

Isle au Haut 2025 Comprehensive Plan  
Committee Meeting  
January 28th, 2025

**Key Dates:**

Next Meeting: 2/25/2025

Survey Distribution Begins: 2/7/2025

**Committee Attendance: (all virtual)**

First Name	Last Name	Present	Absent
Mike	Delchamp	x	
Mike	Fedosh	x	
Kyle	Devereux	x	
Kathie	Fiveash	x	
Sue	Foelix	x	
Mat	Hastings		x
Christine	Hill	x	
Bob	Olney	x	
Tucker	Runge		x
Derrick	Sibbald	x	

**HPCP Attendees:** Averì Varney and Alice Cockerham

6:00 pm: Started Meeting

Minutes from 1/7/25 meeting were approved by members digitally to Dave.

**Committee:** Rita MacWilliam needed to resign position on committee, vacating the Secretary role. Following that, the selectboard asked Derrick Sibbald and Mike Delchamp to serve on the Comprehensive Planning Committee, and they agreed. Sue Foelix agreed to serve as Secretary going forward, supported with no objections by the group.

**Process:** Dave and Averì addressed the need for efficiency and strategic focus in order to keep the project moving on schedule and within budget. Review and comments, especially on details and data versus the goals and strategies, should be completed in advance of the meetings. Averì to share document outlining a refined process.

**Previous Chapters:** Kathie raised question about status of Historical Chapter and whether or not there would be a meeting including members who have contributed information and perspective. Alice has incorporated feedback and Kathie will communicate with the Historical Society both appreciation for input and that there will not be another formal meeting.

**Future Chapters:** Committee Members are needed to sign up as leads for chapters of interest and/or in areas of expertise.

## **Public Facilities & Services Chapter Discussion: Are they Adequate now and for the future?**

### **Points Discussed for incorporation into Chapter:**

**Town Hall:** Building considered generally adequate for the needs of the town for town services except for storage, e.g. Historical Society holdings and voting booth cramp the already limited storage. Technology for town operations considered not adequate e.g. software for managing assessing, taxes, mailing lists etc.

**EMS:** Certification process is cumbersome and is currently out of date due to the demands posed on volunteer staff to complete it. Winter season is not covered for on-Island EMS. Summer season is better covered with EMS/Paramedic available on-Island. Mailboat service remains willing to assist in cases of emergency.

**FIRE:** A small group of dedicated year-round individuals are working with Fire Chief to ensure preparedness in case of fire which would focus on prevention of spread of any fire versus saving of burning structures. Education on fire prevention was noted as an area for potential community education, to include learning about how to create firebreaks. It was noted that the National Park budgets have not allowed for proactive firebreak development on park lands. An emergency Operations plan should be updated as the “phone tree” method is likely obsolete.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT:** The need for law enforcement has been very low so that the Selectboard has not created a dedicated constable position and handles issues on a case-by-case basis. The Sheriff’s office and/or Marine Patrol can be engaged if/as needed. This strategy is considered adequate at present and for the future.

**SOLID WASTE:** Remains an issue for the present and future. Recycling is left to the individual homeowners and there is no provision for Hazardous Material. For the last three years, the town only received one bid for the trash removal responsibility. Cost and flexibility for disposal on the mainland also continues to pose an issue for the community.

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS:** New Town-owned broadband infrastructure will be completed very soon and an operations/repair plan is needed for both the on-Island and sub-sea infrastructure.

**ENERGY:** Tanks for gasoline and kerosene may need upgrading of support and protection. Supply for kerosene is adequate but for gasoline is inadequate during peak season. Movement of the cooperative store to solar is good for energy savings there and at the same time causes a significant financial challenge for the local power cooperative.

**EDUCATION:** Ensuring that the school remains in operation remains an ongoing concern and challenge. While housing is made available for the teacher, others who might consider living on the Island with families may not be able to find affordable housing, addressed separately. The early educational experience is considered excellent. While there are options of commuting to the mainland for high school or going to boarding school, decisions around off-island high school education remains challenging for resident families.

**CEMETERY:** The town is responsible for cemeteries located on town land and for maintaining the graves of Veterans. Recommend review of status in these areas e.g. Coombs. Burial options on Island are limited but impact is unknown.

**Recreation Chapter Discussion: Are recreational resources adequate now and for the future?****Points Discussed for incorporation into Chapter:**

A general opinion is needed and it is expected that this input will best come from the upcoming survey. Regional issue should include mention of Colwell Ramp which is co-owned with Stonington which serves as the only mainland public access point for watercraft. Both functional e.g. barge and recreational e.g. boat launch/kayak access are at stake there.

**Survey Discussion:** Survey to be fielded starting February 7<sup>th</sup>. Committee Members are also encouraged to complete the survey. It was noted that not all residents use smartphones so that alternative access should be clear to encourage maximum participation. Communications action items are captured below.

**7:45PM Adjourned.** Next meeting Tue Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, 6PM: Chapter- **Economy**

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Wallstrom

CP Committee Chair

**Action Items:**

<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>
Review revised process as shared by Averì	All
Follow up with Historical Society	Kathie
Incorporate feedback from survey into Recreational Chapter	Alice
Ensure individuals on Island with PO Boxes receive survey since they are not on Town Tax Mailing label list	Averì
Refine Town Email/Mailing List & provide to Bob Olney	Dave/Averì
Post Survey Notice	Christine & Mike D
Supplement gaps in Email/Mailing List internally to ICDC	Bob