

Buxton Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting
Minutes for September 16th, 2019

-Meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

-Members in attendance were Mark Blier, Henry Huntley, Jeremiah Ross, Cliff Thomas, Galen Cunning

-Review of Special Meeting regarding a new ladder truck for the Fire Department. Perhaps a quality refurbishment will be more cost effective. There was a special meeting and vote on the subject and some emotions were felt. The town only has one set of Jaws of Life and they accompany the ladder truck to every accident. The APR on the new truck truck is 3.17%

-The town's expenses are up by 11% this year, a reevaluation may be necessary. Mark believes labor and overhead are increasing the expenses. Adjusting the tax rolls higher will increase the amount collected but lower the Mil. Rate

-Galen has found a document that can help guide organizations through the process of installing renewable energy generation. He will make copies of this document for the group to pick up and review. If we decide to explore the possibilities of a solar array on the landfill or other brownfield sites in the town, we will need to set guidelines. There are professionals within our local and nearby communities we can rely on for assistance

-Bar Mills Portage Project update. Perhaps we can secure funding for this project next year? We will need funding for the Porta John and picnic table next year. A use study and feasibility study for any improvements were also deemed necessary. Perhaps a guest book at the town parks would help with gauging community interest. A better portage above the dam would be helpful. Committee members will independently investigate Hollis' portages in Bar Mills. Perhaps the SRCC can advise us as they just helped install a new portage in West Buxton?

-Update on Sesquicentennial Open Space Project. Jere is in communication with Jim regarding the progress of the permitting process. We will need to entertain a bidding process for the cutting. Winter will be an excellent time for the cutting to happen. In order to do this we will need to mark the trees soon

-Community access to the town meetings is facilitated through Saco River TV, could there be an online stream with the content for those without cable as well? Perhaps there could be a moderator who could pass along comments from the viewing public via Facebook? We hear of town members enjoying the service, is there a way to expand access?

-The next meeting is scheduled for September 30th at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda for the Next Meeting:

Sesquicentennial Celebration Open Space Project progress

Potential for a community solar array on town property, Review the NREL guidance document

Bar Mills Portage Use Survey; Funding of said project

Tax implications of reassessment and lowered Mil. Rate