

Buxton Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting

Minutes for October 14th, 2019

-Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

-Members in attendance were Mark Blier, Cliff Thomas, Henry Huntley, Jeremiah Ross, Galen Cuning. The minutes from September 16th, 2019 were approved unanimously.

-Progress on the Sestercentennial Celebration Open Space Project was discussed. Jim is very busy this time of year and our patience is noted. We will wait for foliage to fall before marking trees to thin. We will need a weekend site walk to achieve this.

-The Bar Mills Portage Porta-John was used to some extent this year, we need to measure use next year. Reports of the portages on the Hollis side of the river are very positive. Should we find a grant and prepare a use survey to determine the feasibility of a portage renovation? Does the group think we should make the mill site another park? To make it another park we would need to vote on it during town meeting as a warrant article.

-On a Salmon Falls note, improvements to the Salmon Falls Bridge will begin in 2022. There will be a detour on Route 4A for the duration of the project to expedite repairs. Mark wondered if semi trucks would need to be barred to save Main St. from undue damage. Perhaps a road improvement and sidewalk upgrade could happen as an alternative.

-There were no reported disturbances this summer at Pleasant Point Park, with the notable exception of one unfortunate incident. However, there were no arsons or major altercations. Questions on the subject: What is the town's level of responsibility for the misbehavior? To what extent is our liability? Again, the positive mention of the UMO Footbridge Project was noted and an emailed link of their presentation was shared among the group.

-In other transportation news, the Exit 45 Turnpike Project has a tentative date of 2025. And there was concern as to the progress of the rotary installation planned for Scarborough corner.

-NREL Guide to Community Solar was shared with the group. The group should review the processes they've laid out to gauge feasibility of a landfill solar array. Two articles in recent Press Herald editions were cited as relevant, as well. Mark relayed news on new legislation that will prioritize green energy at a rate of \$0.29/Kwh vs the current rate of \$0.05/Kwh. He is concerned businesses may leave the state as costs to operate rise.

-Gray and York are reassessing their comprehensive plans, so Cliff thinks that could prompt an examination of our land use as well. We will add that to the agenda for the next meeting.

-Next meeting is set for November 4th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.