



**Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting Minutes
Twenty-Eighth Regular Business Meeting
Tuesday, October 26, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**

Committee Members Present: Alfred Ajami, Alex Beaudet, Tom Bishop, Becky Cooper, Paul DiMauro, Jamie Doherty, Richard Francis, RoseAnne Holladay. Pat Jennings, Steve Jorgensen (via Zoom), Ken Kortemeier, Mary Piasecki, Jessica Yates

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Minutes

The minutes from the August 22 meeting were presented and approved. The minutes of this meeting were taken from a Zoom recording.

Confirmation of Draft Plan

NSP has completed the first round of formatting the Plan and a draft copy is available to review on the town's website and at the Town Office. Francis and Yates asked for general thoughts from the rest of the committee. Overall, the committee thought the plan looked great and read well.

- Ajami was concerned with the vertical and horizontal format contained within the plan and its effects on the printed copy. He also mentioned the numbering sequence in the appendices.
- Doherty had concern that the different sections were not delineated enough and may be confusing to the reader. Holladay suggested hyperlinks in the electronic format so readers can go directly to sections they want to read.
- There was discussion about the cost of printing copies. Holladay suggested they put a printed copy in the library.
- Holladay requested a Table of Contents for the appendices.
- Various word processing programs were discussed.
- Proofreading was discussed. Francis shared his concern that not enough proofreading had been done. Yates wasn't sure how much more editing/proofreading NSP would do. She will do as much editing as she can but feels that not every fix will be accomplished. The committee was encouraged to proofread and submit comments. Yates stated the CPC is happy to hear public comment but not sure the CPC will be accepting public revisions at this time.

Timeline Review

Francis explained the timeline as follows:

- Meet with the Select Board on 11/1 for review of the draft plan.
- Have one public hearing which requires a 30-day notice.
- If SB agrees at 11/1 meeting, announce public hearing shortly thereafter.

- If the public hearing is announced by 11/3, the earliest date it can be held is 12/5.
- If the public hearing goes well, the draft plan will be submitted to the state for review of the inventory chapters.
- Hopefully the draft plan would be returned in time for a vote at the 2024 town meeting.

The ensuing discussion centered around the timing of sending the draft plan to the state and receiving it back in time for the 2024 town meeting.

Francis suggested the plan be sent to the state before the 12/5 public hearing. Yates didn't think it was possible. Francis countered if a 'public meeting' was held instead of a 'public hearing' the requirement of a 30-day notice wouldn't be needed. This would allow more time for the state to review the draft plan. Beaudet was unclear about the difference between a meeting and a hearing and suggested having the hearing first and keeping it as simple as possible. Yates is worried that people will not attend two things. Doherty countered that the decision to send the draft plan remains with the CPC and the purpose of the public hearing is to listen to what people have to say about the draft plan. Yates views the public hearing as a formality, a state requirement, and a tool for transparency. Francis stated the state requires one public hearing be held. Hanna, Select Board Chair, has insisted that two hearings be held, one before the draft is sent to the state and one after. Beaudet understood that there would be one public hearing, the draft would be sent to the state and then returned and voted on. Yates added there was confusion with SB's desire for a public hearing before the draft was sent to the state and it was addressed by scheduling the public hearing before it went to the state. Beaudet suggested announcing the public hearing asap rather than waiting until after the 11/1 SB meeting. Yates thought it a good idea and determined that if they waited to advertise the public hearing after the 11/1 SB meeting the hearing would be held much later in December. Francis thought it a good idea but difficult to manage. Beaudet and Piasecki wondered if permission was needed by the SB to schedule the public hearing. Holladay wondered if the hearing could be cancelled if the scheduling fell apart.

Doherty proposed that the CPC speak to Hanna privately about holding a special town meeting to vote on the plan or possibly to vote on the plan at the Presidential election in November. Doherty presumed Hanna would not be in favor of these suggestions and thought the timeline was missing scope.

Yates stated it has been a challenging situation with the SB. The co-chairs will ask that notice of the public hearing be published by 11/3 so the 30-day notice is met for 12/5. Beaudet wondered what was challenging about the SB. Piasecki stated that at the FLUW Hanna was walking around and saying Bristol didn't need a comprehensive plan to anyone who would listen. Beaudet stated that was Hanna's personal opinion and not the opinion of the SB. Piasecki agreed.

Yates stated the SB have been involved peripherally and now is the time for everyone to be on the same page. She and Francis encouraged all CPC members to attend the 11/1 Select Board meeting for support and to represent the work accomplished.

The recording ended unexpectedly at approximately 7:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Bizarro
Town Administrator