

GROWTH PLANNING COMMITTEE
Minutes September 17, 2019

Attendees: Dan Saunders, Barbara Barwise, Mike Corsie, Paul Hogan, Jim McMann, Janet Powell, Werner Gilliam, CEO

Absent: Jim Fitzgerald

Guests: Thomas Morgan and Elizabeth Durfee

Meeting opened at 7:00 PM.

July 2, 2019 minutes approved.

Election of Officers was held as follows: Dan Saunders, Chair, Jim Fitzgerald, Vice Chair, and Barbara Barwise, Secretary.

No mail to review.

Werner reported that most of the updated Comprehensive Plan strategies have been received from departments and committees and will be compiled.

Werner also reported that the communities of York, Kittery, Ogunquit and the Kennebunks were jointly funding a study of sea level rise working with Southern Maine Regional Planning and Development.

Discussion followed on the status of the FEMA appeal. The appeal has been denied because of a technical error in a calculation of meters vs feet. It would appear that FEMA did not follow their usual process of contacting and working with the affected communities. The Congressional delegation has been asked to meet with FEMA. Also, the Scientific Resolution Panel may be asked to review the decision but meets infrequently and their decision is not binding.

Tom Morgan and Liz Durfee of TZM Planning were introduced. They represent the company chosen for the rewrite of the Comprehensive Plan.

It was agreed to establish a separate website. Included will be a copy of the TZM proposal, the current Comprehensive Plan, Housing Study, Short Term Rental Ordinance, Senior Housing Report, Survey Responses and other documents as deemed necessary. The proposed website will act as a working document where residents may be able to ask questions that will be answered at GPC meetings.

TZM representatives placed special emphasis on public engagement. Paul suggested contacting residents by snail mail as well as online and the collection of email addresses be gathered at open forums.

The newly planned chapter additions of sea level rise, climate change and integrating sustainability will be addressed. The first event will be held in fall 2019 with the guest speaker, Dr. Cameron Wake from UNH, speaking on environmental change.

In spring 2020, Dr. Jayne Knott of JFK Environmental Services will be asked to speak. A SWOT Workshop is planned for early summer to better meet the needs of summer residents. The overall plan is to have a continuum, of public events.

Committee Members offered a number of town wide issues and concerns of tourism, traffic, affordability, school issues, supporting the future of the fishing industry and overall demographics. “What does the Town want to be?” will be emphasized as the Plan is developed.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM.

Next meetings scheduled for **Tuesday, October 1, 2019 and Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 7:00 PM.**

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Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Barwise, Secretary