



Comprehensive Plan Committee

Thursday October 10, 2019

Town Hall Meeting Room

6:00 p.m.

Nominations & Elections

- Chair
- Vice-Chair

Approval of Minutes

N/A

Old Business

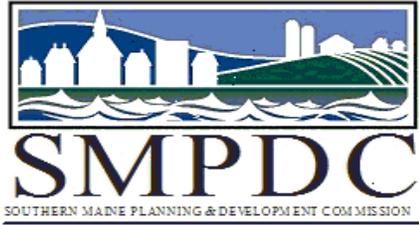
N/A

New Business

- Ground Rules
- Process & Goals
- Examples of Comp. Plans
- Community Survey
- Next Meeting & Next Steps

Public Comment

Adjournment



Serving the Municipalities of Southwestern
Maine

Comprehensive Plan Ground Rules

- The Board Chair shall run all of the meetings or the Vice Chair in his/her absence
- A quorum will be a majority of appointed committee members. Meetings should be no longer than 90 minutes on average. Members are expected to do homework following up from meetings and preparing for upcoming meetings.
- Each Board member shall respect the opinion of all other board members however; debate is acceptable in order to build consensus
- The Inventory shall be presented by staff for discussion purposes. The committee shall have the opportunity to discuss and debate the data. The committee shall come to consensus for adoption of the of each section (Chapter) with no further discussion over the section once adopted
- Remember! The Comp plan is only a snap shot at the time that we have the best available data for analysis.
- Time for the real debate will be when developing the Goals Policies and Strategies Once consensus occurs for the direction of the community through the GP&S it is time to move on toward the next chapter for additional GP&S
-

- Vision Statement that summarizes the community's desired future community character in terms of economic development, natural and cultural resource conservation, transportation systems, land use patterns and its role in the region.
- Public Participation Summary of the public participation process used by the planning committee in developing the plan pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A. §4324. The summary must indicate how information gathered during the public process was used to guide the plan's vision statement, analyses, policies and strategies.
- Regional Coordination Program summarizing regional coordination efforts to manage shared resources and facilities, including but not limited to lakes, rivers, aquifers, and transportation facilities. The plan must identify any shared resources and facilities, describe any conflicts with neighboring communities' policies and strategies pertaining to shared resources and facilities and describe what approaches the community will take to coordinate management of shared resources and facilities. In addition, the plan must include a summary of regional coordination efforts from all applicable topic areas.
- "Evaluation measures that describe how the community will periodically (at least every five years) evaluate the following:
 - A. The degree to which future land use plan strategies have been implemented;
 - B. Percent of municipal growth-related capital investments in growth areas;
 - C. Location and amount of new development in relation to community's designated growth areas, rural areas, and transition areas (if applicable)
 - D. Amount of critical natural resource, critical rural, and critical waterfront areas protected through acquisition, easements, or other measures. "

Future Land Use Plan that meets the requirements of Section 4 of Chapter 208. This section will be the focus of the Office's review for consistency with the Act.

- Historic and Archaeological Resources
- Natural Resources
- Water Resources
- Agricultural and Forest Resources
- Population and Demographics
- Economy
- Housing
- Recreation
- Transportation (applicable if community has no MaineDOT approved STPA transportation plan)
- Public Facilities and Services
- Fiscal Capacity and Capital Investment Plan
- Future Land Use Plan

State Growth Management Goals
(30-A M.R.S.A. §4312 subsection 3)

3. State Goals. The Legislature hereby establishes a set of state goals to provide overall direction and consistency to the planning and regulatory actions of all state and municipal agencies affecting natural resource management, land use and development. The Legislature declares that, in order to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the State, it is in the best interests of the State to achieve the following goals:

- A.** To encourage orderly growth and development in appropriate areas of each community, while protecting the State's rural character, making efficient use of public services and preventing development sprawl;
- B.** To plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development;
- C.** To promote an economic climate which increases job opportunities and overall economic well-being;
- D.** To encourage and promote affordable, decent housing opportunities for all Maine citizens;
- E.** To protect the quality and manage the quantity of the State's water resources, including lakes, aquifers, great ponds, estuaries, rivers and coastal areas;
- F.** To protect the State's other critical natural resources, including without limitation, wetlands, wildlife and fisheries habitat, sand dunes, shorelands, scenic vistas and unique natural areas;
- G.** To protect the State's marine resources industry, ports and harbors from incompatible development and to promote access to the shore for commercial fishermen and the public;
- H.** To safeguard the State's agricultural and forest resources from development which threatens those resources;
- I.** To preserve the State's historic and archeological resources; and
- J.** To promote and protect the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities for all Maine citizens, including access to surface waters.

State Coastal Management Policies
(38 M.R.S.A. §1801)

1. To promote the maintenance, development, and revitalization of the State's ports and harbors for fishing, transportation and recreation;
2. To manage the marine environment and its related resources to preserve and improve the ecological integrity and diversity of marine communities and habitats, to expand our understanding of the productivity of the Gulf of Maine and coastal waters and to enhance the economic value of the State's renewable marine resources;
3. To support shoreline management that gives preference to water-dependent uses over other uses, that promotes public access to the shoreline and that considers the cumulative effects of development on coastal resources;
4. To discourage growth and new development in coastal areas where, because of coastal storms, flooding, landslides or sea-level rise, it is hazardous to human health and safety;
5. To encourage and support cooperative state and municipal management of coastal resources;
6. To protect and manage critical habitat and natural areas of state and national significance and maintain the scenic beauty and character of the coast even in areas where development occurs;
7. To expand the opportunities for outdoor recreation and to encourage appropriate coastal tourist activities and development;
8. To restore and maintain the quality of our fresh, marine and estuarine waters to allow for the broadest possible diversity of public and private uses; and
9. To restore and maintain coastal air quality to protect the health of citizens and visitors and to protect enjoyment of the natural beauty and maritime characteristics of the Maine coast.



