

**Town of Turner**  
**Comprehensive Planning Committee**  
**March 20, 2018**

**Attendance:**

In attendance: Mike Gotto, Chair, Mary Briggs, Vice Chair, Karen Youland, John Davis, Scott Abbotts, Eric Cousens, Matthew Maloney and Diane Maziarz. Absent Harry Ricker, Ralph Caldwell and Marcus Reny.

Also Present: Kurt Schaub, Town Manager

Motion to accept: Matt Maloney. Board unanimously accepts the minutes.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm
2. Mr. Mike Gotto opened up discussion on the Comprehensive Budget.

**Comprehensive Budget:**

There have been 3 different proposals with professionals to discuss the price of preparing a Comprehensive Plan. The First proposal was \$24,000, the second proposal was \$15,000 price and with the work load has been reduced the now estimated budget it \$7,800.

There are some concerns on the contract amount and what would be required of AVCOG. Mr. Mike Gotto did some research for what would be needed and what the Comprehensive Plan would need to be updated. In his research he believes that with the current board in place and with their combined experience that the plan could be written by the board. The first steps would be to that should been taken would be to look at would be where the Comprehensive Plan is now and what may need to be done to update the same. The board can choose to go to the Selectman and Budget Committee and request that negotiations and time be reduced in order to work with AVCOG or the board could also decide to write the Comprehensive plan on their own. Ms. Karen Youland questioned if a contract would need to be entered. Would it be possible to do a majority of the work and if they get to a point they can not continue they can hire a consultant?

Town Manager, Kurt Schaub gave some information on the AVCOG organization. AVCOG is funded by town dues for planning services and would also be available for hire on additional projects when needed. They also get funding for planning transportation and solid waste work as well as trainings for solid race. They also run a group salt buy in (this pays for the town dues in the savings). Federal grants are also part of their budget.

It was requested by the board that Mr. Mike Gotto forward the documents he found during his research to the board for review so that the board could educate themselves before they go forward with the plan process on their own and maybe contract AVCOG later on in the process to make sure everything is done properly.

Mr. Matt Maloney believes that maybe AVCOG would be useful during the Plan updating process because there is a chance that the board could go down the wrong path. He believes it would be best to go back to the town and ask for more money to complete the project

After further discussion a motion to not enter into a contract at this time was motioned by Mr. John Davis and Seconded by Karen Youland.

Those in Favor of the Motion were Mike Gotto, Chairman, Karen Youland, Mary Briggs, Vice Chair, John Davis, Scott Abbotts, Eric Cousens and Diane Maziarz. Those Oppose were Matthew Maloney

The next item to look at would be the budget to complete the Comprehensive plan. The following line items would need to be considered in the Budget for allocations

### **Budget**

Consultant fee -

Survey Monkey-

Printed Surveys-

Clerical Support ( Hours)

Miscellaneous Supplies –

Total Budget-

-The initial budget was \$24,000 and was rejected because of the amount of money.

-The next number of \$15,000 + mileage the Board would have AVCOG doing A-H tasks and revision statements (from feb estimate) coordinating public forums and review info provided.

-Another proposal from AVCOG would be \$7,800, Attend one meeting, coordinate 2 public forums, review data and compare against state requirements, review contract and submit final document to the State.

The problem that Mr. John Davis sees is setting up the public forums ect. It is believed that maybe the Board should request an additional \$6,000 from the Selectman for the Comprehensive Plan. The plan needs to be done within the next year where the plan must be revisited/updated every 10 years.

There was a Motion for an additional \$6,000 by Ms. Mary Briggs and motion seconded by Karen Youland. Board Unanimously approves.

The Final Topic for discussion for the evening was the drafting a Survey for the town's input on what they would like to see for the Comprehensive Plan.

### **Survey Questionnaire-**

In **1989** there were 1,600 survey's distributed and 397 were returned this would be about 25% of them.

Some members of the Board believe that an online survey would allow for more input from the public allowing for more community member to give input. This survey would not include a business input section (scope # business, type of business, wages ect.) or agriculture survey sent out.

