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Comprehensive Plan Joint Meeting of the “Finances” and “Town Government” Subcommittees Minutes Wednesday, August 25th, 2021, at 5:30-6:30 p.m. Bristol Town Office

Members present were: Ajami, Bishop, DiMauro and Gill.
Absent, with apologies, Barnes, and Davidson.

Chris Hall, Jessica Westhaver, and Chuck Hanson joined at guests.

Meeting of the Subcommittees was called to order, a quorum of both groups in attendance.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

The objective of this session was to outline how the relevant portions of CPs have been constructed, first based on following the guidelines of the CH208 rule and then modified to address specific needs of communities. The table of contents from 15 recent plans were summarized as having multiple components in common, but with variations in terms of how the sections relating to current status, policies, procedures, and future actions are presented in the context of the requisite data inventory. Some plans integrate these and other segregate them.

After discussion, members concluded that a subset of plans should be evaluated in terms of greater similarity to the circumstances unique to Bristol before concluding on a final stylistic form. Ajami proposed that the CPs from New Gloucester, China, Clinton, Oakland and Caratunk (all available electronically in the ancillary exhibits to the agenda) had submitted the more concise coverages of both the Facilities and Finances sections covering the scope of both committees.

DiMauro asked for confirmation that a first useful exercise would be to put together a cut-and-paste mockup, even if it did not completely apply to Bristol. Consensus on the discussion was that the first pass should be to get the form of the narrative to be consistent with what has appeared in other plans and then to customize it for Bristol. Gill and Bishop commented further that the customization would entail collecting specific sets of data unique to Bristol. Di Mauro emphasized that the data and the draft of even preliminary plans should be made publicly available.

In conclusion to the discussion, there was agreement that members should undertake their own exercise of cutting and pasting sections of plans into a narrative suitable for Bristol, and that these would be further discussed at the next meeting. Ajami pointed out that this would probably be the more effective approach than to just accumulate data, for its own sake, prior to having a structure to fit it into.

At the end of an hour covering the subject, there were no further items of business presented, nor public comment. The joint session was then adjourned after a call for the next meeting to be held on September 22, 2021 at the Town Offices.

By Alfred Ajami, acting and recording secretary