

TOWN OF TRENTON Comprehensive Plan Committee – Meeting Minutes

Date: May 27, 2026 **Location:** Trenton Town Office

Attendance: Greg Askins (via zoom), John Bennett, Steve Heckman, Christina Heiniger, Peter Lazar, Chantal Longo-Guess, Ann Luther, Jarod Rollins, Judy Sproule, Mary Turner, Jacob Wartell

1. Call to Order & Introductions. Committee members shared their backgrounds, including past/current involvement in local committees (School Board, Fire Department, Planning Board, Solid Waste, Harbor Master), and their reasons for joining the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

2. Committee Organization & Elections

- **Co-Chairs:** Jarod Rollins was nominated and seconded as Co-Chair. Passed 11-0. (JR abstained) Judy Sproule was nominated and seconded as Co-Chair. Passed 11-0 (JS abstained).
- **Secretary:** The committee discussed the role of the secretary and the potential use of AI transcription tools for meeting minutes. The nomination for Secretary was tabled until the next meeting.

3. FOAA & Committee Operations

- The committee reviewed Freedom of Access Act (FOAA) requirements, emphasizing transparency, public meeting requirements, and the need to use separate email accounts for town business.
- **Quorum:** The committee debated the appropriate number for a quorum (e.g., half vs. majority). Judy Sproule volunteered to research official quorum rules and report back for a vote at the next meeting.
- **Meeting Schedule:** The committee agreed to hold standard monthly meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM, with the next meeting scheduled for June 24. "Working group" meetings may occur every other week as needed for data gathering.

4. Project Overview & Budget

- Reviewed the \$15,000 budget for the first year. The committee discussed a hybrid approach: volunteers will handle data compilation and writing where feasible, while reserving funds for external assistance (like the Hancock County Planning Commission, which quoted ~\$35,000 for a full plan) for complex technical chapters. Review of timeline was tabled for next meeting.

5. Outreach, Branding & Community Survey

- **Survey Strategy:** Discussed the upcoming community survey. Key questions to include: *How do residents get their town news?* and demographic identifiers (*Voter, taxpayer, business owner, etc.*).
- **Branding & Media:** Discussed strategies for public outreach, including posting on the town website, using the town newsletter/Islander, physical postings at the Town Office, and reaching out to the Bar Harbor Story (Substack). The committee suggested using a photo of a boat launching as the "brand" image for the Comprehensive Plan updates. The potential need for a .gov town website was also raised.

6. Chapter Themes & Town Needs

- The committee briefly touched on various plan chapters and local issues, including housing/affordability, climate adaptation, land use, broadband infrastructure, and natural resources. Tabled assigning chapters for next meeting.
- Discussed the need for economic development and municipal revenue generation (e.g., Airbnb taxes, "local option" taxes). Mentioned historical society efforts to inventory older homes and a previous FAA block on a town park idea.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.