

Comprehensive Plan Committee

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 6pm

Wiscasset Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom

Agenda

1. Call to Order

2. Introductions

- a. Those present: Emily Rabbe (Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission), Kim Andersson, Heather Jones, Sean Rafter, Anne Leslie, Steve Graffam, and Sarah Whitfield (chair)

3. Overview of work on the Comp Plan so far:

Emily Rabbe of LCRPC gave an overview of the comprehensive plan process generally, why it's important, and how they might help. Sarah Whitfield went over the timeline of previous work done on the plan:

- a. Last plan was completed in 2008 and ran until 2018. Next plan development started in 2019, delayed due to the pandemic, picked up again in late 2020, several meetings in 2021, and some work on the chapters was completed.
- b. There are 13 chapters and 9 have at least initial updates or are in process. All have drafts to work off of.
- c. Checklists for each chapter are provided by the state and a data packet was provided by the state for inclusion in multiple chapters in the spring of 2023.
- d. A survey was completed in 2021/2022 with just over 200 responses. Common themes to the question of "where would you like to see the Town in Wiscasset in 10 years?" were:
 1. Attracting more families/remote workers/younger demographics
 2. Town planner
 3. Thriving downtown
 4. Lower taxes
 5. Improved educational outcomes
 6. Pharmacy
- ii. The top important amenities were as follows:
 1. Availability of broadband internet service
 2. Small-town atmosphere/quality of life
 3. Tax rate
 4. Quality of town services
 5. Rural, scenic setting

4. Tasks to be completed and timeline

- a. Committee members should think about their areas of interest in terms of chapters. Each chapter will ideally have a couple of committee members working on it with the support from the chair and when appropriate, LCRPC. We will also work with all appropriate department heads and other respective parties (i.e. the superintendent and school board will be involved where education is involved). LCRPC has already drafted the transportation chapter and we have their housing study to use for several chapters as a reference.
 - i. Sarah will send around the list of chapters and committee members should indicate their interest.
- b. Emily suggested that we may want to add an additional optional chapter, "Lifelong community building"
- c. We discussed the possibility of a new survey since the results are a year old at this point. Committee members should consider this and come to the next meeting with an opinion and thoughts about a new survey.

- d. Sarah will work with Emily and the town manager to determine a proposed contract with LCRPC.
 - e. At the next meeting we will also want to consider a proposed schedule of public outreach in terms of workshops and information gathering.
- 5. Next steps**
- a. Sarah will send access to the Google folder and documents that housing the previous drafts, survey results, and checklists. Committee members should indicate their interest in particular chapters.
6. Adjourned just before 7pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 6pm, Town Office