

# South Berwick Comprehensive Plan Committee

## July 25, 2022

### MINUTES

Raegan Young	SMPDC	ryoung@smpdc.org
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Jack Kareckas	Town Council	jkareckas@sbmaine.us
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Laura Leber	Chair	laura.leber.maine@gmail.com
Nora Gibson	Recording Secretary	gibson.nora.p@gmail.com
Deb Ganster (virtual)	Committee Member	djganster@yahoo.com

Committee Members Not Present: Elita Galvin, Scott McPhedran, Chris Harris, Jonathan Donahue

- Laura motioned to approve the minutes for June’s meeting
  - Moving forward, all Committee Members both in attendance and absent will be recorded in the minutes
- Drafts
  - Committee found the Chapter drafts to be very well written and readable, as desired
  - Feedback for these Chapters is to ensure research is accurate and not missing any nuances
  - Transportation Chapter
    - Jack shared the following comments and edits concerning the Transportation Chapter draft:
      - The town has a Parking Committee that workshops solutions for the town (example: using Library parking lot for School drop-offs)
      - Maintaining a livable and walkable Downtown that also merges with Arterial Routes is complicated
      - Technical Edits:
        - Pg. 6 -- “Bus” Route 100
        - Pg. 4 -- State line appears to be incorrect; Emery’s Bridge year built (1891) is likely incorrect due to its modern materials (steel and concrete); include culvert Rt. 101 over Quamphegan Brook
      - There are questions concerning road mileage (85 miles vs. 61 miles), which SMPDC will confirm. Funding from state is based on miles, so the Plan will want to ensure it reflects the most accurate number.
    - Regarding parking matters and concerns
      - The Plan will have a Downtown Chapter, which will go into greater depth on parking
      - A new traffic study will be done in the upcoming Fall 2022, updating the feasibility study by Sebago Technics
      - Current studies that inventory parking availability for the town show that parking difficulty for shopping on Main Street is not significant
        - Parking is mixed-use, and results in general conflict between business owners and tenants who park all day
      - Town continues to work to find creative parking solutions that do not sacrifice too many other amenities in town

- Community Profile Chapter
  - Under Demographics, there has been positive changes in education attainment
  - The population has not grown as fast as other local communities (pg. 2)
- Survey Updates
  - Survey has been advertised and the online version is publicly available, but it has not been printed and mailed as of this meeting date (deadline was July 15<sup>th</sup>)
    - To move forward on printing, there needs to be a finalized number for the mailing list
      - Concern: Current figure of roughly 3,300 would cover taxpayers, but may not include all renters
        - Other communities just use tax list or Mail Direct
      - Solution: To reach renters, printed copies can be hand delivered at large building units
    - Recommendation from Committee: Move forward with current tax list (3,318) for mailings. Jess has volunteered to go to AVESTA, Grant House, and the Public Library to hand-deliver surveys to reach people who may not be on tax list
  - From the online survey alone, there have been 126 responses within in this first week (SMPDC says this is good progress)
    - SMPDC will continue to share results as they come in, so that we can see where we may be deficient
  - SMPDC will request more advertising with the Sentinel for next week (requests with the Sentinel close Mondays)
  - Survey is set to close on August 8<sup>th</sup>
    - Can still choose to extend deadline after the initial 3-week period
    - Other advertising options until then are to share the survey with people you know, boost posts on social media, advertise in bulletin, provide QR code on flyer, share at gatherings like Hot Summer Nights or LanternFest, etc.
  - Survey is still editable, so please send any corrections (for example, Survey initially did not have a “none” option for “kids in school”—this is now fixed)
- Next meeting will be focused on the Housing Chapter

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Monday, August 29 at 6 PM**  
**Town Hall**

*Laura Leber moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:08pm, seconded by Jack Kareckas.*

Attest:



Nora Gibson, Recording Secretary