Comprehensive Plan Survey

The Comprehensive Plan is a document designed to guide the future actions of a community. It presents a vision for the future, with long-range goals and objectives for all activities that affect the local government. Some of these questions are carried over from the Berwick 1990 survey so we can compare apples-to-apples and to see if or how attitudes have changed over the past 30 years.

Answers to these questions, along with future community engagements such as charrettes and public forums, will serve as the foundation for a new Comprehensive Plan. Thank you for your time!

Community

1. What do you like most about Berwick?

2. What do you like least about Berwick?

3. Which specific land(s), area(s), or building(s) should be preserved as an effort to preserve Berwick's rural character?

4. Do you see yourself living in Berwick 5 years from now? Why or why not?

5. What do you think will be the biggest problem Berwick will face in the next 5-10 years?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cost of expanded school system | <input type="checkbox"/> Threatened water supply |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waste disposal | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited industrial growth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of rural character | <input type="checkbox"/> Substance abuse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overburdened town services | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

If chose "other" in question 5, please share where below:

6. Would you support property tax relief programs for low-income Seniors (65+) that gave them a \$750 rebate on their property taxes?

- Yes No

Demographic Information

7. Do you rent or own property in Berwick?

- Rent Own Neither

8. What type of home do you live in?

- Single Family Two-family Mobile home Apartment

9. How long have you resided in Berwick?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under one year | <input type="checkbox"/> 30-39 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-9 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 40-49 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10-19 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Over 50 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20-29 years | |

10a. How many total acres of land do you own in Berwick?

- Less than 2 acres
- 2-5 acres
- 6-10 acres
- 11-50 acres
- 51-99 acres
- 100 acres or more

10b. Do you have land in any of the following? (Check all that apply)

- Farm Land
- Tree Growth
- Land in conservation
- Open Space

11. Please select your age group

- 15-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75-84
- 85+

Economic Development

12. Where do you feel Commercial growth should occur? (check all that apply)

- Route 4
- Route 9
- Route 236
- Village Center
- Rochester Street
- Other

If chose "other" in question 6, please share where below:

13. What businesses are needed in Berwick that you would support most? (List up to three)

14a. Are you a business owner in Berwick?

- Yes, and I would like to expand/move my business Downtown (please leave detail in Comment Box)
- Yes, and I would like to expand somewhere other than downtown (please leave detail in Comment Box)
- Yes, and I am happy where my business is
- No

14b. If you are looking to open a business, what sort of opportunities or space are you looking for?

14c. What assistance do you need to establish your business?

Service Information

15. Please rate the following service/department/organization in terms of service or performance:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No opinion
Fire Department					
Assessing					
MSAD60					
Police Department					
Public Works					
Town Hall services					
Adult Education					
Transfer Station					
Sewer District					
Water Department					
Building Inspector/Code Enforcement					
Recreation Department					
Community Development & Planning					
Envision Berwick					
Berwick Public Library					

16. Please indicate if you think the Town should spend more, less or the same amount of money on their provisions:

	More	Same	Less	No opinion	Comment
Road improvements					
Elderly Programs					
Police Department					
Recreation					
Library services					
Fire Department					
Public Works/Highway Department					
Planning Department					
Adult Education					
K-12 Education					
Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement					
Sewer District					
Town Hall services					
Envision Berwick					

17. Does Berwick need a community center? If so, how should the Town of Berwick raise funds? How much should Berwick tax-payers spend towards a community center?

18. How would you rate the future of Berwick on a scale of 1-10 (1=dim / 10=bright)

- 1 (dim)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

Civic Participation

19. Do you attend town-related meetings? For example, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, or volunteer committees.

- Yes
- No

If you answer “no” to question 19 please check all reasons that apply:

- Uninformed about them
- No time
- I feel opinions don't count
- Not interested
- Been meaning to go/I am interested in attending
- Dislike people in charge
- Meetings too long/disorganized
- Hate politics
- No real issues discussed

20. Do you volunteer in Berwick?

- Yes, I already volunteer in Berwick
- I would like to volunteer more in Berwick (please leave an e-mail or phone number and what you're interested in doing at the end of the survey)
- I am somewhat interested in volunteering in Berwick
- No, and I am not interested

21. Community forums and discussions will play an important part of developing the Comprehensive Plan. With this in mind, where would be a good place to hold such forums and discussions? What day and times work best for you?

What else would you like us to know?

Would you like periodic updates throughout the Comprehensive Plan process? Please leave your e-mail and we will add you to our e-mail list.

STAMP

Please return by December 15, 2019:
Town of Berwick
Department of Community Development & Planning
11 Sullivan Street
Berwick, Maine 03901

Thank you for taking part in this survey. Please stay involved!

Send us your questions and ideas: planning@berwickmaine.org, 207-698-1101 ext. 124

As a member of the Berwick community, you are helping to create our future. Thank you!