

MINUTES
TOWN OF TOPSHAM
Comprehensive Plan Update Committee Meeting
May 8, 2017, 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Larry Fitch
Mary Kate Appicelli
James Dealaman
Doug Bennett
Joe Feely

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Matt Nixon
Bill Ewing
Jenna Godo
Sean Liedman

STAFF PRESENT:

Rod Melanson, Director of Planning Codes and Development

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Fitch called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 6, 2017 MEETING

Minutes of the April 10th meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Review/ Discuss

- a. Inventory of plans/ reports/ studies
- b. Summaries of plans

Larry opened the discussion with a summary of plans he reviewed. He identified the common themes that were identified throughout each plan reviewed:

- 1. Interconnections
 - a. Streets, paths, neighborhoods etc.
- 2. Neighborhoods are important
- 3. Preservation
 - a. In regards to quality of life
 - b. Rural/ natural resources
 - c. Historic
- 4. Lack of clear economic development vision

The group then shared their summaries together where they identified the major themes:

- 1. Unclear visions
 - a. 2005 Comprehensive plan
 - b. Economic development
 - c. Transportation
- 2. Interconnectedness is important
 - a. Neighborhoods

- b. Corridors (both built environment and wildlife)
- c. Business centers
- d. Recreation opportunities
- 3. Partnerships
 - a. Regional cooperation is important
- 4. Recreational access
 - a. Water access is a repeated theme
 - b. Parks
- 5. Preservation
 - a. Across all themes
 - i. Resources
 - ii. Rural character
 - iii. Quality of life
 - iv. Historical
- 6. Public Health Safety Welfare
 - a. Across all themes

The discussion further detailed the “threads” and “themes” that where we looked at substantive themes and subsequently have been outlined in a memo from Doug Bennett dated May 9, 2017.

A brief discussion of lessons learned from this review process and how it translates into our upcoming task of comp planning:

- 1. We need to have a better understanding of what has been accomplished
 - a. Lack of checklists or follow up reports to previous planning efforts
- 2. We are planning for people
 - a. Public engagement is key
 - b. Involving the schools more heavily then has happened in the past
 - c. Aging in place

4. Next Steps

May 15th is our introductory meeting with the consultants...agenda to follow

5. ADJOURN

Meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Melanson