



Municipal Office, Town of Bristol, Maine

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Comprehensive Plan – Education Subcommittee Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. Bristol Town Office

Present: Becky Cooper, Rob Davidson, Richard Francis, Jason Sewall.

Also Present: Jennifer Ribeiro, Advisor. Chuck Hanson, resident.

Apologies for absence: Jim Barnes

1. The minutes of the 21 June meeting were agreed and there were no matters arising.
2. Richard Francis reminded members that, at this stage, we were collecting data and would be able to analyze it and make recommendations later. The results of the data gathering process would be presented to the Committee (who may ask for more information) and thence to the Select Board before being finally incorporated into the report.

We looked at the questions we had raised at the last meeting; Becky Cooper reported information she had collected on the school population over the last decade. We discussed how we might store the data collected and examined the Housing Subcommittee data folder on the website.

Richard Francis reported contact with the data section of the Maine Department of Education and their guidance to their website and data warehouse. He also reported a meeting with Jennifer Ribeiro (note circulated) and a conversation with the Superintendent and will follow up both.

Jennifer Ribeiro has suggested that she, in conjunction with the Superintendent and Richard Francis, will endeavor to provide answers to many of our questions through a listing of Statutory requirements and the School Approval Checklist.

Many of our subsequent questions will be answered by searching these resources.

Becky Cooper questioned the need for comprehensive data gathering and said that the two principal town data sets that the Subcommittee and the Comprehensive Plan Committee would need for the school was data relating to school facilities and enrolment in order for Bristol to sustain quality education for the future. We discussed the possible extension of the current school facilities and mooted a regional middle school.

She said she preferred in person meetings.

The need for information from Federal data sets was important and Jennifer Ribeiro hoped to provide data by the end of August that might help us.

3. We need to pursue data for secondary education, principally Lincoln Academy, and for tertiary education, college and vocational. Some of these data might be difficult to obtain. We will also

seek information from the Adult Education programs, both for the completion of academic qualifications and enhancement classes. Richard Francis will initiate.

4. Rob Davidson asked whether Subcommittees would be able to submit questions for the Survey. Richard Francis explained that there may be more than one survey and that the first was deliberately simple with a limited number of questions. These will be reviewed at the next Committee meeting. A subsequent survey may ask more detailed questions based on the Subcommittees' findings
5. Jason Sewall reminded the Subcommittee of the importance of the School in the community, its unique interaction with large parts of the populace and as a provider of important social and other services that were not made available elsewhere in the Town.

He considered that the Subcommittee's role would be most valuable in interactions with other Subcommittees citing, in particular, Housing and Capital Planning.
The Committee agreed.

6. Chuck Hanson in the public comment section was delighted that meetings were public and promised future questions concerning finance and management.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday September 7th at 6.30 at the Town Office.