Town of Belgrade

Comprehensive Plan Review Committee

Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2022

Meeting Convened 6 pm/ Adjourned 7 pm

Members in attendance: George Seel, Chair, Mary Vogel, V. Chair and Patrick Donahue

Old Business:

General discussion: The Seven-Lakes Alliance has conducted a watershed study and there will be a comprehensive analysis with recommendations presented by Colby College around the first of March. These efforts are being coordinated with the town manager.

#4 The committee review the recommendations related to surface water quality protection and the Belgrade lakes. George noted there would be upgrades to the Subdivision Ordinance and the Commercial Development Review Ordinance on the 2022 town warrant. These upgrades will cover the concerns surrounding phosphorous, stormwater and soil erosion control standards in new development and will bring the town in compliance with DEP standards by reference. George stated once these changes have been adopted the shoreland zoning, commercial development and subdivision ordinance will all have BMPs for phosphorus control. The recommended changes in the ordinance will complete the recommendations.

#5 The support of lake, land, trusts, and private initiatives are currently supported through the financial support of the town as well as ongoing support from the selectpersons and town manager.

#6 There has been no progress in the development of a watershed district or increased funding for conservation initiatives.

#7 There has not been any progress in engaging local officials in other watershed towns regarding lake protection plans. On an unrelated note, there was a general discussion on solar farms and the impact it has on scenic views.

#8 & #9 The committee discussed the recommendations on adopting provisions to include perennial streams within the 75’ mark and the maintenance of vegetative buffers within the 75’ mark. George noted the Planning Board chose not to include these requirements in the last rewrite of the Shoreland Zoning ordinance. It would be difficult to show all streams on the town maps, but a topographical from aerial photographs would reveal the contours of the land, including hills, ridges, and valleys, as well as lakes, rivers, creeks, trails, and roads.

#10 There have not been any efforts by the town to educate property owners on the impacts of water quality and the BMPs of forestry practices.

Next meeting will be March 16, 2022