

BUCKSPORT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING
6:00 P.M., AUGUST 10, 2015
JEWETT SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M.
2. **Members Present:** Mary Jane Bush, Christopher Johnson, Valerie Schafner, Byron Vinton, George McLeod, Paula Kee, Larry Wahl, Hans Krichels, Mark Eastman, Sandra Robshaw, Jef Fitzgerald
Staff Present: Tim Emery, Jeff Hammond, Derik Goodine
Consultant Present: Tom Martin HCPC
3. **Adoption of Minutes:** It was motioned by Byron Vinton, seconded by Sandra Robshaw, and voted to unanimously approve the minutes as written.
4. **HCPC Update:** The Chairman asked Mr. Martin if he wanted to discuss anything Mr. Martin deemed important at this time in the meeting. Mr. Martin said no. He would discuss contracts and timing later in the meeting.
5. **Public Facilities and Services** (continued from previous meetings). Out of respect for the presence of the Recreation Director (Tim Emery), the Chairman requested the Committee change the agenda to start the review of the Recreation Committee Section.
6. **Recreation Review:** See draft of Chapter Six and questions from Tom Martin
 - a. Mr. Emery reviewed the major changes since the 2003 comp plan. These changes included the budget addition of paying the rent for the Senior Citizen Center where meals are prepared in concert with RSU 25. Changes also included expansion of troubled youth programs, the addition of the Silver Lake trail system and an extension and improvements to the waterfront walkway. The history of the Recreation Department was reviewed, trends in population changes, and the possibility of a regional approach to utilizing recreation opportunities. The group also discussed the efforts to locate a YMCA facility in the Town.
 - b. There was discussion of upkeep and management of facilities. Mr. Emery felt the facilities were adequate for the present and did not need to expand, except perhaps to provide more for the elderly. Upkeep could be problematic with decreased funding. The possibility of selling surplus facilities and program utilization were discussed extensively.
 - c. Byron Vinton reminded the Committee to stay within the purpose of Plan and not get into recommending closings. The full Council would decide that.
 - d. The Committee recommended the Recreation Committee be reactivated and begin a review process to help develop particulars for a long range plan.
 - e. Mary Jane Bush discussed the progress the Town has made since 2003 with relation to teen programs. The recommendations of the 2003 plan were addressed. The Town hired a new

teen director (Barb Ames), and instituted the Challenging Choices program. The Make a Difference Team was developed and in conjunction with various agencies, teen issues were generously addressed. Despite these ongoing efforts, Mr. Emery talked about the increasing difficulty experienced by young people today. There is a critical need for a facility that would allow kids to get together in a constructive relationship.

- f. The Committee discussed the Town owned properties and usage for hiking and camping. There is a need to determine which properties are available and how they are managed. Some management practices need to be reviewed to determine if they are meeting original plans. Also discussed were hunting policies on Town owned land, as well as hunting access throughout the Town.
 - g. Lake access was identified only in Silver Lake and Jacob Buck Pond. Other lake access was not guaranteed. The Committee also discussed the presentation by Cheri Domina from Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust to protect and develop properties in the rural part of Bucksport, and the potential opportunities for increased recreational development.
7. George McLeod gave an update from the **Citizen Outreach subcommittee**:
- a. The subcommittee is gathering information and moving faster than the main committee in certain aspects. This is because of the data gathering.
 - b. Tom Martin's and the Committee's efforts will be the "foundation", and will naturally take longer. The Committee will probably not finish its work by the end of December.
 - c. Bucksport "NEXT" is focusing on increasing public participation in the comprehensive plan process.
 - d. Bob Daigle presented the committee a new website that is forum based. It allows all groups in the Town to participate in the process and makes access available in one location. The moderation and administration of the website needs to be determined. It was motioned by Mary Jane Bush, seconded by George McLeod and voted unanimously to endorse the concept of this tool to engage community residents in giving feedback on all aspects of the comprehensive plan.
8. **Next Outreach Meeting** – August 17, 2015 at the Jewett School (Meeting is optional)
9. **Next Regular Meeting** – September 14, 2015 on Marine Resources at the Jewett School
10. **Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Johnson
Recording Secretary