

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE MINUTES JULY 29, 2025

The meeting was called to order @ 6:35 PM by chair Peggy Matthews followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Peggy Matthews, Rebecca Elsmann, Lennie Eichman, Bim McNeil, Lee Holman, Cathy Lowe and Aaron Harvey-Selectboard. Absent: Ken Violette, Kathy Landry, and Susan Goulet.

Minutes of the 6/24/25 meeting were read and amended to reflect the corrected date of the next meeting 7/29/25. There was also a correction to the statement about growth around Bear Pond. Lee moved to accept the amended minutes, Rebecca Elsmann seconded, all in favor.

The first item for discussion was the name of the committee. Aaron Harvey stated that his goal was to form a committee that will be involved for the long term and that the task of the previous ad hoc committee was considered to have been completed. Aaron suggested emailing all members of the committee to check whether there was, in fact, a long term commitment and giving a time limit to respond.

Discussion of role of the Planning Board and the fact that the Comprehensive Plan Committee could be a subcommittee of that board. Discussion of renaming the committee as the Comprehensive Plan Committee, but the prevailing opinion is that it would require a new ordinance as none exists. Consensus: Continue as an ad hoc Comprehensive Plan Committee. The Planning Board will suggest members to be approved by the Selectboard.

Rules and By-Laws: Tabled for the next meeting. Lennie suggested limiting the meetings to 90 minutes.

A public visioning meeting was suggested by Peggy to describe what the Comprehensive Plan is and what its purpose is for the town. Subsequently there would be hearings on assigned topics with goals and method of implementation delineated (7 hearings in 2008). Once data had been collected in assigned topic areas, the writing would begin.

Peggy reviewed the 1973, 1992, and 2008 plans and questionnaires/surveys and pointed out that the 2008 sample was based on the 2000 census. Discussion of what the committee and the town really need to know rather than having a too

lengthy questionnaire. Questions from the state sample would be reviewed as well. Lennie and Rebecca offered to meet to further study the questionnaires.

Discussion of where a new survey should be made available. Discussion included the Hartford website, the Town office, at the November election, with information regarding its availability in the Hartford News and online. Discussion of canvassers with the decision that they would be available by request rather than attempting to have in-person interviews at every household.

Next meeting 8/26/25 @ 6:30 PM at the town hall.

Tentative agenda: An article for the Hartford News, Finalize the questionnaire, finalize the rules and by-laws, and a topic report if time allowed.