

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 5/13/26

Time: 6:00pm

Present: Peggy, Buddy, Allison, Jason, Bill, Jan Yvette (staff)

Absent: Mike

Guests:N/A

Adjustments to the Agenda: Articles for Bowdoinham Newsletter (Yvette)

Notetaker: Jan

Public Comments: N/A

Approval of Minutes:

4/8/26 minutes were unanimously approved

Staff Updates:

- Senator King is supporting extending the rail trail to Gardiner.
- Senator Collins is requesting funding for extending Bowdoinham's sidewalk project.
- The new pavilion at the waterfront park will be Article 8 on this year's Town Meeting Warrant.

Tree Committee Update: The committee decided to continue writing a Municipal Tree Plan, and not a policy as the CPC suggested at its April meeting. The plan, which will be similar to that which was presented to the CPC at previous meetings, is being tweaked/polished and will be presented to the CPC for comments. The Tree Committee will update the Select Board on the plan and submit the final version for inclusion on the 2027 Town Meeting Warrant.

Discussion Items: Discussion of Northstar and Viewshed Interviews/References:

The consensus among committee members was that both companies made good presentations and that both would do a good job of writing an open space plan for Bowdoinham, and both would do a good job reaching out to the community for input and keeping the community apprised of how the plan was developing. Of the members present at the meeting 3 (Peggy, Jan, Buddy) preferred Viewshed and three (Jason, Allison, Bill) preferred Northstar. Mike (who could not attend the meeting) informed Peggy, prior to the meeting, that he preferred Viewshed. The committee voted 4 to 3 to award the contract with Viewshed. There were concerns raised about Viewshed keeping FB Environmental as their subcontractor and whether it was possible to specify that in the contract.

Articles for the Bowdoinham Newsletter:

The committee previously discussed having an article about the Open Space Plan in each issue of the Bowdoinham Newsletter. Yvette will write the first article on what an open space plan is and why

the town should have one. She will include an announcement of the first public meeting about the plan, the date of which will be determined with Viewshed at the June CPC meeting.

Committee Member Comments: N/A

Next Agenda Items: The June 2026 CPC meeting will be with Viewshed to discuss how they intend to proceed and set a date for the first public meeting about the Open Space Plan.

Adjourn: 7:12pm.

A true copy, attest.

Yvette Meunier DATE