



Long Range Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC+)

Thursday, May 24, 2012 Minutes

Attendance:

Name	Present	Name	Present	Name	Present
Rebecca Casey	√	Bud French	√	Hugh Coxe	√
Paul Bergkamp	√	Kurt Klebe	√	Jim Thibodeau	√
Steve Hendry	√	Sandra Lipsey	-	Julie Motherwell	√
Rachel Reed	-	Sam Rudman	√	Steve Walker	-
Claudia King	√				

Council Liaison: -
Staff present: Theo Holtwijk
Others present: -

The meeting was called to order by Sam Rudman at 7:05 PM.

1. Minutes

The draft minutes of May 10, 2012 were unanimously approved as written.

2. Draft Chapter Review

Sam stated that the first draft chapter (Marine Resources) had been posted for comment on the Town's website.

Utilities Chapter

- Julie asked if Pete Clark had reviewed this draft. Theo replied that Pete had received this draft, but had not yet had a chance to offer comments.
- Theo said that Pete did comment on a sewer extension summary that Theo had prepared following a discussion with Pete on this topic. Theo reviewed the various possibilities and considerations. He suggested that this summary be incorporated in some fashion in the memo. The committee agreed. Kurt suggested adding this at top of page 3.
- Theo will check when the Winn Road sewer was installed.
- Julie wondered if the survey part of the chapter should be deleted. It was felt that the opinions inform the plan and help shape the policies and should remain included. Sam suggested incorporating survey feedback in the text where it means something. Kurt suggested that where proposed policies differ from the public's opinion this

should be explained. Sam felt that all chapters should do this in a similar manner, so they are stylistically as consistent as possible.

- The section on “studies available in Town Hall” will be deleted. Theo will prepare an appendix that lists this information.
- Claudia asked what the current status of the wastewater treatment plant was with the DEP. It is in a compliant status.
- There was discussion whether the committee should make a recommendation on natural gas extension. Theo mentioned that this topic was currently in progress and that no proposal had been finalized yet, and that therefore no recommendation could be offered. He expected that this section could be updated when the plan is being finalized. The committee agreed to take out the reference about a possible financial subsidy as this is not known at this time.
- It was suggested that the section on other energy resources not start with the issue of “appearance.”
- Becca explained that this section points to the opportunity for the Town to regulate and/or encourage other energy resources.
- The final draft will eliminate the comments from Bill Lunt. Becca had left those in so the group could see what he said.

Web link

- Julie asked what the web link for the posted chapters was. It is http://www.town.falmouth.me.us/Pages/FalmouthME_BComm/LPAC/DraftChapters. Feedback can be submitted to Theo.
- Theo stated that he thought that perhaps specific, organized feedback could be obtained on the proposed actions of each chapter through short Survey Monkey surveys. The group thought that was a good idea.
- Julie suggested showing the link on the Town’s front page. This will be done as soon as more chapters are posted.

Vision

- Paul brought up a question regarding format and process. He felt that it may be useful to connect the draft chapters to an overall vision.
- He envisioned a plan that would push just two or three things over the next ten years. He said that having such a vision would help to prioritize the actions in each chapter. He felt that thus far the following top issues had emerged:
 - Demographic trends and impact it has on housing needs
 - Need for continued fiscal prudence
 - Attention for the economy and need to diversify the tax base.

Regional Coordination Chapter

- It was suggested to add an action of sewer extension planning with Portland and Westbrook as per the extension memo that was discussed earlier.
- There was a discussion as to what relationship Cumberland has with the Falmouth Sewer District and implications this may have for Falmouth’s future sewer capacity. Cumberland has a multi-year contract and pays for the services provided.
- Kurt suggested that the draft actions seemed amorphous and wondered if something more concrete could be stated.

