

Planning Board Minutes 8/17/2023

Bristol Town Hall 6:30

Board Members Present: Ben Pendleton, Mike Rosa, Jeff Eilenberg, John Bowers (Alt)

Board Members Missing: Andrew Poland, Jessica Westhaver

Also Present: Jessica Yates (Comp Plan Co-Chair), Richard Francis (Comp Plan Co-Chair), Jamie Doherty (Comp Plan member), Joe Rose (CEO), Erin Reeves (Staff Liaison)

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Ben Pendleton

No quorum needed.

Meeting to review Comprehensive Plan with the Planning Board.

Richard Francis stated the plan started over 2 years ago and that there are 260 questions that need to be answered in order to qualify for state funding. The Comp Plan has included as much info as possible under each category.

Jessica Yates stated that the Comp Plan used surveys to gather data and that all data included in the chapters of the plan came from these surveys. Also the Comp Plan Committee is not making up the goals of the plan, that all input came from townspeople.

Jamie Doherty stated that it is a difficult exercise to meet all of the state's questions. He gave an example that most of the people who answered the survey don't want to have taxes raised, but many people indicated they are willing to spend more money on areas that concern them.

The members of the Comp Plan went on to say that the Future Land Use part of the plan had most to do with the Planning Board. How to use Bristol's land in the future? The Committee's consultants produced 4 future land use scenarios that were presented at a Future Land Use Workshop that was held at Bristol School in the Spring. Of the 4 plans #1 and #4 were most liked, so the consultants made a "mash up" of those 2 plans.

To follow through on the future land use scenarios a “Implementation Committee” would have to be assigned. Richard Francis said he felt that this committee should be made up of at least ½ of the Planning Board.

The five goals of Future Land Use are:

1. Scenic views – how to preserve them and where are they?
2. Preferred established growth areas – (scenarios 1-4)
3. Town Planning – Consider hiring a part-time Town Planner.
4. Protect Character
5. Equitable access to potable H2O. Limit seasonal housing becoming year-round?

What sort of affordable housing solutions are there? How can the plan make this happen?

The town will not be graded on implementation. 5-year plan of implementation to “enable things to happen thoughtfully”.

The deadline for the Comp Plan to be ready is the end of September. The state takes 3 months to review the plan and the town needs to have it back by the first of 2024 to be able to vote on it at Town meeting in March.

The Planning Board agreed to email the Comp Plan Chairs with questions and changes.

After the Comp Plan members left, the Planning board wondered, will the Select Board support the Comp plan? Will it make it through the state, and will the town pass it?

Ben motioned for the minutes from the 7/20/23 meeting be accepted. Mike Rosa seconded.

New business for next meeting – waiting on permits for dock in New Harbor. A meeting will be held once those permits are received.

Ben adjourned at 8:04