

Town of Belgrade

Comprehensive Plan Review Committee

Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2024

Meeting Convened at 5:30 pm/Adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Members in attendance: Anthony Wilson - Chair, Dee Cooke - Secretary, Pat Donahue, Kimberly Dallas, and Dan Ceglinski.

Additional attendees: Grainnie Shaw - KVCOG, Barbara Allen - Belgrade Selectboard Chairperson, Carol Johnson - Belgrade Selectboard Member, Lorna Nichols - Belgrade Town Manager, Hans Rasmussen - Belgrade Code Enforcement Officer, Sara Languet - Chair of Belgrade Planning Board, Harald Bredesen and Sandy Colt - both of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and Christina Wilson - resident.

General Discussion: The chapters on Housing and Transportation prepared by KVCOG was presented by Grainnie Shaw of KVCOG for the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee, Belgrade Selectboard Chairperson and Belgrade Town Manager's review and input.

Housing needs in Belgrade were examined including right size housing, affordable housing and housing for older residents so they can stay in the community, and incentives to encourage this growth. An idea of 10-20% of future subdivisions having smaller required lot size for affordable housing was presented. With the goal of keeping 60% of the community not developed, it is also important to increase housing opportunities.

Zoning was a topic with most participants feeling it was inevitable. Benefits and drawbacks will be investigated and it was agreed that education and dialogue was needed to include the residents of Belgrade.

Short term rentals will also be looked at as they effect the health of our lakes.

Transportation issues were discussed including (for safety) bike lanes on Route 27, sidewalks or walking paths between Belgrade Central School, Workman's Field, and the library as well as The Center for All Seasons and Belgrade Lakes Village. Also, to encourage ride sharing, park and ride lots with rest rooms, trash services, and charging stations at the previous boat launch near Hammond Lumber and/or in Belgrade Lakes Village area may be beneficial.

There is a need for transportation options for residents who cannot drive. Currently KVCOG does cover some of those transportation needs, but only for medical reasons. Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a free volunteer service helping many towns and residents in this area. Neighbors Helping Neighbors will provide rides for reasons including shopping, voting, town services, events, visiting loved ones in homes, as well as for medical appointments. Volunteers are always appreciated, and only one orientation is necessary to become a driver. Volunteers can drive as little or often as they want. Neighbors Helping Neighbors asked help from the Town of Belgrade in creating awareness of their organization.

The Comprehensive Plan Review Committee is open to public feedback and encourages residents to attend meetings. A survey for the public will be a priority in the coming months.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2024 at 5:30 pm. Meetings will run approximately one hour.