

Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 5:30 PM
Town Hall Upstairs

Attendees: Meghan Cooper, Bill Stevens, Bob Gerber, Kendra Chubbuck, Gerry Wurzburg, Paul Lewis, John DeWitt, Paula Greateorex, Kelly Merrill, Nancy Calvert **Phone:** Rudi Graf

Meghan presented an **Agenda:**

- Welcome and Introductions – purposed of Comprehensive Plan (CP)
- History of previous committee (Rudi)
- Initial thoughts/impressions of 2011 plan
- Goals for the update
 - Schedule - Timeline
 - Roles – Who will do what?
- Survey
 - Removals/Additions
 - Prizes?
 - Logistics
- Election of Chair/Co-Chair, other officers?
- Next Steps – Assignments
- Set next meeting and adjourn

Welcome and Introductions and Purpose of Comprehensive Plan:

The comprehensive plan guides the future of the town and where we are now. It does not propose regulations, only recommendations that can be used in creating regulations.

Zoning must conform to CP. What are key issues to reform in zoning: State Shoreline Ordinance: entire IaH zoned limited residential, no business.

Planning Board – redo community plan. Town ordinance if the first focus and will be for town approval. Then the State Shoreline ordinance – we have been forced to comply. Adopted in 1995, then last January huge standards have become more rigid (i.e. cutting on shoreline).

History of committee: (Rudi)

State of Maine required all towns in Maine would have a comprehensive plan (CP). This was in 1986. The State had money but ran out when Isle au Haut applied for it. The State had a CP template for the towns to use. The template is very clear and we must follow it. The CP would back-up the ordinances. In order for towns to apply for Community Block Grants they would have to have a CP. Rudi went on to update us on the history of the CP. Started working on the CP in 2006 and finished in 2011, approved in 2012. It was approved unanimously by the town. Island Fellow Margaret Snell was the key for us to finish the CP. The committee and Margaret went back and forth with the State for many years and finally we finished the plan. Land use section was the

hardest. Strategies and timelines were also difficult. Important issues needed to be discussed at great length. One problem was we just didn't meet enough, so the committee had turnover. Committee members came and went. It was hard to connect with everyone in the winter. We've finally just said we had to move ahead with the CP. This will be what we have to do this time – stick with a timeline and really push for an end date.

Not clear when the CP needs to be updated – it's either five or ten years. We are the implementation committee formed to carry out the CP. Some items require money and there might not be any money so we will need to prioritize.

Initial Thoughts of 2011 CP: (All)

Paul Lewis:

1. Key issues need to be addressed. Great to say but need to do it.
2. We can't recruit if people don't communicate.
3. Some things are no brainers. Town Landing needs to be safe.
4. Missing and key items: JOBS – This is a **PRIORITY**.
Goal in 2010 in the CP to increase population to 100 with 10 to 15 students in the school. But it was missing the economic plans. No jobs, no economic development. Inn at Isle au Haut is gone, Black Dinah is now gone.
5. Income level is extremely low.
6. Year round population is decreasing
7. Survey's largest response was "no opinion"
8. CP is all anti-tourism! Yet our few businesses depend on it.
9. School situation has totally changed
10. Add broadband plan better internet access

Bob Gerber:

1. Good starting point at where the Island is.
2. Needs updating including the maps which Bob will do.
3. Propose we update and improve this CP and not start over. We all agreed.

Kendra:

1. Economic Development
2. Be more tourist friendly

Paula, John, Bill and Nancy: Came to listen and not ready to give an opinion yet. It had been awhile since they have read the CP.

Kelly:

1. As a new resident, want to see action. The Island presented is not the Island that exists.
2. Not welcoming

Goals for the CP Update (Meghan)

Decision was decided to meet every week or bi-weekly. This committee will be active via e-mail.

There will be a public meeting this summer.

The CP will be completed and presented at the March 2016 town meeting. This will be Meghan's primary project through 2015-2016.

There are 14 sections to the CP. Some parts will be quite easy to update and some sections are more important than other sections. Meghan will track down the census information. Everyone has an opinion.

Survey: (All)

Meghan: Look over the survey and make deletions/additions to it for the next meeting.

Bob: He would like to see a question on the survey regarding the parsonage – would people like to see a tele-medicine facility there or increase parking there?

Paul: What other assets can the town leverage that we can ask on the survey?

Paul: I did a SWOT Analysis and we should do that on the survey to see what we get for answers. Everyone agreed.

Discussion was around how we should conduct the survey. It was thought we should try and do a home survey – a face-to-face component.

What type of jobs do you think would work here?

Decision was made to send out a different survey, do different questions, and finalize the survey at our next meeting and get it out as soon as possible.

Election of Chair of Committee:

Gerry nominated Paul Lewis, Paul said yes, Kendra seconded the nomination and all were in favor.

Next Steps:

Read over the CP. The committee members will look over the table of contents and pick out one or two sections they might want to work on. Have your picks at the next meeting so we can break-up/set up the sub-committees.

Have questions written that you would like to see in the survey.

Next Meeting:

Scheduled a meeting at Paul Lewis' house on Sunday, June 28th at 2:00 PM.

Next CP meeting at Town Hall on Tuesday, June 30th at 5:30 PM. All are welcome.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Submitted by,

Kendra P. Chubbuck