

MEETING NOTES

BELGRADE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Jan. 20, 2021

Via Zoom

Committee Members Present: Kathi Wall, Mary Vogel, Kimberly Dallas, Pat Donahue, George Seel

Others Present: Joel Greenwood, KVCOG; Peter Rushton, PB Chair; Anthony Wilson, Town Mgr.

Absent: Michael Donohue

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- 1) Geographic Information System (GIS) discussion with Joel Greenwood, Anthony and Peter. Reviewed Growth Management recommendation regarding need to develop GIS capabilities to track permits issued by Planning Board and CEO. Related to this is a need to track permit compliance as tool for CEO. Also discussed was need to track how much of the Belgrade Lakes watershed has been developed and progress toward 40% of the land area being developed (based on Plan's estimate of need to retain 60% of watershed in open space to prevent sharp decline in water quality of the lakes). No current means to measure, and therefore to determine when more growth management or planning may be required to protect lake water quality.

Joel discussed KVCOG's GIS capabilities and shared a PDF of the land use map from the Comprehensive Plan. By updating the 2014 mapping, Town would have the foundation in place to undertake a GIS project. Anthony indicated he thought both measuring compliance and development were priorities for the Town. The group decided to focus the discussion from this point on measuring area of development in the watershed vs. development of a compliance monitoring tool. Discussed different possible approaches how to determine and define areas that have been developed, including the following: binary yes/no - does lot have development on it, developing an inventory/database from Town Planning Board and CEO permitting files of developed lots or area developed, and using State Lidar mapping to determine area developed into impermeable surfaces.

Tasks discussed:

- a) Circulate current map to update lands now in conservation as open space (e.g., IF&W lands, 7 Lands Alliance and Maine Woodlot Owners land trust owned/conservation easement lands, SLZ Resource Protection Zone lands, other conservation lands, etc.)
- b) Define what mean by "development" and create database of existing development, whether from Town permitting or assessor records, or use of mapping tools like Lidar.

There was agreement an area measurement of impermeable surfaces was far better metric due to its direct relationship to stormwater and phosphorous runoff.

Related to above – decide on the first and most important question with this potential project to measure and answer as a starting point. Peter Rushton volunteered to come up with a first draft to discuss and get input from the members of the Planning Board and Town Manager, and then this committee and 7 Lakes Alliance.

Other items discussed:

- a) Pat informed everyone of a related ongoing project by the 7 Lakes Alliance land trust to identify and develop a “Conservation Hub”, mapping of the most significant lands for future conservation efforts.
 - b) Anthony asked Joel whether a project of this nature could be done as part of the Town’s KVCOG membership or for a fee. Joel indicated he really did not know, but the project getting started under our membership fee was probably feasible depending on workload required.
 - c) Mary mentioned that she recalled that in the past an effort was started in the Town office to inventory development permitted by the Town, but it was not completed.
 - d) Pat indicated he would inform his colleagues at 7 Lakes Alliance of this discussion. He also suggested this may be an opportunity for the 7 Lakes Alliance and the Town to cooperate/collaborate if this project gets off the ground. Appropriate contacts at 7 Lakes Alliance are Laura Rose Day, the organization’s CEO, and Charley Baeder.
- 2) Reviewed draft report for the 2020 Town Report. No major changes or corrections were suggested. All were OK with draft. George will submit to Anthony.
- 3) Next meeting will be Feb. 17th at 6pm. Will conclude discussion of Forestry and Agriculture recommendations and start reviewing with Anthony Plan recommendations related to Public Services and Finances.

Respectfully submitted,

George Seel, Chair