



Municipal Office, Town of Bristol, Maine

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Comprehensive Plan – Governance and Regional Cooperation Subcommittee Minutes Wednesday, July 28, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. Town Office

Present: Jamie Doherty, Dan Sullivan, Brittany Gill

Also Present: Chris Hall (Town Administrator)

Discussed the observation that there does not appear to be a lot of coordination among the Towns. E.g. selectmen of neighboring town do not seem to meet regularly. Among other things one would expect at a minimum that purchases of major fire equipment would be coordinated as local towns support each other.

Closest thing might be Regional Planning Group fostered by the county. However, in fact they mostly help Towns get grants. But the representation from Towns varies from nobody to selectmen to town staff.

Our border Towns are Bremen, Damariscotta, South Bristol, and if one stretches, Newcastle is just across the river. State specifically lists to pay attention to coordination with abutting towns.

Bristol and south Bristol Selectmen meet once a quarter to oversee the Transfer Station.

Central Lincoln County Ambulance Service has 6 towns involved and another 2 who contract with the service. Again, attendance is mixed with different town staff and officials attending.

Mid Coast Municipal Association involves Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo, and it meets monthly.

This is all helpful, but it does not seem to be coordinated in a strategic since with the towns dancing together to their mutual benefit in addressing strategic issues like housing.

At last meeting we Identified areas that should be reviewed with regards to regional coordination.

- School District Governance
- Land Use
- Waste Management especially recycling
- Law Enforcement
- Emergency services
- Coordinated Capital Plans

We should add to the list

- Health Services
- Transportation
- Housing
- Social Services
- Library

Transportation: there have been discussions of getting Amtrak to extend to Newcastle. There is also a twice a day Coastal Bus Service. The primary problem with both seems to be the last mile = how to get people from the bus or train to destinations in Bristol. There is that Village Taxi and there are 2 UBER drives in Damariscotta, however.

Seasonal Housing: Should there be a coordinated approach for housing seasonal workers. Boothbay Chamber bought an old hotel for seasonal workers. Should the Damariscotta Chamber do it too as most of our Bristol business belong to the Damariscotta Chamber.

Low-Cost Housing: Should Bristol and abutting towns have a coordinated approach to low-cost housing. Mobius apparently may have an interested in managing Section 8 Homes.

The Elder Care Network of Lincoln County (The Greens) is managing Assisted Living and has an elder group home in Round Pound.

Bristol is one of the few towns that has a worthy poor fund used to help people in immediate crises.

We decided to meet regularly in the Town Hall on the fourth Monday at 8:30am.

In our first two meetings we have discussed Governance and Regional Cooperation, so it is time to set to work collecting data.

Assignments:

JED will try to create a discussion guide to be use with people we interview.

Brittney and Dan will review state guidelines to be sure that we have the list of must dos complete.

Next meeting will be August 24th at 8:30am at the Town Hall.