitions
- Social services
- Students
- Religious organizations
- Chamber of Commerce
- Public finance people
- Non-resident stakeholders
- Industry leaders

The group generated a list to reach out to and ask for a representative to be nominated to the committee of town departments and community organizations. Katherine Martin-Savage, Mary Ellen Barnes, and James Kochan said we should invite certain people to work on certain topics in the plan.

Prepare a creative citizen participation program - we talked about having people rotate in and out of the process based on what areas of interest they had. We discussed being on the committee versus advising. Katherine Martin-Savage said some people could act in an advisory role without being a committee member. Kim Andersson said she would post all materials for reading, reflecting, and responding on a new webpage that will be linked to the town website and a facebook group so that people can participate from anywhere. Carla Dickstein said some people don't have access to the internet and asked that paper copies be available too.

Identify and organize the resources needed to carry out your information gathering - Kim said have the Original plan and the MPAP data sheets. Mary Ellen thought we could look at other town's plans, like Boothbay.

Make a realistic schedule, including time off -- we talked about the process taking one - two years. After the State approves the plan, the voters must approve the plan. Katherine said we should only bring it to the voters once if possible.