

Town of Bucksport Comprehensive Plan Committee

Meeting of June 08, 2015 7 p.m.

Jewett School Auditorium

Minutes

1. Chairman Jef Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
2. Members Present: Christopher Johnson, Sandra Robshaw, Glenn Findlay, Derik Goodine, Jeff Hammond, Larry Wahl, Jef Fitzgerald, Byron Vinton, Diane O'Connell, Steve Feite, Brian MacDonald, Hans Krichels, Paula Kee, George McLeod, Mary Jane Bush, Valerie Schafner, David Grant, Mark Eastman.
Consultant Present: Tom Martin, Hancock County Regional Planning Commission

Chairman Fitzgerald commented that the Council had recommended an open door policy to increase public participation in the Committee planning process.

3. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. Chairman Fitzgerald commented on the presentation by Cheri Domina at the last meeting. He felt she made a well prepared presentation, giving everyone lots to think about as the Committee goes forward.
 - b. On a motion by Mary Jane Bush, seconded by Byron Vinton, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the May 2015 meeting.
 - i. Chairman Fitzgerald reminded the Committee, the minutes will be posted on the website, as well as important links for other pertinent information.
4. HCPC Introduction/Update by Tom Martin
 - a. Tom Martin asked if the Committee should establish a cut off date. The data will always be changing, as the Plan will always be a snapshot in time. It is important to not get caught up in the details.
Mary Jane Bush spoke of a need to see an update sooner than later, or the Committee will never develop a plan.
 - b. Chairman Fitzgerald explained how the current plan has an inferior layout with many chapters containing irrelevant data. Some of the data can be inserted in the back of the plan. The data channels could be moved to the website as well.
 - c. The reorganization of the Plan drew suggestions:
 - i. Reorganizing Public Facilities and Services- The inventory analysis and the goals and objectives don't match up.
 - ii. The Goals and Objective section was set up better.
 - d. Suggestion: Set up with one Chapter on Utilities, and one Chapter on Public Safety. Chairman Fitzgerald also recommended that the first Chapter be an overview of the Town of Bucksport Government.

5. Public Facilities and Services Review: A continuation of discussions cut short by the Verso mill closing in the autumn of 2014.

Section 5A and 5B need to be updated to the past tense. It should reflect what the Town has accomplished. Mary Jane Bush commented that the summaries already exist in the Town records and should be located for review and possible inclusion. Also, are the departments heads involved here? Tom Martin had sent surveys out to all department heads. The response was limited. Chairman Fitzgerald will check with the Town Manager about department head involvement.

Section 5D Town Manager Goodine requested the Committee wait until new data is available. Chris Johnson asked about a sewer pipe replacement plan. Byron Vinton pointed out the data sheets on the current plan are rather recent and reflect the priority of sewer line replacement. This is a plan from Aqua of Maine. The water and sewer plans need to be obtained and inserted into the finished document.

Perhaps it is best to revamp the entire water management plan so it is presented into one Chapter.

Is storm water management part of the Town plan? Reference to the Aqua Maine management plan. Town has vortex at Perry's Landing.

Chris Johnson asked about identifying and the need to maintain the septic disposal site in the Upper Long Pond area. Byron Vinton corrected this assumption; the Long Pond location is used for Town of Bucksport treated waste, while private home septic is hauled by a private carrier to another location in Maine for processing.

The cost adjustment to Town sewer rate payers was discussed.

Water Resources: The Chairman recommended the group discuss Water Resources at a later time. Comments included the belief the Silver Lake watershed would be adequate to replace the drawn from the municipal system. This comment was attributed to an Aqua Maine representative. The Committee passed over this section for further discussion later.

Solid Waste

Options exist for change in policy. The PERC plant end of contract (2018), the proposed Hampden processing plant, as well as single source sortation were informally discussed.

The identification of the existing local solid waste committee was promoted. Some discussion also suggested setting up a subcommittee to find information.

Public Works: (Page 23)

Comments included the need for a historical record to see what has been accomplished, as well as what can be accomplished with estimated less resources in the future. At best we should maintain what we have. The street tree program was mentioned, however Byron Vinton pointed out that is managed by the Conservation Committee.

Han Krichels requested the Committee start thinking of what we want to do for the future of Bucksport and move away from review of the existing plan as a priority. Chairman Fitzgerald commented he understood the sentiment, but felt it important to establish where the Town is now, before looking to the future. Mr Krichels listed the need to review the Silver Lake situation, Transfer Station, and commented on the poor air quality along the Upper Long Pond Road.

A general discussion was held concerning how to integrate some of the review areas into current categories, versus identifying new categories.

Tom Martin commented the group needs to develop an overall vision.

6. Citizen Outreach

- a. The minutes from the last Citizen Outreach Subcommittee meeting were distributed.
- b. Outreach Chairman George McLeod discussed the various methods of promotion identified. They include Facebook page, newsletter, identifying various groups or organizations, as well as branding and marketing opportunities.
- c. Two main goals are engagement and education.
- d. Discussion of the “Bucksport Next” proposal
- e. Valerie Schafner discussed her efforts to expand the organization (groups) list.
- f. Han Krichels explained the plan for Facebook promotion as well as other Facebook opportunities. Hans proposed combining the many Facebook pages associated with the Town into a central location. Chris Grindle will be contacted to see if this is possible.
- g. The Newsletter could be used as a central repository. The goal would be to make a more cohesive committee.

- h. The next Outreach committee meeting is June 15, 2015 at the Jewett School. (Optional)
- i. Paul Kee felt the full Committee is getting bogged down in the large amount of paperwork and data from the current Plan. Do we need to continue doing this planning in this manner? So much of the paperwork is not relevant to the mission of the committee. We need to get rid of paper. George McLeod commented that Town department heads need to be present and would the Town Manager plan to have that happen.
Byron Vinton reminded the group the future goals may not be possible because of costs. For example, burying the poles on Main Street would cost at least 2.5 million.
The committee needs to create a foundation that helps to make us be what we want.

7. Next Regular Meeting:

- a. The next full committee meeting is July 13, 2015 at the Jewett School. Public Facilities and Services will be reviewed.

