

Bucksport Comprehensive Plan 2015

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday July 13, 2015 Meeting at 6:00 PM
Jewett School Conference Room (66 Bridge St.)

- 1. Members Present:** Mary Jane Bush, George McLeod, Michael Ormsby, Byron Vinton, Larry Wahl, Mark Eastman, David Grant, Chris Johnson, Hans Krichels, Brian MacDonald, Sandra Robshaw, Valerie Schafner. **Staff Present:** Derik Goodine, Jef Fitzgerald, Jeff Hammond, David Milan, Sean Geagan, James Bradney. **Consultant:** Tom Martin (HCPC).
2. The July 13, 2015 Minutes were adopted as sent to members.
 3. Tom Martin suggested that the Bucksport Committee might meet with the Orland Committee which just recently undertook the writing of a new Plan.
 4. **Chapter 5 Public Facilities and Services Review:** a continuation of discussion of last month. Some department heads were invited to come and add to the discussion.
 - Byron Vinton pointed out some edits that need to be made on pages 2 and 3. A discussion ensued on the mutual aid agreements between Bucksport, Orland and Verona involving County and State emergency services. Bucksport only responds in those towns when back up is requested. More complete arrangements have been investigated in the past but were rejected by the neighboring towns because of the estimated costs involved to reduce response times in those communities. Bucksport receives no compensation for the help it gives to other towns except for occasional back up by Town, County and State services.
 - Chief Geagan was present to discuss the Police Protection section. In addition to the notes he submitted to the committee on equipment and staff changes since the last plan, he pointed out that the 2008 cruiser will be replaced by a 2016 in the near future. The Police Department gets about five years out of its cars. The most notable change in the last ten years is the emergence of bath salts related crime. The mill closing has no direct effect on Police operations. The Department has become a model of efficiency and will continue to work on providing the best service at a relatively low cost.
 - Page 17 in the Fire Protection was tentatively revised to mention the idea of a substation to reduce response times, but to leave the details out for possible inclusion in Goals and Objectives. Chief Bowden offered to attend a future meeting and could shed light on this proposal including data in support of the insurance cost projections.
 - Jef said that Jim Boothby told him he would submit a description of how the Public Education System is planned in Bucksport and RSU 25.
 - Health Care Facilities/Social Services with James Bradney. The Bucksport Bay Healthy

Communities used to function as a town department, but now is independent. It strives for a birth to end of life mission. The group is structured with four committees; Early Childhood, School Health, Provider Network, and Senior Resource Committee. The BBHC is independent of the Town, and is moving to keep the school system efforts independent of the other areas of concern. The Community Health Improvement Plan MAPP Key Recommendation Areas packet was distributed to the Committee (Dated 2011). Data methods and acquisition were discussed and explained in detail by Mary Jane Bush. There may be under reporting of incidences. Bucksport Family Medicine's closing was a large loss for the community. Primary care providers are needed locally. We should invite the director of the Bucksport Regional Health Center to come and address the Committee to discuss primary care access. What is the relationship of the BRHC to other area hospitals?

- Social Services: James Bradney discussed access to quality daycare. There has been a large loss of licensed facilities while having an increase of "non-licensed" facilities. RSU 25 is interested in developing a universal pre-K program. This is in response to budget cuts in the Head Start program.
- Mr. Bradney highlighted senior assistance programs now in operation. "Thriving in Place" is a partnership program with various municipal departments and social agencies. Also discussed were the "Show You Care" efforts to promote safe sidewalks, easy access to business locations, and general senior safety efforts in the Town.
- Jef pointed out that the comp plan section on health needs to contain more than just a reference to BBHC's work. A description of local programs, health offices and distances to area hospitals could be provided, for instance.
- David Milan discussed recognition by the State of Maine for Bucksport's efforts in making Bucksport an aging friendly community. He also led a brief discussion on redevelopment of the mill site and other related topics. This will be his last regular meeting with the Committee since he is leaving the town as Economic Dev. Dir.

5. Citizen outreach: Bucksport NEXT has been busy. The public opinion poll is online and in the newspaper. The next meeting (optional) is July 20, 2015 at the Jewett School.

6. Next Regular Meeting: August 10, 2015 on completion of the Public Facilities/services chapter and on Recreation at the Jewett School.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Johnson
Recording Secretary