

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 22, 2002

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Jim Stephenson, Chairman; Jean Carter; Harold Burnham; Priscilla Rand; Ben Levy; Charlie Turner; Elizabeth Algeo; Brad McCurtain; Dana Desjardins, Selectman; Greg Foster; Charles Leavitt, Selectman; Don Willard, Town Manager; and Louise Lester.

1. Call to order. Jim Stephenson called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

2. Review of the minutes.

MOTION: Jean Carter motioned to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Elizabeth Algeo.

VOTE: Carried.

There was discussion about the meetings in Naples and Gray which were attended by some of the committee members. Mr. Willard said that the Gray meeting was primarily about the possibility of regionalization of transportation issues with cooperation and coordination of efforts among the towns. The Naples meeting was about the process of creating or updating a comprehensive plan and the lack of State funds for these efforts through their grant process. There will only be 10 grants awarded at \$10,000 each. There was also a very interesting speaker who spoke about his organization which helped towns plan or improve village areas.

3. Report on consultants.

DISCUSSION: Dr. Stephenson noted the list received from the DECD. Mrs. Algeo said that she had some prospects to add and noted that the list from the DECD was incomplete in that some of the names on the list did not do comprehensive plans and other people who do them don't put their names in with the DECD.

4. Sub-Committee Reports.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Algeo asked that each member read the document “Updating the Comprehensive Plan” which was supplied by the DECD. She said there was a lot of information and direction in this piece which could help us with our work. The idea of impact fees, building caps, service demands, etc will be enlarged upon later in our discussions. There was mention of Bob Faunce’s, our town planner, letter and felt that this should be incorporated into our thoughts as well. Mrs. Algeo asked that each member read and comment on her 13 page document which will lead into our grant application. She asked that these comments come in to her by the end of this week so that she can finalize to about 7 or 8 pages to go to Rick Seeley for his work on the grant application. She also felt that asking someone like Evan Rickert to speak to the Town’s people about our Comprehensive Plan process would be invaluable. It would be beneficial to have as many people as possible hear him because he would encourage participation thereby making a better Plan.

Public Participation Plan – Dr. Burnham felt that at the beginning there should be neighborhood meetings with a “mission” statement and agenda offered. Mr. Leavitt submitted his attempt at writing the Plan’s “Visioning Statement”. Dr. Burnham said that possibly some controversial subjects might be publicized to get the public’s attention. He felt it was essential to let the public know what a Comprehensive Plan is and what it can do for a town. Mrs. Algeo suggested getting some ideas from other towns’ processes and see what worked for them. Mr. Turner asked that the Committee set a time and place which will be solid and that the public can depend on if they want to attend. He said that he would take the responsibility of publicity in the Roadrunner and getting the dates published. Mr. McCurtain felt that an article about what Raymond might look like in 10 years would be helpful. He volunteered to write this concept for the Roadrunner.

NOTE: (It was decided to meet every Thursday, 7:00 pm at the Town Office, at least until the grant is complete beginning January 31st.)

3d. The Committee contributed ideas of issues to be dealt with in the future:

- population increase
- added building permits
- seasonal building conversions
- increasing mil rate
- increased traffic on all roads
- pressure on waterfront properties
- maintenance and construction of roads
- increased municipal services
- loss of open space – no traditional farming or logging – urban sprawl
- security issues – police, fire, rescue
- elderly facilities and care
- water quality – aquifer protection
- school services
- infrastructure in general
- youth support

5. Discussion on kind of plan to go with.
Tabled

6. Smart-Bold Growth discussion. (Are we smart? Are we bold?)
Tabled

7. Voting Procedure.

MOTION: Ben Levy motioned that we use a majority vote. Seconded by Jean Carter. It was decided that a quorum would be 7 members.

VOTE: Carried

ADJOURNMENT: Jim Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 9:24 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk