Town of West Bath
Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 18, 2022

Comp Plan Committee:
David Hennessey, Chair
Bob Weir, Vice Chair
Sandra Basgall
Paul Coombs
Darlene Estabrook
Toni Tate - absent
Leah Zartarian

Town Staff: Kristine Poland, Town Administrator

Select board: Kathy Lavallee
Suzanne Andresen

Public: Jim Brophy, West Bath Historical Society

I. Call to Order **at 6:00 pm.**

II. Attendance and establishment of Quorum: **a quorum was determined.**

III. Pledge of Allegiance: **recited.**

IV. Approval of Minutes: Basgall requested amendments to the minutes: in the third paragraph under Road Commissioner add "to hire" [one person]. Under Collaboration with Businesses add "State Farm" to Basgall. Zartarian noted that "Frohmiller Construction" should be added to her assignment. **Moved by Basgall to approve as amended, seconded by Estabrook, motion carried unanimously.**

V. Business Items:

1. **Discussion with West Bath Historical Society:**
   Leah Zartarian spoke on behalf of the historical society (WBHS). Jim Brophy, a retired professor of geology, was introduced as the speaker for the Town History Series hosted by Patten Free Library (PFL).
   In addition to participating in the library's history series, Kerry Nelson provides historical support to PFL and other interested parties. WBHS publishes a newsletter and hosts open houses at the Littlefield School and the Old West Bath Meeting House. The organization has reactivated their Facebook page and has approached the Town about working together to digitize records. They are looking forward to returning to in-person events. Goals of the organization are to continue to maintain the buildings, to update bylaws, and to strengthen and increase participation within the community. While the pandemic has hindered outreach, they will continue to reach out to local families to join WBHS and to contribute history.
   Fiscal needs are currently met; however, the buildings are old and require attention. Donations are asked of groups who use the facilities for weddings or other events, although usage has decreased during the pandemic. The lack of adequate parking also makes it difficult to host large events.

In addition to partnering with Patten Free Library, WBHS has a positive relationship with Town Office staff who have been receptive to requests to make the newsletter and other informational material available and to post content on the Town website and on the Town Facebook page. Plowing and mowing are covered within the Town budget. They have also worked with the Over the Hill ATV Club to allow access to trails. They would like to improve their connection with other historical societies. A relationship with the grange has not been sustainable.

The relationship with people in the community who have longstanding ties with West Bath has been positive. There is mixed interest from others. The society has about 120-130 active members; many are not West Bath residents. Maintenance is carried out through donations and relies on availability of volunteers. The buildings provide space to display memorabilia but are not temperature controlled. Littlefield School is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has some room for storage. The meeting house does not have room for storage.

There was discussion about how the Town could become more involved in recognizing and promoting growth of the organization. Suggestions were made to collect donations at the Town Office and to host a "community day" to showcase all West Bath has to offer, possibly to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Sabino Association. Common interest was expressed to bring the community together by re-engaging groups within the community, including WBHS.

2. **Section updates of 2006 plan:**
   Review of individual sections of the previous Comprehensive Plan were assigned as follows (Public Works & Solid Waste Management has not yet been assigned):

   - Basgall: Education; Recreation & Open Space
   - Coombs: Housing; Local Economy
   - Estabrook: Growth & Development
   - Hennessey: Municipal Government; Water Resources; Marine Resources
   - Weir: Natural Resources; Agriculture & Forestry
   - Zartarian: Public Safety; Historical & Archaeological

3. **Meeting schedule and next steps:**
   Meetings were scheduled for the following Mondays at 6:00 pm at the Fire Hall: January 31, February 28, March 14, and March 28. Jonathan Beane will attend the January 31 meeting.

4. **Committee concerns:**
   Coombs offered a summary of the interviews he conducted with M.W. Sewall and Trinken Brewing Co. Written responses to the interview questions are attached to and made part of this record.

   Hennessey spoke with Derek Dudzic who indicated that, despite initial difficulties with the Planning Board, he is pleased with the Town's support.

Zartarian spoke with Bath Industrial, and Frohmiller Construction. Bath Industrial wanted to expand to accommodate two separate businesses in the same space. They feel the Town has been supportive. Frohmiller is also satisfied with the Town's cooperation and tax advantages.

The committee discussed how to track the number of businesses in West Bath. Records are available in various ways, depending on the type of business (e.g., corporation; home occupation; sole proprietorship). The committee reviewed the assessors' personal property list at a previous meeting.

VI. **Public Comment:** None.

VII. Adjournment: **motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm.**