

Bowdoinham
Comprehensive Planning Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Present: Joanne Joy, Chair; Alan Acker, Laura Arnold, Kim Bedard, Peggy Christian, Jan Marks, Buddy Schott, Bill Stanton

Excused: Dave Asmussen

Staff: Jennifer Curtis

Guests: Patricia Wilkins, Toby Frizzle, Jacinta Williams

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:35, with Joanne presiding and Bill recording the minutes.

Review agenda

- Peggy added the discussion of an Ad Hoc committee to write the Aging in Bowdoinham section. The committee is Jan Marks, Peggy Christian, and Maureen Booth from Age Friendly Bowdoinham. Recommendations due by Feb 2023 meeting for review before and update to the Select Board in March.
- This prompted a brief discussion of the addition of a Public Health adhoc committee. Laura and Joanne will be the members. Also recommendations due by Feb 2023 for presentation in March to the Select Board.

Minutes

- Jan made a motion to accept the minutes from the September meeting with the edit to include Kim as present, Buddy seconded, and the motion carried by six members with two abstaining because they had not been at the meeting.

Update on Housing Forum on Oct 26, 2022

Joanne provided an update on the BCDI and the Comprehensive Planning Committee co-hosting a community housing forum on October 26 at the Bowdoinham Community School on the subject of all types of Housing in the community. She and Jen will be there and urged other members to attend and to sit at different discussion tables. The intent of the meeting is to both inform the comprehensive plan and to provide ideas for BCDI to perhaps be able to follow up in some way.

BCDI and Joanne and Jenn will hold a zoom call on Monday 10/17 to finalize details. Anyone interested and available on the committee can join by contacting Joanne for the zoom link

BCDI will post the agreed upon questions/discussion items ahead of the meeting via social media. Joanne pointed out that the 2020 demographical information she received from the State indicated, that in year 2020, a little over 1/3 (about 1200) of the town's residents were age 60-64, and many are likely to want to continue living in Bowdoinham as they age. Hence, the need is acute for that reason alone.

- Data and Discussion on Bowdoinham facilities and services

Jenn provided members with a packet of information that included:

- (1) a map showing town-owned facilities and infrastructure including some cemeteries
- (2) a list of initiatives in progress by the town
 - a. This is updated in January so the committee will review then in both 2023 and 2024
- (3) the capital improvements program
- (4) a list of the questions concerning the current status of comprehensive planning items.

The map generated much discussion about items that were not shown or shown incorrectly.

- Include issues of accessibility for the Coombs Building as well as other locations.
- What is the status of the recommended improvements to the town offices
- What is the status of the two recycling facilities
 - Include the Store on the map

Jenn will work on adding missing items so we have an updated map, insert a blow-up of the village showing things in more detail, make a more extensive legend, and provide other similar maps of town features.

Peggy noted the current plan has all the maps in the back and difficult to find. It was decided that for the 2024 plan the maps would be located throughout the comprehensive plan within the relevant sections of the plan rather than all at the end.

Referring to the list of town initiatives in progress, Joanne asked Jen for more information on how many have been put on hold and for what reason. She also said there was a need for a representative from the Water District to appear before the committee and provide an update on the water system.

There was discussion about the future adequacy of emergency services, given that the town's high number of older people is aging and will demand more services, and the extremely high cost of emergency services at the time.

Next Steps:

Jenn – map and which town projects are on hold

Joanne – contact Elaine Williams about attending the Nov meeting with an update on the cemeteries and their map.

Joanne / Jenn – send the flyer for the housing forum to all CPC members.

Allen – contact Steve Cox to present in Nov on the water district – including age of pipes, cost and opportunities to connect, etc.

Allen – contact school about capacity and any concerns about meeting emerging needs over the next 10 years.

The meeting concluded with Bill raising his concern that mobile homes - as single units or as a park - are permitted in Village District 1, and because of the dire need for affordable housing, there may be pressure to locate these types of living facilities in the village. He said that if this were to occur, the town's historic character could be diminished and home values decline. Bill indicated that it was very important to address the problem, but wondered why a solution had to be at the expense of weakening the attraction of the historic village. Peggy responded that 24 years ago the idea of banning mobile home from Village District 1 was considered, and downed vociferously.

Joanne recommended he and others attend the Oct 26 meeting as the type of homes and where are going to be topics of discussion at that time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Stanton