

Approved with edits March 22, 2007

Long Range Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes for March 8, 2007

Meeting opened at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Nathan Booker, Donald Campbell, Bruce Hazard, MacGregor Stocco, Cheryl Abbott (Advisor), Dennis L. Keschl (Town Manager)

Absent: Corbin Findlan, Adelaide LaLime

Members of the Public:

The minutes for the February 22, 2007 meeting were approved with some minor edits. MacGregor Stocco said that he would be preparing a revised timeline, based on previous discussions, for the Comprehensive Planning Update project. He also informed the Committee that: (1) KVCOG can provide assistance in this effort, even though we are not members because money to support assistance for towns comes from the State Planning Office, and (2) that Chris Huck would be able to come to our next meeting to provide us with information on the history of Belgrade's Land Use Ordinance and a summary of the reasons for its failure to receive approval from the Town.

Bruce Hazard asked who would take the role that Holly Dominee filled during the initial effort at developing the Comprehensive Plan, of guiding the process along. We discussed this and based on the previous meeting believed that the update to the plan may not require anyone to fill this role. Much of the information to update the plan is available and that given the expanded time frame, we should not need such services.

MacGregor also informed us that during the month of April he may not be able to make the meetings due to conflicts at work.

The committee then began a review of the "existing goals and strategies" in the Comprehensive Plan to determine those that we accomplished, those that were not, and their current status.

Bruce Hazard raised the need for "regional" efforts in the update to our Plan.

There was also a discussion of the need to establish a "Government Services Committee" to look into/and make recommendations on issues that are facing us now, e.g., a new Town Office (collocation with a Town Library), a central fire station, public works efforts, etc. This was a recommendation made in the Comprehensive Plan. The committee did not get established due to the fact that the Board of Selectpersons began using the Long Range Planning Committee to fill this role. Dennis Keschl said that he would bring this issue to the Board and look to find members for such a group. A recommendation was made that perhaps the "Planning Board" could look into this issue.

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Bruce Hazard commented that due to the nature of Belgrade, i.e., a “bedroom community” between Waterville and Augusta, impacts significantly on our “tax burdens”. This is due to the fact that, as a bedroom community, we do not have a large commercial or industrial base to offset the impact of taxes on our residents. Thus, the question is, “How can we plan for commercial/industrial development that could provide tax revenues for the town and reduce the impact on residential property owners?” We should look at what kinds of economic activities that we would promote and then the impacts that these activities might have on land use management.

We agreed to continue our review of “existing goals and strategies” at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.