The survey questionnaires **2001** were compiled but the survey was never sent out.

The Board feels that the survey should be more condensed and maybe simplified. The Board could look at the surveys from the past and go item by item or maybe come up with a different questionnaire that would encompass what they would like to see. Ms. Karen Youland pointed out that the questionnaire would help point the Planning Board in the right direction for the Ordinances and how they are currently written and where there should be changes.

Mr. Eric Cousens believes maybe a public meeting would be useful to get input on how the public feels about how the Comprehensive Plan update process is going. If the survey is not done statistically than the input would not be beneficial. The Board needs to decide what direction that they would like to go.

Some members of the Board feel that Social media and surveys could help the community members give input anonymously and not feel pressured to conform to other people's thoughts like they would at a town meeting.

It was questioned on maybe the survey would be most beneficial with Yes or No questions or ranking questions would be most beneficial.

Ms. Mary Briggs proposes that everyone on the board come back with 3-5 questions within a certain subject and the board meet and combine the questions and pick what would best reflect their wishes.

There were some discussions on past Comprehensive Plans done and two of Comprehensive Plans that were designed to keep business off route 4 in the village and the Town of Turner is in a very different spot. The Comprehensive Plan needs to have a Comprehensive Survey to receive input in order to help fix those type of issues. Mr. Mike Gotto feels maybe the Board should sit and talk about what those issues would be before a survey is compiled. Mr. Eric Cousens believes that maybe the Board should go through each section and see what part of the plan is going well and what is failing within the Comprehensive Plan. This would help the board rewrite those areas that need to be written and to focus on and what parts would be ok.

Eric Cousens feels the top 3 topics he would like to see focus on would be Economic Development, Transportation and Land Use – Zoning would fit in here.

Mr. John Davis feels that he would like also like a focus to be on Public Services and Recreation. He also believes route 4 should be a stand alone issue to be discussed. The State has a stance on Route 4 and will not make changes unless the Town states otherwise.

Mr. Matt Maloney feels that Capital Improvement would be a big focus that he would like to see a Focused on.

The Board believes that taking certain sections that are important to the Board to focus on and to create questions on those and topics to help create a survey.

The purpose of the survey would be designed to help drive the public hearings and provide a way to navigate the hearings for public input. The survey would

There should be a comment section that would state "Would you be interested in further discussion (add to an email list to notify those individuals)

The Board will plane to come back at the next meeting with questions drafted for the Survey based on Transportation, Outdoor Recreation, Public Services and Facilities, Land Use and Development and Economical Development. The Survey could be set up prior for the board to review and make changes. The survey would be most successful if members talk to friends and suggest them to take the survey.

Ms. Karen Youland suggests that the questions be written and emailed to everyone into one document with input and changes that they would like to see and come back to the next meeting ready to compile a survey.

**Inventory & Analysis** updates from the committee. The school has come back with their draft and Ms. Mary Briggs and Mr. Ralph Caldwell have submitted the agriculture section. The Board maybe able to submit documents to Town Manager Kurt Schaub to upload on the Town's Website for the community members. The section on the page would allow minutes and comparison tables from past to current plans. This would help get information to the public and provide them with upcoming and ongoing information with the Comprehensive Board. Town Manager Kurt Schaub stated that the Town is currently operating with an 85% evaluation and an updated Mill rate of 17.05 for Tax information in 2015. If we were reevaluated we would be at 13.3 Mill Rate which would be the lowest in Androscoggin County. Mr. Mike Gotto suggests that if the Board Members find data and information to please forward to the Board and Kurt to provided that information to the town.

The Board will plan to meet April 9, 2018 at 6:30 pm. All questions must be emailed by April 3, 2018. The plan will be to have the survey ready to go 2 weeks prior to the town meeting so it can be discussed at town meeting. The following meetings will take place Thursday, April 26 and Tuesday May 8, 2018 and will plan to have an organizational meeting prior to Town Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Ricker