

MEETING NOTES

BELGRADE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

February 17, 2021

Via Zoom

Committee Members Present: Mary Vogel, Kimberly Dallas, George Seel, Michael Donohue

Others Present: Anthony Wilson, Town Manager

Absent: Pat Donahue, Kathi Wall

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- 1) 12 – 1 Complete review of Forestry and Agriculture recommendations - Anthony placed link on town website to Maine Revenue web page that describes application process for Open Space Timber Management Tree growth. A property can be taxed at current value rather than future value. Complete
Last meeting, Kathi was going to talk with Linda Bacon regarding the status of Forest Management Plan for Transfer Station. The Plan was redone in March 2016. Forest Management Plan mentions dedicating revenue. There is no account for revenue that we know of.
Has there been discussion with 7 Lakes Alliance regarding partnering to develop trails? There is mature land and there are people interested in harvesting. Maybe 100 acres. There was enough to do without touching Transfer Station. George will check in with Kathi if there is any plan to harvest trees. It should go out for bid.
- 2) 12-4 Agriculture, commercial forestry, and land conservation that supports them in local economic development planning. Pat was going to chat with Belgrade Lakes Business group to see what is going on. Tukey Lumber purchased by Hammond Lumber. No retail sales at that location.
- 3) 8-1 Develop a master plan exploring sites in the “central triangle” location for the development of a new town office and fire station.

New town office complete. Looking for Fire Station in the Depot area especially if DOT abandons their site. Fire Department has been interested in this facility. Well property concerns.
- 4) 8-2 Identify changes in government structures and staffing, Bidding polices and services and demands over next 20 years. Town Road Commissioner change and have also added a Fire fighter to the staff. We will need an additional Fire Fighter for the future and the new Fire Station also.
- 5) 8-3 Continue seeking private or regional services – contract with Road Services discussion. This is the last year of 3-year contract. We will go to RFP. Challenge is finding people to do

the work. Second part contract for services for Generators of Maine, Road Commission, as well as the road sand and salt.

- 6) 8- 4 Minutes of all town meetings should be prepared electronically. Accomplished.
- 7) 8 – 5 Update the town website – Accomplished.
- 8) 8 - 6 Develop and update annually a 5-year fire protection, management, and budget plan. We have a full-time rescue chief. Invite Dan Mackenzie to the next meeting. We have capital reserve for fire engines.
- 9) 8 – 7 Mutual aid agreements – Invite Dan to discuss this as well as 8 – 8. Invite Travis Burton on the rescue side of things.
- 10) 8 – 9 Develop and implement mandatory recycling – current rate at 13% by tonnage. Have not heard of mandatory recycling. Communities pay a fee for every bag you dispose in the hopper. Easier if you have curbside pickup. Budget committee spent education money to encourage people to recycle. In the end, it benefits the taxpayer, reduces cost, and generates revenue for the town. Remind folks
- 11) 8 – 11 – provide free access to library services for the community. Continue to partner with Maine State Library. Currently provide electronic books to download and electronic card catalogue system. We have signed up to provide more online library services. Anthony will check with the library director on the status.
- 12) 8 – 12 – Explore the impact of TIF development as directed towards expanding Belgrade commercial tax base. Develop TIF Policy select board. TIF District should be for large area. The downside is funds directed to TIF are not available for services. Tax would increase if this went in place. Impact fees are additional burden. Current fees do not cover administrative cost. Look at fees for building permit cost. We increased fees at the cemetery, and we are more in line with other communities.
- 13) 8 – 14 – Locate new public facilities comprising at least 75% of new growth-related capital investments in designated growth areas. Town office, library, ended up in areas designated for growth. Fire Station needs to be in depot area between 3 highway systems.
- 14) 8 – 15 Reserve capital funds for anticipated facilities needs on a regular basis. Done for fire equipment, recreation and facilities capital reserve, solid waste has capital reserve. Will ask Dan and Travis to join the March meeting. Accomplished.

Tasks discussed:

- a) Fire Chief Dan Mackenzie and Travis Burton will be invited to the next meeting.
- b) Follow up with Peter on the GIS Services to accomplish tracking and measurement of development in Belgrade Lakes watershed. Peter will take the lead and come back to this meeting in March to discuss what he had proposed.

- 1) Next meeting will be March 17th at 6pm – 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Donohue