



Long Range Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC+)

**Thursday, June 14, 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 7:06 PM.

1. Minutes

The draft minutes of May 24, 2012 were unanimously approved as written.

2. Draft Chapter Review

Natural Resources

- Julie had made some text edits to this chapter.
- Kurt suggested changing “has” to “had” regarding Highland Lake water quality.
- He wondered if there should be text added regarding the stocking of fish and recent boat ramp issue at Highland Lake.
- Julie gave a review of the Highland Lake issue. She also mentioned the acquisition of the nearby McDermott peat bog property, the fact that a campground adjacent to the lake is for sale, and the role the Lake Association played in water quality efforts.
- Kurt suggested adding to the proposed wetland amendments that these should be further “built upon.”
- Claudia felt that the word “severe” as in *wetlands being severe constraints to development* had bias in it. She felt that wetlands “can be” a constraint.
- Steve W. noted that the language on vernal pools was also biased. There was a discussion on the fact that vernal pools are regulated by three different agencies, and that Falmouth proposed to have rules that were more strict than the State of Maine

rules. Hugh agreed the language should be neutral. Steve H. suggested that the chapter explain why Falmouth chose to have stricter standards.

- Kurt explained the flexibility that was incorporated in the proposed Falmouth rules that would make them not necessarily more restrictive. Hugh added that the proposed rules considered the science behind vernal pools. Falmouth currently has vernal pool rules.
- Kurt that the proposal included removing protections in commercial districts. Paul felt that this was an important aspect as it connected to other issues discussed in the plan. Kurt stated that the proposal was aimed at a more predictable process.
- The group agreed to delete the Open Space Protection section and refer to the Open Space and Recreation chapter. The group agreed to delete the reference that deer are the only significant wildlife in Falmouth.

Local Economy

- The comment was made that the commuting numbers were not clear. Theo will check the numbers.
- Sam wondered what this chapter was doing about the negative impression that some people have of Falmouth as a place to do business.
- Kurt felt that policy 2 was not linked to the text that preceded it.
- Theo handed out a copy of the letter from FEDC that had been distributed previously.
- Paul noted that in a small town one or two events can cover up the underlying story what is really going on.
- Steve W. felt that issues surrounding home occupations should be addressed. Claudia wondered whether any statistics on home occupations were included in the chapter.
- Paul felt that this chapter should have a laser-sharp focus on how to activate the local economy to increase business.
- Kurt asked for an explanation on the “higher share” of infrastructure. Paul explained that in ten years there should be proportionally less spent on overhead. Sam was suggesting that this idea could be reworded and moved to the policy section. Kurt stated that the text does not show that this is an issue. Sam stated that perhaps the current ratio of spending on infrastructure versus overhead was appropriate. Kurt also stated that infrastructure spending is not a constant.
- Steve W. made the suggestion that the Town should aim for increased “quality” employment.
- Theo will check whether the data on Falmouth Resident by Occupation for 2010 is available and add it, if it is.
- There was some confusion between Falmouth resident employment and Falmouth worker employment.
- The group agreed to delete issue 3 as that was addressed in the facilities chapter.
- Regarding the action on economic development accountability, it was stated that current Town staff is already providing in-house support to the FEIC.
- The group felt that preparing an Economic development Plan made sense to add as an action item.

3. Land Use Chapter Update

It was reported that the subcommittee working on land use had a good meeting. Various maps were reviewed and produced. The subcommittee will meet again on June 25 at 6:00 PM.

4. Next meeting

LPAC+ will meet again on June 28 at 7:00 PM. On the agenda are a review of the Forestry and Agriculture chapter and any other remaining chapters that review.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Draft minutes prepared by Theo Holtwijk, June 21, 2012