

Town of Hartford  
Minutes Comprehensive Plan Committee  
February 25, 2025  
6:30pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Kathy Landry, Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Chair.

Roll Call of Members: Lianne Bedard, Daryl Boness, Al Borzelli, Chad Casey, Susan Goulet, Kathy Landry, Cathy Lowe, Lee Holman, Margaret (Peggy) Matthews, Anthony Pirruccello, Ken Violette. Alternate: Thomas Rodrigue.

Absent: Bailey Roe Johnson, Bim McNeil, Rebecca Elsmann, Gregory Glovach.

Secretary's Report: The Minutes of the January 14, 2025 meeting had been mailed to all members. Ken corrected that he is on the Committee as a member of the Cemetery Committee as the Budget Committee has not yet met this year. Also, Al is representing the Road Committee, not the Budget Committee. Lianne will send out a letter to other Budget Committee members seeking a representative for this committee and Al and Ken will also help in this determination.

About membership, it was also mentioned that Gregory Glovach, who was to be an alternate representing the Bear Pond Association, declines to further serve on the Committee. Lianne has contacted the Bailey Roe Johnson, and Rebecca Elsmann, about this meeting and will again verify their continued willingness to serve on the Committee. It was noted that Bim McNeil has been absent from other committees perhaps due to other ongoing issues in the Town.

Before the Committee discussed the next item on the agenda, Daryl spoke at length questioning the goal of the Committee. He had been on the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee that disbanded in 2011, and states the purpose of the Ordinance and that the Committee was to implement the 2008 Comprehensive Plan. The current situation is that the Town needs to revamp the 2008 Plan to submit to the State, not merely make a list of suggestions to the Select Board as in the Review Committee Ordinance.

Daryl also discussed that to get out of the current predicament of having a Plan that describes growth zones the townspeople do not seem to want, considering the requirements of LD2003 to allow for additional dwellings in growth zones, an alternate approach to just revising the current plan, would be to repeal the current plan.

Peggy stated repeal of the Plan would alleviate her concern that until the 2008 Plan is revised and accepted by the State the Town could be held to recognizing the 2008 Plan's

growth zones as consultants from AVCOG, MMA and Maine DACF have verified this in emails (plus this is written in the Rules for LD2003). If the 2008 Plan is repealed then risk to the Town would be alleviated as of the repeal date.

It was moved and seconded to repeal the Comprehensive Plan. A vote of hands was taken with all affirmative with one abstention.

To enable repeal, members of the Select Board present stated that a repeal of the current Comprehensive Plan would be discussed at their next Board meeting so as to have repeal of the 2008 Plan added as an item on the warrant for the June Town Meeting.

Daryl suggested we disband the current Committee and rename it the Comprehensive Planning Committee and proceed on the work of preparing a Plan to submit to the State. He read state statutes that allow a municipality to NOT have growth zones if they do not have village area.

Lianne clarified since all the Committee members were appointed by the Select Board, the process would have to be taken at a Select Board meeting to have the members “resign” and then reconstitute what would be a committee of the Select Board as the Comprehensive Planning Committee. It was agreed among the members to keep the same membership and next meeting date in March.

The Secretary noted that the Planning Board’s Ordinance states in Article IV: “The Board shall prepare a Comprehensive Plan as defined by 30 MSRA Section 4961.”

Lianne stated the date of the original Planning Board Ordinance was 1989, amended in 2008, suggesting it was written to enable the first rendition of the Town’s Comprehensive Plan and not the 2008 Revised Plan or the current proposed work.<sup>1</sup> No clarification of this question was determined during the meeting.

The Vice Chair stated that the town data from AVCOG is reported to be available in April.

The Chair summarized that the meeting did not follow the agenda but important territory was covered.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.

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<sup>1</sup> 30 MSRA Section 4961 was repealed in 1987, effective March 31, 1988 so the statement concerning the duty of the Planning Board to prepare a Comprehensive Plan wasn’t even accurate when the Ordinance for Hartford was enacted or when it was revised, persistently containing an erroneous legal references due to changes in the law.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at the Hartford Town Hall.

Minutes Approved by:

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