

York, Maine
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Tuesday, March 1, 2022; 5:00 P.M.
Zoom

Steering Committee Chair Kathleen Kluger called this supplemental workshop to order at 5:00 P.M. Kathleen Kluger, Vice Chair Ian Shaw, Nan Graves, Mike Sinclair, Stephanie Kemp Byrnes, Dave McCarthy, Dave Herbein, and Jud Knox were present. Susan Silberberg and Annie Streetman were present from CivicMoxie. Land Use Planner DeCarlo Brown represented Town Hall staff. Patience Horton took Minutes.

Roan Spencer and Jud Knox form the track team for Goals 16 & 17. Dave Herbein and Nan Graves are the track team for Goals 18, 19, & 20 (Town Capacity and Operations). Nan Graves is generously willing to help anyone who wants it.

Strategies should be in more than one section. The more times they come up, the more people see a priority. DeCarlo Brown

5:00-6:45 Community and Town Capacity and Operations Goals & Strategies, Susan Silberberg.

Building Community

- Is “recruiting” the right word for building community?
- Is building community something the Town should support? Building community should be sponsored by religious groups, support organizations, and individuals.
- Individuals, not just groups, can and do support newcomers.
- What is support? Social support? Mental health support?
- Support should lend itself to a diverse population, cultural exchange, and sister towns. It includes seasonal workers and foreign exchange groups.
- Should Older Adults be specified in assisting and receiving a welcoming community?
- Make community-building independent from Town. Look how caregivers steer people where they should to go for community. Caregivers know more than the “Town” does.
- Create a senior adults’ citizen advisory board. Give it a good name, maybe Senior Adult Citizen Advisory Board.

Town Capacity and Operations

- It is well understood, everybody at Town Hall is overloaded. Across the board, every department needs more space and staff.
- The Town should meet changing skill needs and technology requirements for its different departments. Changing technology requirements can be *very* expensive.
- Hire or contract a facilities manager to prioritize the needs of *all* Town buildings. Model the position after Schools’ facility manager.
- Time and money allowing, work toward modernizing online permits and licensing.
- Apply for supplemental grants and State and Federal resources.
- Add a grant writer to Staff. That person raises *much* more money than s/he costs.
- Identify and emulate collaborations, partnerships, and best practices in other communities.

- Every committee should have a charter.
- Committees should have assessments of their own resource needs.
- Are committees, like the HDC, aligned with other committees in any way? Work toward that. Should the Selectboard be the moderator for committee action?
- The Town should offer support staff to boards and committees so they have the necessary tools, like Minutes and access to GIS.
- Have a designated Environmental Conservation Officer on staff, not just an auxiliary job for several members of Town staff.
- Commit to more partnerships with lay non-profit organizations, when appropriate, to achieve Town goals.

Schools

- Is there something wrong with the word “ideological” in the context of the schools? Maybe “ideological diversity” is a good term, as in “academic and ideological diversity.”
- Will there be universal Pre-K in the York School system? It might be legislatively funded. Perhaps it should not be here. It would interfere with private businesses that offer Pre-K.
- Good term: “all students through 12th grade.”
- Better term, “learners of all ages.”

In discussion, there are residents who are displeased with the idea of providing more housing. To some, it will mean outsiders will come in and build luxury homes. It is what some citizens are afraid of. There is nothing that can be done to change those people. It's been going on for decades.

Maybe some people want to pull up the ladder. They want to raise the drawbridge on certain groups. There is conflict in the community at large. There are problems that cannot be fixed. The Comp Plan is not going to fix fear. It has to stay neutral and open. It responds to the community of voices who came together to events and provided a thousand sticky notes.

Once again, a paragraph Stephanie Kemp Byrnes had submitted several months ago was praised. It is inspirational. There will be a place for it somewhere in the Comp Plan, maybe up front.

Public comment / Correspondence

There was neither.

Next meeting: Monday, March 7, 5:00-7:00 P.M. Zoom

Discuss addition meetings

- There is a discussion about whether meetings should be held in the Library or on Zoom.
- Regular meetings could possibly be held every Tuesday from 6:00-7:30 P.
- There could possibly be a meeting Thursday, March 17 and/or maybe March 21.

7:00 Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Patience G. Horton.

I've been doing this for years. This group is so much in sync, everything is so much better when we're done with it. It's a nice feeling. Susan Silberberg