

February 20, 2017

## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE

Members Present: Mark Blier, Cliff Thomas, Jere Ross, Penny Booker

Attendees: Bob Gorham, Galen Cunning, Julie Gamelson, Ellen DeCotiis, Terri Morin, Kelly Weymouth, Rich Streeter, Henry Huntley, Paul Baresel

Discussion on number of people have on committee. Encourage attendance even if not on committee. Five volunteered for committee, one dropped out. However, consensus was to leave number as existing and encourage others to join discussion.

Brief discussion of proposed agenda. No changes made.

Discussion on “teeth” in Plan. Reviewed that Plan is “recommendations” and eventually voted on by all residents; and, if approved, should be reflected in zoning changes going forward. Issue is that Plan is approved but zoning changes that reflect Plan are not always approved. So the two documents do not always agree. Also a disconnect between recommendations and follow through. Committee disbands, no permanent board has time to embrace issues in plan so changes to zoning are slow.

### Community Facilities and Services

Penny will contact department heads to discuss 10 year plan and do research to update the information in the 2003 plan, e.g. inventory.

Discussion on Fire and Rescue. Need for more paid personnel. More difficult to use volunteers because mandatory, specialized training is needed as well as specialized equipment fitted to. In Chicopee, for example, active members has dropped from about 25 to about 10. Bringing in full time, 24 hour coverage, employees will require upgrade or new building for Chicopee, for example. Bar Mills and Groverville already have this.

Request for updated statistics. Last attempt downloaded data for state, not just Buxton. Galen will work on that.

Discussion on Public Safety. Questions about type of vehicles used and to be used in future. Question about replacements annually. Some models not being made anymore. Rotate oldest vehicle out every year. Current openings for officers; can't fill due to pay scale. If a town hires an officer we recently paid to train, that town pays a fee to us.

Comment: Keep in mind, all these services raise taxes; difficult for seniors

Roads: frost heaves, posting roads. Posting saves roads, but difficult for construction vehicles.

Solid Waste: Recycling roadside more costly, pay per bag, more costly, affects seniors and others. Silver bullet, too many issues with wrong items being thrown in. Transfer station accepts recycling materials and makes some money doing it.

Library: Rent DVDs to pay for cost of digitizing. Updating has been done. Two libraries in Buxton, both of which offer computer labs.

Recreation: Question on reason for new assistant; after school and summer program is main reason. Town has a very good program for children. Rec director has asked residents what they would like for recreational programs, bus trips, etc. Difficult to fill a bus, not cost effective.

Education: Difficult to have much control because 5 towns involved. Agree costs are extensive. Discussion on cost effectiveness of natural gas for fuel. Also number of buses with very few children on them. Recommendation to go the budget meetings to educate oneself on details of issues school faces.

Common theme of evening is difficulty in COMMUNICATION. Town is in a transitional period as far as how residents want to receive information. Most participants have heard repeated requests for the newsletter to come back. Galen and Ellen are going to work on this issue reaching out to BEHS and USM to see if there is a student who would be willing to work on this. The cost might be covered by selling ad space. Ellen will ask for a back issue to get an idea of how it was set up before. Content should be reviewed by Selectmen before publication. One issue may be sent to every household with a request to let editor know if you wish to receive a paper copy in mail. It will also be available electronically. Plan is to keep residents informed on what is going on in town so they have time to respond to issues if they wish to participate.

Review Chapter 8, Natural Resources  
Chapter 5, Land Use and Housing

Next meeting: Monday, March 6, 2017 at 6:30 P.M.