- It was suggested to list in policy #3 the examples of: economic development, trail activity, transportation, marine resources, and utilities.
- It was agreed to delete in the survey section the bullet that discussed survey phrasing.
- It was agreed to delete “very” in action #1 and create a separate action for the Route 100 issue.
- The Route 100 issue will be connected to GPEDC instead of GPCOG. It was felt that this is a regional issue to determine which locations in the region may be suitable for what type of businesses.
- It was suggested that action #2 had promise and that an education effort involving a community dialogue on the costs and benefits was worthwhile as the public had expressed skepticism on this topic in the survey. The need for continued collaboration will not go away in the next ten years. It is important to not limit such a dialogue to citizens of Falmouth as this is a regional concern.
- Julie suggested that term “collaborative thinking” be revised.
- It was asked if there was a mechanism in place to address economic development issues with Cumberland along Route 1. Theo said no, not formally, as Cumberland is not part of the GPEDC. Cumberland and Falmouth have joined in a community chamber. The group remembered the proposed Cedarwood development that did not happen in Cumberland. Theo suggested that when the Town finishes with the Route 1 South planning efforts, there may be an opportunity to begin addressing Route 1 North, and that such could perhaps be done in collaboration with Cumberland stretch of Route 1.
- Paul felt that regionalization could be one of the focus areas of the plan. He thought that citizens could be involved in discussions about the four of five major cost centers of Town government, such as the library, schools, public safety, to help people better understand where the possibilities and costs savings lie by thinking regionally about these services.
- Sam stated that the actions were on purpose left open to allow room for specific items to percolate up.

Recreation and Open Space Chapter

- Kurt suggested that the first paragraph of this chapter make specific mention of hunting as an activity. There was a discussion on the presence of several large deer yards in Falmouth.
- Jim felt that dog walking should also be added.
- Kurt wondered if the reference to a swimming pool should be moved to the Facilities chapter as that was an indoor facility. A discussion on this issue followed. Paul disagreed with Kurt as he thought of recreation as a year-round continuum, where it made sense to consider indoor facilities as part of recreation and not separate them. It was agreed to make appropriate cross references, so readers would know where to find the applicable information.
- Sam wondered if recreation needs for an aging population was addressed. The group felt that this was the case, particularly with the emphasis on walking and pedestrian connectivity.
- Regarding action #1, Kurt stated that he did not like the reference to an “end point” (or finish line as some call it) for open space acquisition. He thought it was an issue of

how the Town can best spend the allocated financial resources for such purposes. Should the priority be on acquiring large unfragmented blocks of land or, instead, look for key parcels that provide connectivity? Kurt noted that the allocated finances had been leveraged with other funds very well.

- Hugh agreed with Kurt and stated that there is no end point for residential development either.
- Jim suggested adding language that addressed the need to balance spending for outdoor recreation with those for indoor recreation as some residents, such as seniors, may have a greater need for indoor opportunities than outdoor opportunities. The group felt that it was more a matter of finding what the right balance was, but agreed that Jim brought up an interesting point.
- Paul suggested that if acquisition funds had been leveraged well, that the Town funds saved should be used to make enhancements to the acquired lands. It was stated that there may be limitations on being able to do that, that enhancements such as trails have not cost a lot of money, and that the bond issue for open space did envision considerable leveraging of funds.
- Sam asked Jim to incorporate this discussion into a revised draft.

Sam asked the committee if it was possible to submit revised drafts for the chapters that been reviewed by the full committee by Friday June 1st. This pertains to Recreation and Open Space, Population and Demographics, Fiscal Capacity, Cultural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources, Public Facilities and Services, Utilities, Transportation, and Housing. The group said yes.

3. Other Business

Theo handed out a map of Falmouth and asked members to draw on the map their personal sense of the neighborhoods that make up Falmouth. This could be a large number or a small number of neighborhoods. The Land Use Plan is expected to include written narratives that describe these neighborhoods and what land use changes, if any, the plan envisions for them. The 2000 plan included a map with ten neighborhoods. The Cumberland plan includes just four areas. Theo requested that members also think about which neighborhoods they would place in a Growth versus Rural Area. It may be that certain neighborhoods are split. There is no right or wrong answer, but may help the Land Use Subcommittee in making appropriate map proposals.

4. Next meeting

LPAC+ will meet again on June 14 at 7:00 PM. On the agenda are a review of the Natural Resources, Local Economy, and Forestry and Agriculture chapters.

The Land Use Subcommittee agreed to meet on Thursday June 7th at 7 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Draft minutes prepared by Theo Holtwijk, May 25, 2012