

Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee

Minutes for Meeting of September 26, 2023

Present: Dick Greenan, Joan Orr, Barbara Russell, Larry Stafford, Alice VanDerwerken

1. Old Business

- a. Ordinances on Town Website – The outstanding issue on this topic was to explore the possibility of reducing from 10 to 5 the minimum acreage required to mandate the use of the Shoreland Zoning Ordinances. **Joan** reported that she discussed the topic with Andy Marble (COE). The current shoreland zoning protection requirement is 10 acres, and the committee discussed a change to 5. There are several areas affected. Some are already in conserved land which is protected from development, but not necessarily protected from logging. A couple other areas appear they are of a size to be protected. Property owners in those areas should be checking with the Town of Rome CEO on any proposed activity on that land, but that may not always be the case.

Further analysis using google maps or other tools is needed to determine the actual size of wetland. The Comprehensive Planning Implementation Committee (CPIC) will need to decide if a recommendation to proceed in this direction. Digitized property maps will greatly help facilitate this task. Digitized maps have multiple advantages not only to our CEO but for other purposes. This has been discussed in the past and KVCOG is able to do it for us but has not been budgeted.

- b. Logo Contest – **Larry** reported that four (4) entries have been received thus far. He will ask Julie Morrison to add the flier back to the town Facebook page.
- c. Newsletter/Communications Committee/Google Analytics – **Larry** reported that he discussed the topic with the selectboard. The need for funding will require a town warrant article. After some discussion it was concluded that two articles will be required; the first to establish the Communications Committee, the second to approve funding for the Committee to publish the newsletter. The Committee would also be responsible for the design of the town website and potential use of Google Analytics to track usage. This could be facilitated with student participation from Colby. **Joan** took the action to draft the article creating the committee, and **Larry** took the action to calculate the estimated funding required for the second article.
- d. Historical and Archeological Resource Map – **Larry** reported that the map that was missing from the initial publication of the Comprehensive Plan has been printed and will soon be made available at the town building. Copies were distributed to committee members.
- e. Slope Map – **Joan** reported the 20% slope map, which is consistent with Rome town ordinances is still outstanding.
- f. Water Quality Committee – Prior to the meeting, **Dick** provided committee members with information regarding the Belgrade Lake and Natural Resources Committee. Discussions with Pat Donahue (Committee Chair) concluded a desire for a more regional approach, including a regional Lake and Natural Resources Committee represented by each impacted town as well as those from the lake associations. This is consistent with discussions **Larry** has held with the selectboard to have further accountability for the \$36K provided to the lake associations annually. **Larry** will follow-up with Pat Donahue and the selectboard to initiate participation. A short list of potential candidates was discussed as well.

- g. Capital Investment Planning – **Larry** met with a representative from the selectboard to discuss the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) as outlined in Part Three of the Comprehensive Plan, starting on page 138. Capital planning is currently done on a case-by-case basis, mostly tied to Fire and Rescue. More discussions are tentative to further explore how to implement a least disruptive approach to capital planning in the town to meet the intent of the Comprehensive Plan and to ensure funding exists for future capital projects when it is needed.

2. New Business

- a. Access by committee members – There have been difficulties accessing and updating the sharable Strategies spreadsheet; especially by members with Macintosh computers. Future meetings will include a segment that walks through the spreadsheet so each article can be discussed by the full committee.
- b. Strategies and Actions – The committee walked through the status of each strategy as time allowed, covering up to 4.3. Status was discussed and agreed upon for each strategy. Sixteen (16) strategies were discussed with four (4) marked as complete. The committee will review the remainder at the next scheduled meeting along with changes to any previously discussed strategy. Specific actions are as follows:
 - i. 2.0 (Protection of archeological resources in sensitive areas). **Dick** to research current town ordinances.
 - ii. 3.4 (Emergency Response Plan). **Larry** will meet with Ed Pearl and Kelly Archer to determine if a plan currently exists for the town of Rome.
 - iii. 4.2 (Efforts to reduce inputs of phosphorus from existing sources in the watershed). **Joan** to discuss with Andy Marble (CEO).
 - iv. 4.3 (Options and ramifications of a potential Mooring Ordinance). **Joan** to discuss with Andy Marble (CEO).

Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 5pm at the Community Building

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