

York, Maine
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Monday, January 3, 2022; 6:00 P.M.
Zoom

Steering Committee Chair Kathleen Kluger called this 10th regular meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Planning Director Dylan Smith was present, representing Town Hall staff. Patience Horton was the recording secretary, working remotely.

Susan Silberberg of CivicMoxie was the in-person guest presenter with Annie Streetman in attendance online.

Committee Members present:

Kathleen Kluger, Wayne Boardman, Ian Shaw, Mike Sinclair, Nan Graves, Dave Herbein, Jud Knox, Stephanie Byrne, Dave McCarthy, Troy Williams, and Roan Spencer.

Meeting Goals

Develop lists of possible strategies to achieve Comp Plan goals.

Ensure that all Steering Committee members can contribute to strategy ideas.

Preparation

CivicMoxie has made a list of possible strategies to be distributed to the Steering Committee prior to the 1/3/22 meeting. Steering Committee members should come to the meeting with ideas.

CivicMoxie will bring notecards, pens, post-its, poster sheets, and markers.

5:00-5:10 *Welcome and Minutes (Wayne Boardman, Steering Committee Chair)*

Minutes

Motion: The Minutes of December 6, December 20, and December 30, 2021 were approved as amended.

5:10-6:45 *Strategies Brainstorming Exercise (Susan Silberberg, CivicMoxie)*

The group will go through each goal previously decided by the Steering Committee and develop a list of possible strategies to achieve each goal. Steering Committee members will be asked to state possible strategies and/or submit note cards with strategy suggestions. CivicMoxie will record all suggestions on wall posters.

The purpose of the meeting is not to discuss the relative merits of strategies but to collect all ideas in this first discussion. Future meetings will explore strategies (and additional information to make educated decisions) by reviewing suggestions one goal at a time.

A vision statement will be created. It will suggest how we embrace the future. What makes York, York? A subcommittee might be formed to create the vision statement.

Goal 1) Affordable housing opportunities

- What is the range of housing opportunities?
- Relax zoning requirements and parameters.
- “Affordable” housing needs to be defined.
- Allow house conversions into multi-units in return for dedication of conservation property.
- Encourage young families to establish roots in town.
- Encourage developments to become neighborhoods.
- Create zoning for tiny house neighborhoods.
- Promote ADUs.

Goal 2) Protect the quality and quantity of water resources (drinking).

- Public Education
- Education about pesticides
- Evaluate septic system runoff.
- Address the increasing risk of salt water incursion into wells.

Goal 3) Preserve, protect and enhance natural resources

- Public education
- Work with local and regional conservation groups to put aside conservation land.
- Should development styles dovetail with sensitive areas?
- Use natural vegetation to stabilize erosion of coastal bluffs.
- Expansion of resource protection areas
- Increase the tree canopy. Create a tree planting program.
- Open up corridors for wildlife.
- Increase enforcement for littering.
- Encourage composting.
- Evaluate excessive noise and light (affects wildlife).

Goal 4) Safeguard agriculture and forests from development.

- Define small-scale farming.
- Maintain rural farmland.
- Is there affordable housing for people who want to farm the land?
- Evaluate the farm overlay ordinance.
- Identify and protect forestry areas

Goal 5) Preserve, protect, and enhance marine resources.

- Pursue Town acquisition of riverfront property.
- Encourage preferences to commercial marine businesses.
- Increase opportunities for residents to enjoy marine resources.
- Minimize erosion.
- Minimize effects of sea-level rise.

- Continue to collect harbor usage fees.
- Protect critical habitat.
- Pursue government funds.
- Remove the collection of trap taxes.
- Control parking.
- Form separate strategies for York Harbor.
 - Make a legal review of the deed for Grant House.
 - Make parameters for Grant House.
 - Create another launch-site and shared dock at Grant House.
 - Restrict docks west of Rte 95 bridge.
 - Establish a Wild and Scenic Designation committee.
- Form separate strategies for Cape Neddick River and Brave Boat Harbor.
 - Create dock standards.
 - Form neighborhood boards.

Goal 6) Increased use of recreational resources

- Awareness and education
- Create an overall trail and resources map using the GIS system.
- Make a management plan for all resource centers and managers.

Goal 7) Mitigate adverse (not “negative”) impacts of the tourism sector, many of which are showing up in the Climate Action plan.

- Create a tourism business committee.
- Have larger employers contribute to an impact fund to address tourism issues.
- Advocate for the State passage of a local option hotel/motel tax.
- Make of workforce housing plan for economic stability.
- Increase local resident parking at the beaches.
- Advocate a shuttle bus that connects free parking lots with the beaches.
- More diverse transportation options for people free of vehicles

Goal 8) Support and diversify York’s economic base.

- Target sites and infrastructure for new business growth.
- Expand year-round employment with high-quality jobs and new industry.
- Form an economic development committee.
- Utilize the Green Enterprise district as a global four-season showcase of sustainability.
- Develop the Green Enterprise zone so residents get the amenities they want/need.
- Work with Southern Maine Development to provide large regional sites.
- Create a guide to starting a business.
- What businesses could be added in the zoning ordinance?

Goal 9) Decrease vehicle congestion [without widening the roads].

- Reduce the vehicle miles traveled in town.

- Increase public/private transportation that runs on natural gas or electric.
- Make a transportation hub in the Green Enterprise district.
- Establish the Complete Streets policy that shares road-use with pedestrians and bicycles.
- Become bike-friendly.
- Allow the rental of E-bikes.
- Allow taxi service.
- Consider skateboarding regulations.

Goal 10) Prepare for impacts of climate change.

- How does the CAP get filtered into the Comp Plan without looking like a mini-CAP?
- Relate climate change to zoning, overlay districts, and building standards.
- Tree policies
- Encourage small-scale renewable energy generation.
- Consider the vulnerability of bridges between New Hampshire and Maine.
- Protect the Town’s tax base.
- Change Town ordinances to reflect planning for 1.5 feet of sea-level rise, at the same time preparing to manage for 3.0 feet of sea-level rise.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from 2020 levels by 15% or more by 2050.

6:20-6:30 *Discussion of Next Step/Public Comment*

The Committee chose Monday January 10 at 5:00 on Zoom as the next meeting to finish brainstorming the strategies.

CivicMoxie will compile all suggestions and organize by goal for distribution to the Steering Committee prior to 1/19/21 Meeting.

6:45 *Adjourn*

Respectfully submitted,
Patience G. Horton
Recording Secretary

Date	Time	Location (Library or Zoom)
Monday, January 10	5:00-6:30 P.M.	Zoom
Wednesday, January 19	5:00-6:30	t/b/a
Monday, January 31	5:00-6:30	t/b/a
Monday, February 7	5:00-6:30 (regular meeting)	t/b/a
Wednesday, February 9	5:00-6:30	t/b/a
Wednesday, February 16	5:00-6:30	t/b/a