

May 17, 2017

Comprehensive Plan Update Committee

To Do List

Present: Ron Smith, Cat Cohen, Sandra Riker, Donna Beretta, Joann Rogers, and Liz Smith

Absent: Kris Monzel, Dave Parsons, Justin Steinbach, Carla Jordan, Bob Green

Minutes: April 26, 2017 minutes were reviewed and approved for posting to Town Webpage with revisions highlighted in yellow. The motion to approve was made by Joann Rogers with a second by Donna Beretta. All present approved.

Consultant Update: Sandra Riker said Supervisor Green had received an email from Sharon Lilla within the last week or so, she apologized for not getting back to him sooner but had been out of town on business for the week. She said a proposal for services would be forthcoming.

Priority & Other Topics: Ron Smith had provided the group with a breakdown in the order of priority the answers to the 3 questions asked at the community meeting held October 26, 2016. Cat Cohen provided the group with a list of possible categories and subtopics derived from that meeting. (See note 1 at end of meeting notes.) She said and it was agreed by the group the long list of subtopics to be addressed individually is overwhelming and confusing. The idea to have somewhere between 5 and no more than 9 topics to be focused on and inserting the subtopics that have been previously listed included in the main group. It is very possible that there will be a crossover of subtopics into the main groups and this would require the smaller committees to compare their findings and make sure they are compatible to one another.

Goals & Policy Area Formats: Liz Smith mentioned the Town of Avon's Comprehensive Plan Framework noting that it appeared they had used their Vision Statement with 4 main ideas and went on to create their policies and objectives. Topics from their Vision Statement included:

- Scenic Small Town Character
- Vibrate Economy
- Desirable Quality of Life
- Sustainable Growth & Development with a sub topic Renewable Energy

See note 2 from Liz Smith at the end of the meeting notes. All present agreed this looked like a reasonable way to accomplish an update to our Comprehensive Plan. Building on that idea Cat Cohen provided a document entitled "Possible Main Categories Derived from Vision Statement." (See note 3 at the end of meeting notes.) From our draft vision statement she suggested the following 6 points:

- Preserve our Environment and Natural Resources
- Support Agriculture and Business (could omit business as I will be covered under Economy)
- Expand Recreational Resources

- Encourage Economic Development
- Preserve Rural Community Character
- Add Energy to Vision Statement under Support Renewable Energy

In September of 2016 Joann Rogers attended a seminar put on by Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council with regard to "Green Infrastructure Planning Design Guidelines" and shared it with our group. Sandra Riker thought that the section on the role of The Comprehensive Plan as a guideline this group could use in formatting the updated Comprehensive Plan for Bristol: It suggested that most comprehensive plans include elements addressing:

- Land Use and Growth
- Open Space and Recreation
- Natural Environment
- Community Facilities and services
- Public Safety
- Transportation
- Economy
- Housing

If we were to follow those points we could add Energy as an additional element.

The chapter went on to say the planning process should begin with the identification, assessment, and mapping of the municipality's most important environmental assets, which may include:

- Natural Resource areas such as forests, open fields, and scenic vistas,
- Critical habitats such as conservation corridors, buffer zones, and wildlife preserves
- Critical areas such as wetlands, floodplains, streams, ponds, and estuaries
- Groundwater resources such as primary or principal aquifers

The above areas could then be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan in the areas of Natural Environment, Public Safety, and Transportation.

The group went back and looked at the Housing Goals and Objectives put together by Cat and Liz. Under objective 2- Help aging and/or disabled residents stay independent in their homes longer: Sandra mentioned at the County Level many of the areas talked about are already addressed through the Office of the Aging and other Agencies. The links to those Agencies can be found on the Town Webpage. Liz and Cat made the point that they had gone back and addressed this but felt there needs to be an Outreach Connection at the Town level as well. It is very possible that many seniors do not have access to computers or other means to access that information, so the Town should help find a way to do this for them.

Next Meeting: Sandra mentioned the Town Hall would be available for Wednesday meetings beginning in June and there was nothing planned for this coming Wednesday either. The group discussed if they would like to wait and see if there would be a "facilitator" joining them for future meetings or should we go ahead and meet sooner to keep momentum going for our work. It was suggested we meet next Wednesday May 24th. Cat would reach out via email how many meeting members might be available for that meeting date and if not we could move onto June 7 and or 14.

The group present all agreed it had been a very productive and pleasant meeting this evening and looked forward to more like this in the future. It was suggested perhaps we could have a picnic over the summer where we could meet in a less formal setting and get to know the people we are working with a little better.

