

**TOWN OF BUCKSPORT  
COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING  
6 P.M., DECEMBER 14, 2015  
JEWETT SCHOOL, BRIDGE STREET**

**MINUTES**

- 1. Introduction:** Chairman Jef Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

**Members Present:** Mary Jane Bush, George MacLeod, Sandra Robshaw, Hans Krichels, Kathy Downes, Jef Fitzgerald, David Grant, Mark Eastman, Larry Wahl, Valorie Shaffner, Christopher Johnson

**Staff Present:** Jeff Hammond, Rich Rotella

**Consultant Present:** Tom Martin, Hancock County Planning Commission

Chairman Fitzgerald welcomed Rich Rotella, Bucksport's newly appointed Community and Economic Development Director. Mr. Rotella explained his understanding of the responsibilities of his new position as well as discussing his short and long range goals.

- 2. Adoption of Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted. Motion: Mary Jane Bush, seconded Kathy Downes. Vote 12-0 Affirmative with 2 abstentions (2 abstentions not in attendance at previous meeting)
- 3. Progress Update:** The Chairman asked Tom Martin if he had any comments or updates since the previous meeting. Mr. Martin said he had nothing new to report. Larry Wahl asked the Chairman to query the board about starting the meetings earlier (5:00 P.M.). After a few minutes of informal discussion, the board voted to start the meetings at 5:00 P.M. Motion Kathy Downes, seconded David Grant. Vote: unanimous  
The Chairman informed the Committee of the request from Christopher Johnson to resign his secretarial position after this meeting. The Committee thanked Chris, accepted his resignation from the Committee secretarial responsibilities, and opened the floor for a replacement. Valorie Shaffner agreed to assume the responsibilities starting at the next meeting. Motion: Kathy Downes, seconded by Sandra Robshaw. Vote: Unanimous with one abstention. Abstention Valorie Shaffner
- 4. Natural Resources:** Chairman Fitzgerald commented on the discussion from the last meeting that related to the listing of certain species and their habitat. He reported that additional data has been added that sharpens the focus and provides a refinement of the information.
- 5. Agricultural Resources:** Mary Jane Bush requested the Committee consider adding the wording mentioning the ongoing investigation and development of a "food hub". The food hub might be involved in promoting local agriculture, preservation of farmland, as well as local processing of local foods. Some activities close to this concept are already in progress. The Bucksport Community Concerns, the Farm to School efforts, local farmers markets and the Orland Community Kitchen are examples of potential contributors to a food hub. The

Committee spent considerable time discussing the impact of the mill closure, and resulting land use, the potential development of a related hydroponic greenhouse food operation involving the mill site. The Committee also discussed the development and preservation of the market for wood harvested in town. Some members discussed an education plan for owners of forested property, to help them understand tax saving and preservation opportunities. Christopher Johnson asked about a forest management plan for the municipal owned forest land. It was suggested that formal plans for the town's lands would set an example for others. Other related items briefly discussed include U-Maine's projection of more farming in Bucksport's future, whether to reference 4-H in this chapter, possible ordinances to control Ag related nuisances, and the State's Farm Registration Law.

- 6. Historical and Archaeological Resources Review:** Chairman Fitzgerald asked if we need an extensive Town history in the CP. Tom Martin answered that it gives perspective to the plan. Chairman Fitzgerald asked if all the detail is necessary. George MacLeod felt the history allows a record to track previous development. It would allow us to ID various neighborhood developments through history as well. It might help allow us to understand a "sense of place", and relevance to future development. George MacLeod also had a brief discussion of a "view shed" issue that might arise in Bucksport. Larry Wahl asked about the importance of including the saving Wilson Hall effort and the preservation of the Duck Cove School. Tom Martin asked if this should have been included in the chapter draft, or be put into the goals and objectives later in the discussion. Rich Rotella asked if the Town has an inventory of Town owned properties. The Committee briefly discussed the Facade Program previously implemented in the downtown section. Also mentioned were the current building codes for downtown land uses and the possible need for ordinances protecting Historic buildings. Chairman Fitzgerald asked if anyone knew where the search efforts for Fort Norumbega were at this time. Answer— Nothing conclusive was found in the archaeological dig.
- 7. Citizen Outreach:** George MacLeod reported on the outreach efforts. As a result of a previous meeting, Outreach members were reaching out directly to established businesses and community members for input on the Comprehensive Planning process. Hans Krichels had been in contact with Great Pond Mountain Trust (GPMCT). GPMCT has a link to Dropbox that allows the Committee access to data gathered for use in the new GPMCT outreach efforts. Transferring their data to a usable format in the Committee efforts were referred to Rich Rotella, to see if he could help. Chairman Fitzgerald asked Rich Rotella how he had an opinion on how the pending Heart and Soul efforts would impact the Comprehensive Plan efforts and how his position would integrate with both. Rich Rotella identified his job as mainly a Community Development position, and would be involved with both programs as well as other development efforts in the Town. George MacLeod discussed the difficulties with maintaining the Outreach website and requested the group (ie. Rich Rotella) take over the responsibilities. Hans Krichels maintains the Outreach Committee Facebook page. He reported on his activities to keep it fresh and updated. He also discussed Pat Ranzoni's "Still Mill" presentations around the Town. There will be a book coming out in March. Perhaps there should be a summarization of the Outreach Committee's efforts in the Comprehensive Plan.
- 8. The Outreach Committee** is scheduled to meet on December 21, 2015.

9. **The next Comprehensive Plan Committee** meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2016 at the Jewett School and the topic will be Existing Land Use.

10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Johnson  
Recording Secretary

Meeting Follow-up from Jef:

Regarding "Maine Food Hubs", a web search brings up only one, in Unity Maine (about 15 miles northwest of Belfast). The website at <http://www.unityfoodhub.com> has insights on food hubs in general and specific information on how the Unity one works. Our "blurb" on this could mention that, given the members list, Bucksport is within the orb of this center, but is far enough away to consider a spin off at some point.

*Is there anyone that would like to do more research on Food Hubs?*

Regarding historic buildings, I have **corrected** locations (E-911) and added some **info...**

<b>Table XI.2 Properties Listed on the National Register of Historic Places</b>		
<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Ownership, Current Use</b>
James Emery House	101 Main Street	Private, Residential
Bucksport Railroad Station	92 Main Street	Town, Historical Society Bldg.
Wilson Hall	34 Middle Street	Town, Redevelopment
Jed Prouty Tavern and Inn	57 Main Street	Private, Assisted Living Ctr.
Buck Memorial Library	47 Main Street	Town, Public Library
Phineas Heywood House	77 Main Street	Private, Commercial/Res.
Elm Street Congregational Church and Parish House	31 Elm Street	Church, Church functions
Duck Cove School	429 State Rt. 46	Town, Community Club House
Brown-Pilsbury Double House	106 Franklin Street	Private, Residential
<b>SOURCE:</b> Maine Historic Preservation Commission, October 2013		

Larry Wahl is gathering some more information on town owned properties.