

Greetings,

The Comprehensive Plan Revision Committee met Monday, May 2, 2016 at 7:30 pm in the Bryant Room for its initial meeting.

Attending were committee members David Martucci, Chair; Guy Bourrie; Susan Ebersten; Lowell Freiman; Charlotte Henderson; Peg Hobbs; and Burton "Sonny" Ludwig.

The attendees introduced themselves.

The Chair noted Don Grinnell's resignation from the committee which was accepted with regret by the committee. He noted Don had offered to do some reviewing and perhaps a small task or two. The committee plans to take him up on his offer.

An email from Kit Lascoutx was read. Kit is in Mexico temporarily and could not make the meeting. Regarding the committee's focus, he said, "I agree with the desire for plain language but am not sure what great industry we are stifling. If it is mining and other rape of the earth I have reservations. Washington is a place with great natural resources that need to be protected. Maine real estate multiple listing service (MLS) features Washington properties as the most affordable. As much as I treasure my privacy and loath the madding crowd I would prefer people to increase the tax roles rather than industry. What they would do to make a living I do not know. Please keep me in the loop."

David Studer spoke with the Chair regretting he could not make the meeting and stated he could not make the first or second Mondays but the others would be okay. He stressed the need for a strong public participation component and strongly favored a community survey at the least.

The Chair distributed the following documents to each attendee:

- The 2005 Comprehensive Plan

- The Comprehensive Planning Check List

- The 2000, 2010 and 2014 Census Data

- A list of the Committee members and their contact information

The Committee decided to meet every month on the third Monday at 7 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 16 at 7 pm in the Bryant Room. The Chair penciled these meetings in on the Bryant Room Calendar.

The Committee discussed process. We will use the checklist to determine what elements we have and which ones we do not have. In doing that we will also discover which policies have been put onto effect and which need more progress. The Committee is thinking about a public visioning session.

A letter from Sonny Ludwig was discussed. The Chair pointed out that when Sonny asks for "the ordinances of the State" to compare to what we have, the only required ordinance for Washington is Shoreland Zoning.

Sonny stated “Some of the rules that are now in our ordinances seem to reflect a handful of people, not the majority.” The Chair pointed out the 2001 Community Survey had a 79% response for stronger ordinances.

Sonny stated “Anything besides residential construction appears to be denied by the ordinance.” The Chair distributed a three page chart showing all of the uses specifically allowed in each District and he also distributed the condensed version of the NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) that the Planning Board can use in the Farm & Forest, Rural, Rural-Commercial, Planned Development and Village Districts to permit similar uses to those listed based on the industry codes. Washington has one of the most inclusive ordinances when it comes to commercial uses.

Sonny asked about trying to simplify the ordinance language. The Chair responded that this committee will not be reviewing individual ordinances but rather the policies that support the ordinances.

Sonny read an article from the 1994 Town Warrant that specified a Selectman, A Planning Board Member, An Appeals Board Member and two citizens should make up the Comprehensive Plan Committee and suggested this Committee was illegal. The Chair noted the 22-year old Warrant article was no longer valid as Warrant Articles are only valid for the year that they are enacted. To survive for more than one year, a policy has to be enshrined in an ordinance.

The Committee discussed the 2001 Community Survey. The Chair distributed copies of the blank survey form and a compilation of the basic results, but in raw numbers and in percentages of that survey. The Committee agreed we need to do another Community Survey and the Chair assigned the task to review the 2001 survey form and make suggestions at the next meeting as to which questions need to be changes, eliminated or any additional questions that need to be added.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Attached are the documents distributed at the meeting except for the 2005 Comprehensive Plan (available on the Town web site) and the Checklist (sent to everyone in an earlier email). Note the 2001 Survey Results appended here include the additional 28 pages or so of comments not distributed at the meeting. The Committee list indicates who has received a print copy of the 2005 plan and who attended tonight’s meeting.