

**CITY OF BREWER
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
JULY 8, 2013**

Vice Chairman McIntosh called the meeting to order at the Brewer City Hall Council Chambers at 8:08 a.m.

The following were in attendance:

Kevin Birch	Absent	
Allen Campbell	Absent	
Jim Donnelly	Absent	
Michael Fitzpatrick	Present	arrived at 8:12
Nicole Gogan	Present	
David Hanna	Present	
Frank Higgins	Present	
Linda Johns	Present	
D'arcy Main-Boyington	Absent	
Janet McIntosh	Present	
Daniel O'Connell	Present	
Bev Uhlenhake	Present	
Andrew Varisco	Present	
Consultant Rich Rothe	Present	

Also in attendance: Richard Manzo and new Brewer School Superintendent Jay McIntire

Minutes of the June 24, 2013 Committee meeting were unanimously approved as written.

Education Goals, Policies, Strategies. J. McIntosh requested that both the Education Inventory and the Education Goals, Policies, Strategies be placed on the next Committee agenda so that the new School Superintendent has time to review and then comment.

- Strategies #2D, 2E and 2F – add the High School District Trustees under responsible parties.
- Revise Strategy #2F – All school facilities. Maintain and enhance all school facilities and curriculum in a manner that makes Brewer compete favorably with enticing new families to move to Brewer and attracting tuition students.
- The High School District Trustees are not involved in the curriculum.

Municipal Finance Goals, Policies, Strategies. Linda noted that she emailed the latest draft to both Brewer City Manager Steve Bost and Brewer Finance Director Karen Fussell for their review and comment. Karen is currently on vacation and will review when she returns.

Transportation Inventory. Rich explained that this draft inventory was prepared using discussions and data from staff and BACTS. The Committee made the following comments:

- Page 2 top – Change “most important” to “major traveled”.
- Page 1 under Highway System – I-395 opened in mid 1980s.
- The triangle in front of Dunkin Donuts has historically been a traffic problem. Various design changes have been proposed including a large one-way loop utilizing Mullen Way.
- The center turn lane (5th lane) on Wilson Street has had positive results. Widening of the last section between Parkway South and Green Point Road is currently in the design stage at Maine DOT with anticipated construction summer 2014.
- The amount of traffic on Dirigo Drive has increased steadily since opening. Many walkers also use the sidewalk for exercise. Dirigo Drive was permitted based on the need for relieving traffic congestion on Wilson Street, but it also serves to open new areas to development.
- Bridge data has not yet been included in the inventory. Currently in process of obtaining from Maine DOT.
- There is much traffic on Parkway North which is used as a connection from Route 9 to the Wilson Street area. This is a designated through route and is designed as such including wider shoulders. Old plans were to have Parkway North connect with Parkway South, creating a loop around downtown.
- A potential new Route 9 to Wilson Street connection could be in the vicinity of the end of Pierce Road, go cross-country, and connect in the vicinity of the cemetery on Route 9.
- Could passenger rail be used for access to Bangor waterfront and Cross Center from Bar Harbor? The Downeast Scenic Railroad currently has a lease from Maine DOT for use of the railroad bed from Bar Harbor to Ellsworth. May be difficult to get a train through Dedham area. A portion of unused railroad bed in Brewer is still owned by Pan Am.
- Linda noted that the Brewer Land Trust is looking into use of the railroad bed for a trail.
- The Route 9/I-395 Connector Road project is still on-going by Maine DOT. The Committee is not necessarily a proponent or opponent, but there are issues that should be identified whether this project is eventually constructed or not. One such issue is truck traffic through North Main Street.
- The proposed East-West Highway is another long-term project that may affect Brewer and the truck traffic.
- The change in interstate weight limits should be added to the inventory. It appears to have reduced truck traffic Brewer’s streets.
- The boat launch on North Main Street and the shared Harbor Master should be included in the inventory.
- Add a statement to the inventory that Brewer and Bangor share a harbor master.
- A new I-395 ramp at Green Point Road has been discussed with Maine DOT and is encouraged by the City.

Transportation Goals, Policies, Strategies. The Committee reviewed the 1995 Comp Plan goals, policies, strategies and made the following comments:

- Encourage multi-use on the Penobscot River. Commercial uses and piers, such as those at Cianbro. More recreation uses, perhaps a water taxi.
- Passenger rail in southern Maine has been positive. Hopefully will continue to grow northerly and reach Bangor area.
- Policy #1 – Traffic calming on arterials is not preferred. Change to “traffic efficiency improvements”. Efficient does not necessarily mean faster, can include dedicated turn lanes and access management techniques.
- Transportation studies have been prepared for the Wilson Street corridor including an access management plan by traffic engineer Tom Gorrill. The city has revised the Brewer Land Use Code to incorporate access management on site plan designs and for other improvements.
- Continue working with BACTS on projects and funding. Brewer has done very well over the last decade on having Brewer projects funded as well as input on regional projects. Funding comes from Maine DOT and Federal Highway Administration with a small local match.
- Traffic signals have been updated with video detection and better pedestrian phases. Interconnection between traffic signals continues to be addressed.
- The city continues to improve sidewalks and pedestrian access. Bicycle access is not as readily available. Bike lanes are not currently included on most roads. The design and location of bike lanes needs to be researched to maximize safety.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for July 22nd

Rich and Linda will prepare updated copies of the revised documents as discussed at this meeting. Linda will also bring maps to review transportation and trails.

Linda reminded the Committee to bring their calendars to the next meeting so that future Committee meetings can be scheduled.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.