Ron Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Riker

note 1

Possible Categories / Subtopics Derived from Community Meeting

Starred items from Community Meeting:

Could be grouped under these main categories:

Support Businesses

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT subtopics:
Businesses, Tourism, Route 64 Corridor Planning, Internet access, Zoning, Marketing Bristol

Protect Rural Character

COMMUNITY CHARACTER subtopics:
Civic Engagement & Community Building, Cultural / Social / Historic Preservation, Connections to Health & Human Services, Growth Management

(Encourage Tourism)->subtopic Ec.Dev.

Protect Environment

CONSERVATION & OPEN SPACE subtopic: Vistas

Increase Infrastructure

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Support Renewable Energy

ENERGY

Support Parks and Recreation

PARKS & RECREATION

(Increase Internet Access)->subtopic Ec.Dev.

(Protect Vistas)->subtopic Conserv./OpenSpace

(Review Zoning)->subtopic Ec.Dev.

Support Agriculture

AGRICULTURE

(this item was not starred)

HOUSING (*could possibly go under Community Character*)

(this item was not starred)

TOWN GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY/INTER-MUNICIPAL & REGIONAL COOPERATION (*could possibly go under Community Character*)

Separately (part of implementation)
Grants

FUND DEVELOPMENT

note 2

Town of Avon Comprehensive Plan Framework (I reviewed Avon's CP structure and thought they had an interesting and useful way of presenting their objectives based on their Vision Statement-Liz S)

Vision Statement – describes the aspirations of the Town, all policies and actions in the CP are aimed at achieving this end.

▼
Policy – supports the vision by addressing a specific area or issue facing the community

▼
Objective – a measurable action statement to be accomplished in pursuit of the policy

▼
Implementation Item – a specific proposal that relates directly to accomplishing an objective

▼
Potential Partners – identify who may have a role in the completion of the item

Avon took 4 main ideas from their Vision Statement to create their policies and objectives:

Scenic rural environment and small town character

- Minimize adverse impacts of development on ag land and preserve prime soils.
- Preserve the Town's important environmental features and natural resources
- Protect our environment
- Preserve and enhance our historic and cultural sites

Vibrant economy and growing tax base

- Promote a mix of residential and commercial development that fosters a walkable, attractive living environment.
- Ensure new investment and development opportunities reflect the character of the Town
- Encourage and support the growth of local industry and enterprise that leads to job creation and retention.
- Continue to protect and support our local farms

Desirable Quality of Life

- Efficient use of existing public infrastructure
- Ensure provision of community services for all residents
- Foster recreational and educational opportunities for residents of all ages
- Maintain adequate consideration and understanding of financial pressures and obligations of the Town in all decision-making.
- Foster a unified community through the promotion of the Town's identity and increasing communication between the Town and its residents.

Sustainable growth and development

- Monitor the balance of residential, commercial, industrial development with respect to open space, ag uses, existing development patterns.
- Foster a multi-modal transportation network
- Encourage the maintenance of existing housing stock and development of affordable housing for all ages and lifestyles
- Encourage the use of green infrastructure and development practices (encourage renewable energy system for residential, commercial, industrial uses, where appropriate (wind, solar, geothermal) sustainable water usage, energy microgrid to protect from future energy failures, etc.

note 3

Possible Main Categories Derived from Vision Statement

"The Town of Bristol boasts a naturally beautiful environment with rolling hills, woodlands, and scenic views. The community will continue to work to preserve our environment and natural features, support agriculture and businesses, and build upon our local and regional recreational resources. Bristol seeks to capitalize on its assets by encouraging responsibly planned economic development that enhances the rural character and heritage of the community, ensuring its sustainability for residents and visitors alike."

Based on this vision statement, we could use as our main categories (e.g.):

- 1) Preserve our Environment and Natural Resources
- 2) Support Agriculture and Businesses (could omit Businesses---will be covered under 4)
- 3) Expand Recreational Resources
- 4) Encourage Economic Development
- 5) Preserve Rural Character & Heritage of the Community (OR: Preserve Community Character)

Add: 6) "Energy" (may have to be added to our vision statement—possibly: "Support Renewable Energy?").

Taking a look at the other topics from our list:

"Conservation and Open Space" would go under 1);

"Tourism" under 4);

"Marketing Bristol" under 4);

"Route 64 Corridor Planning" under 4);

"Transportation and Infrastructure" possibly under 4 and/or 5?);

"Housing" possibly under 4 and/or 5?);

"Growth Management" possibly under 4 and/or 5?);

"Cultural/Social/Historic Preservation" under 5);

"Civic Engagement & Community Building" under 5);

"Connections to Health & Human Services" under 5);

"Town Government Efficiency/Inter-Municipal & Regional Cooperation" perhaps under 5?);

"Fund Development" -- should be separate, as part of implementation.