

# Town of Parsonsfield Comprehensive Plan Committee

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Oct 25, 2022

Meeting Duration: 6:00PM to 7:15PM

Location: Parsonsfield Town Hall.

Attending: Jennifer Lewis (Vice Chairman); Larry Stevenson (Secretary); Harvey Macomber; Aaron Bogue; Lynda Sudlow; Raegan Young (SMPDC); James Baron; Tom Winter.

- 1) The purpose of this meeting was to review Education and Recreation sections; review revised Natural Resources section.
- 2) Jenifer opened the meeting at 6:00PM.
- 3) The group reviewed minutes of last meeting. The minutes were approved with two comments about the sections. We might have the Saco River group come and talk to us about what they do. Some agreed this was a good idea, one member of the committee is a member of the group and may give a presentation later. What is being done with the mill; we might want to include this into the Economic section. We need to make sure it is a broad-brush description with no specific names or plans that are currently in development. Maine is currently looking for funding of sidewalk projects including the village area. So, what do we write about the mill area? We can re-write it later if things change but we need to say the development is important to us. Remembering to mention the Stanley Building. What is the issue with solar development? It is thought CMP is not upgrading the substations. Updates on other sections of the plan was completed by SMPDC and Raegan will sent it out shortly.
- 4) Discussion of Education:
  - a. The town is part of a three county, five town school district so we do not have direct control of all actions in the school.
  - b. It was noted there is no mention of home schooling for the town. The superintendent's office should have the number in the area. Larry Stevenson will check on the number.
  - c. The data on school enrollment by town might want to include by grade level. In recent years it was tracked that the size of a year group was going down in certain grades. The high school went from 425 in 2003 to under 300 in 2023. In good be seen moving through the grade levels.
  - d. The Piper Free High Fund? It is a source of funds for the town to draw from on issues concerning education.
- 5) Discussion of Recreation:
  - a. The gyms at the schools can be used for recreational activity. The gym here at the town office can be used by seniors or others.
  - b. The bowling alley in the village is renovated and open again so we need to include it in this section.
  - c. The group The Grateful Undead Wednesday Walkers is one group in the area doing trail walking. There are many trails in the area open for use. We may want to mention other groups like Land Share Riders (ATV's) and snowmobile clubs. There are over 50 miles of trails on the Levitt Plantation. There are weight limits on many trails to keep them walker friendly. Most trails are maintained by volunteers. Long Pond has the only public boat launch and it is not the best. The one on the river went in for the milfoil clean-up but is not maintained. The electric company or water company was maintaining portages around the dams, but are they still, or is it a case of you can't get there from here. There is a skating rink at the school complex by the elementary school and the Horizons Building, The Area Recreational Committee and activities. We could start one at the town office, there are facilities and space to have it viable.

- d. Take out Back Country Excursions from the top section and just mention them under private groups. Cliff maintains the bike trails he uses and does except help from others. There are trails up some of the mountains like the Cedar Mountain and Merrill Hill Road Trails which climb to 1300 Ft. Wiggins Mountain has trails and goes to 1600 ft near Stonewood Rd off Maplewood Rd. We should label them on the maps.
- e. The ages of the population will dictate what is used and the largest group is in the 64 and older range were the most active group is 25 – 64.
- f. We need to include hunting and fishing as activities for the town.
- g. The next meeting is scheduled for 29 Nov 2022. We will cancel the Dec. meeting since it is in the middle of the holiday vacation. The January meeting is rescheduled to 24 January with 31 January as a snow day meeting. All meetings are still at 6:00PM.
- h. At 7:15 a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn.

Submitted

Lawrence Stevenson