

Buxton Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting Minutes for November 4th, 2019

-Meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

-Members in attendance were Mark Blier, Cliff Thomas, Henry Huntley, Jeremiah Ross, Galen Cunning. The minutes from October 14th, 2019 were approved unanimously.

-Mark updated the group on his attendance of a MDOT Meeting regarding the Salmon Falls Bridge. Mark says the shoulders will be 5' wide on each side. There were concerns of significant damage to Main St. with the added traffic and heavier loads. Mark would expect a full rebuild afterwards. As for the detour, Scott Warchol says separate detours could be used in this case. There were also concerns among the group that traffic driving down Main St. may be heavy footed; In addition, how will traffic and large trucks navigate the tight corner on the far side of the river?

-In other transportation news, Kevin Kimball says a \$17-20K Roads Engineering Survey would help assess the work needed on town roads. Mark agrees, he thinks a capital improvements fund would help with investments the town needs to maintain its transportation network as well. Focusing about \$250k per year on buying town equipment outright would help reduce interest payments and allow for a more streamlined buying process. In order to combat road deterioration, we should double the current roads budget, too. Mark reports there are about 80 miles of town owned roads in Buxton, as well as 40 miles of State owned roads, for a total of 120 miles. In order to fix them all it would require an investment of about 20 million. Overall, the group supports the idea of the survey.

-The town has Public Utilities covered in the Land Use Code, the group thinks that should be proficient governance of the upcoming Solar Farm on Rt 112 at the Shaw Brothers gravel pit. If there needs to be amendments to the Land Use Table, perhaps another committee with purview of the realm could rework it and bring it to the general public for approval? Kandice is getting recommended model towns information on the subject for the Planning Board, perhaps we could find copies of this information for our use. We have shared the NREL document with members of the board, in hopes it could be useful as well. Mark has stated he will try to attend the next planning board meeting to listen to the proposal and perhaps query them about recommendations or if they could help.

-In other Land Use business, Cliff has mentioned he would like to rework the current Land Use Table with eyes towards making the setback for cluster developments larger. He has made note of the Towns of York and Gray efforts to re-examine their Comprehensive Plans as commendable models to follow.

-Next meeting is set for November 18th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.