**Minutes February 6, 2017**

Meeting was called to order at 6:31. Attending :Erik Espling, Patricia Rice Dean Bennett

Erik made a motion to approve the minutes of December 5th, it was seconded all members present approved.

* Speaker: Dean Bennett- Town Consultant on Comprehensive Plan:

Dean Bennett as a guest of the committee presented some history of the Comprehensive Planning process for the State and how it has evolved. He told us his focus so far as a one-day a week consultant for the Town of Veazie has been to write and update those sections of the plan that need new numbers. He is working with the town’s Planning Board to help them complete other required sections. Dean’s contract with the town is through the month of June or in other words to the end of the budget year.

Dean mentioned that most towns have a core community/business area where there is a density or cluster of activity. Some of the economic development challenges for the town are that there is little land available for development and other towns are very aggressive in attracting new business. One of the thoughts that Dean had was to actively promote Veazie by being in the news at least once a month. The lack of promotion means that Veazie is not top of mind when developers are thinking of places for investment. He said that he would welcome our committee or other members of the community to talk with potential developers because they could tell Veazie’s story and answer questions. This might be an area where the economic development committee could play a role.

Dean also talked about open spaces and how it is most beneficial if those open spaces are not all chopped up into virtually unusable areas. It is wiser to have connected open spaces so that there is the ability to have walking trails and other recreational activities for people. One of the best ways to see if the open spaces make sense is to map them out. Dean also stressed that everyone and all committee and the town council have to be on the same page and give support to development for it to work.

* Other Business: We talked about having another Business Networking event perhaps on April 19th or April 20th (the week after Easter).
* Adjournment: A next meeting date was not set. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm