

Comprehensive Plan Review and Implementation Committee (CPRIC) Minutes
Monday, October 12, 2015 at 5:00 PM
Revere Memorial Hall

Attendees: David Kelly, Paul Lewis, Kendra Chubbuck, Rudi Graf, Meghan Cooper, Bob Gerber, Rachel Harris

Paul presented an **agenda**:

- I. Review and approve minutes from 9/29 meeting
 - II. Survey results
 - a. Presentation and discussion
 - b. Preliminary implications for the top priorities
 - III. Community feedback regarding proposed top priorities
 - IV. Current top priority updates
 - a. Fire department
 - b. Telemedicine
 - c. School
 - d. Other
 - V. Other Business
 - VI. Discussion: how do we maintain momentum over the winter?
 - VII. Set date for next meeting
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Meeting opened by **Paul** at 5:03 PM.

Committee agreed to check on what the quorum number was before approving the minutes (tabled until later in the meeting).

Meghan presented the survey results. There were 73 total responses. Meghan has charted the results of all the questions in pie charts and bar graphs. The chart document has the overall responses, as well as responses broken down by year-round/semi-year-round/seasonal respondents. There were many more seasonal responses than semi-year-round or year-round (44/15/14 responses, respectively). Meghan will send out the document to the committee, and we will discuss the format before the final release to the public. Meghan is working on compiling lists of the comments, but also wants to make sure they are not identifiable before releasing them.

It will be important on any issues we want supported to talk to people face to face. There is a very small voting population, and many residents (of all types) are concerned about the cost of the projects and tax increases. We should make it clear what the impact of our proposals would be on taxes. For example, "The changes in the fire department that we want to make will cost X, which means an average increase of Y in residents' taxes."

Bob mentioned that some communities make a point of increasing taxes consistently whether they need the money at that point or not. Small and constant increases are easier for the public to stomach.

Top priorities list

Seven of the eight are direct town functions (the Power Company is the eighth). For those 7, cost comes from taxes. Therefore, the resistance to tax increases could be a problem. We should remember to keep in mind non-top-8 things, too! Important initiatives on the list.

Rudi has been looking into aquaculture. He talked to Greg Runge about his experience. If we had someone to direct economic development in the town, they could look at grants for things like aquaculture. Meghan mentioned that the Island Institute is forming a cohort of people interested in learning more about aquaculture, fishermen and their families, especially.

Telemedicine

An organizing committee will soon be able to take over the work of getting telemedicine going on the island, at which point, we will phase ourselves out.

Is it possible that we could do something similar with the fire department?

Gerry sent around a draft proposal to some community members about the telemedicine concept. She is planning to follow up in person.

Swan's Island has telemedicine that is taxpayer funded and has been very successful. Step one for us is getting the \$5000 approved at town meeting for feasibility work.

Maine Seacoast Mission has agreed to help with our capital campaign.

Question: Once we have a clinic, will the *Sunbeam* still come?

Scott Planting has agreed to come to a town meeting to answer questions.

The Power Company suggested the lower level of the building at the landing. Would that be workable?

There will be restrictions on how we get rid of some of the equipment downstairs. The power station has been decommissioned, so it is on record. We can't just dump the old equipment somewhere. (Not that we would want to, anyway.)

Sounds like the lower level is not the easiest solution.

There will also be a lot of official people coming when the solar project begins. As a town, we will want to be sure we are doing things properly.

How about the Bill's Island house (belonging to Bill Stevens) on the Power Company lot? What if we bought that and got a place to put it? What about the small building belonging to Payson next to the shack at the landing? It is in the shoreland zone, but has the potential to be moved to another piece of land.

Rachael Dugan is planning to be on the organizing committee (and would like to apply for the job if telemedicine happens). Others are Nancy, Alison, Kendra, Brenda.

If ICDC house is not sold, that might still be an option.

The TDS equipment could be moved anywhere on island—we'd just have to run some line and pay to move it.

Meghan checked on the quorum number: it is four voting members. Therefore, we have a quorum. **Rudi** motioned to approve the minutes. **Kendra** seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, October 29 at 6 PM**. Many will be attending remotely, so we will need to distribute information about conference calling or video conferencing before the meeting.

The big question is if the community really wants the telemedicine facility. We will have to talk to people and see if the \$5000 article passes.

Fire department

John has been playing phone tag with David Carter of Sedgwick.

Dan Coombs just retired (as seen in the *Island Ad-Vantages*) but also has a lot of jobs and things to do.

Let us hope that one of them will come out and audit our fire department. They would know about the regulations.

Maybe we should hire locals and pay them the town wage to get the to-do list done. John has been talking to the Knox County Management Agency.

It is possible for us to escalate to the State Fire Marshall. They might be able to steer us toward consultants to help out. This could be a plan B if the local fire chiefs can't help.

What is the budget for the fire department? Fixing it up is probably going to cost more than the budget.

Other business

The new Fire Management Officer for Acadia will be coming out on Thursday, October 15. He has agreed to stop by the town fire department to take a look at it and give any advice he has. He will be at the fire station at 10 AM.

Bob's information session about the maps he has been working on will be on **Wednesday, October 14 at 5 PM**. **Meghan** will make cookies.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meghan Cooper