



Bristol Comprehensive Plan Committee
Sixth Regular Business Meeting

Bristol Town Hall, September 14, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Accept the minutes of the Third Regular Business Meeting, August 10, 2021
3. Recap on survey and involvement of consultants
4. Chris Hall: Significant Challenges Facing Bristol
5. Group discussion: Major challenges of the Comprehensive Plan process
6. Other Business and Public Comment
7. Next Meeting Date
8. Adjournment

Note for Agenda item 5

Group discussion: Major challenges of the Comprehensive Plan process

Each one of us can no doubt provide examples of 'problems' that we have discovered or uncovered, but first things first, we must find our route map or chart (as plans are so often described) to get to the next waypoint. The following are suggestions for doing this which we could use to guide our discussions. The FAQ file on the website is a quick read that summarizes our current position.

1. Understand the process of the Plan

Up to now we have concentrated on collecting data, with mixed success. Several subcommittees have begun to investigate other towns' plans* to compare how they have fulfilled the twin goals of satisfying the State's needs (Chapter 208)** and what we perceive as Bristol's distinctive character and needs.

2. Recognize the parameters of the plan

The Committee's role is advisory rather than executive. The Plan itself can define what we see as important issues in Bristol over the next ten years and offer suggestions for how the Town might tackle some of them. It cannot institute changes in governance, finance etc., but it can promulgate discussions about whether those changes are wanted or needed and by whom.

3. Describe a way to put the package together

We need to connect one set of ideas/data to another, or others. The Contents lists*** of other towns' Plans can give us clues. (They almost always cross over the categories that our subcommittees are currently charged with collecting and commenting on). Larger groups and fewer subcommittees is one way to deal with this. We will then have to find a way to bring the new proposals together in a coherent form before we draft our Plan.

4. Establish a strategy for feedback

Following the first draft, and subsequent iterations, we must have several ways of disseminating and gathering feedback from key groups (stakeholders) and, the most important group, the voters. The Survey is the first step, and we will need to follow up with smaller groups and public meetings.

5. Convince diverse audiences.

Without this, the Plan is stillborn. We must bridge the divides between those opposed, those who are suspicious, the merely skeptical and supporters. The biggest problem is one of image: we are too many people 'from away', who want to 'tell us what to do' and the Committee will not be taken seriously. The Comprehensive Plan needs a new 'face' or 'faces'.

Suggested research documents

* Among the most recent plans are:

- 1.) New Gloucester- 8/26/2021
https://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/comp_plans/New_Gloucester_2021.pdf
- 2.) China – 7/27/2021
https://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/comp_plans/China_2020.pdf
- 3.) Belfast – 6/23/2021
https://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/comp_plans/Belfast_2021.pdf
- 4.) Katahdin Region (Millinocket, East Millinocket, Medway) – 4/6/2021
[https://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/comp_plans/Katahdin_Region_2020_\(2021_Amendments\).pdf](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/comp_plans/Katahdin_Region_2020_(2021_Amendments).pdf)
- 5.) Clinton – 3/3/2021
https://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/comp_plans/Clinton_2021.pdf
- 6.) Oakland – 1/25/2021
https://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/comp_plans/Oakland_2020.pdf
- 7.) Gray – 8/7/2020
https://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/comp_plans/Gray_2020.pdf
- 8.) Thomaston – 5/22/2020
https://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/comp_plans/Thomaston_2020.pdf

These recent CPs from 2019-2021 (date noted above) have been reviewed for conformity by Tom Miragliuolo (14/15) or Ruta Dzenis (1/15), the two current and principal Review Coordinators.

** Ch208 – CP Rule (Annotated)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MQ82vKIEYFFFWUEFrVjPvO98QUILOOri/view>

*** You might begin by looking at New Gloucester, Belfast, China, Oakland, and Thomaston for Contents and one section (Facilities and Finance) from these examples

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f94ZJLJ3BjCQI-v7epbDy4H9IUfK-vIF?usp=sharing>

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