

Introduction

More than three years ago, a newly appointed Comprehensive Plan Committee started working together. Now here we are, after more than a hundred committee meetings and dozens of meetings with the community, with *your* new Plan in hand, more committed than ever to see it implemented.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee sees Land Use (5) and the Economy (4) to be the top priorities in this Comprehensive Plan and believe they need to be the primary focus of its implementation. We believe the most pressing issues facing Bridgton today, as in the past, fall into these areas. Implementing the strategies found in these sections (4 and 5) of Chapter 12, Conclusions, Goals, Strategies, Timeline, will also offer solutions across the range of other subjects. People of Bridgton (2), and Housing (3) are both affected by what we do in Land Use and how we grow our Economy. Natural Resources (6) both affect and are affected by land use and economic growth. Careful planning in these areas is the best way to protect our water quality and the natural resources we all depend on. Transportation (7) is also affected by what happens in land use development and economic development. Public Facilities and Services (8) must both drive development and adapt to it, as in the case of Bridgton's Municipal Wastewater Disposal System. The expansion of this critical service is a major component of attracting the quality development we want here, as well as key to protecting water quality and the natural resources we depend upon. Municipal Finances (9) and Regional Coordination (10) are both affected by Bridgton's land use policy and economy.

You will see many references to both Land Use and the Economy in Chapter 12. There are strategies set out there for growing our economy and marketing our assets in new and better ways. The Comprehensive Plan Committee believes the only way to have the kind of development we want and need in Bridgton; attractive, well-placed, well-designed, high-functioning commercial development, that will enhance our lives as citizens here as well as help balance our tax burden, is to create a Land Use Ordinance to guide and manage growth. Chapter 11, The Future Land Use Plan offers a framework for this ordinance. It is the Committee's recommendation that these projects; developing our economy, expanding our wastewater system, and creating a land use ordinance, be tackled first.

With high hopes,

Your 2014 Comprehensive Plan Committee

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