

Approved June 9, 2016

**City of Rockland
Comprehensive Planning Commission
Minutes for May 26, 2016**

Commission Present: Chair Eileen Wilkinson, Callie Black, Amy Files, Julie Lewis

Staff Present: Asst. Code Enforcement Officer Bill Butler, Code Secretary Roxy LaFrance

Meeting Called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Previous Meeting Minutes: April 28, 2016

ACTION: Callie Black made a motion that the 04-28-16 meeting minutes be approved without amendment. VOTE 4-0

Agenda Adjustments:

Eileen Wilkinson explained how the Agenda for today's meeting was changed from the previous meeting's Agenda, which was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. Chapter 3 was added to this Agenda instead of Chapter 2.

Bill Butler explained that Agriculture & Forestry is its own chapter due to the State's requirements.

Eileen Wilkinson suggested that instead of having someone edit the Chapters as we go along, one person would instead guide the group by suggesting the changes that are needed to each Chapter.

Eileen Wilkinson also explained that there may be times where she may not be able to attend as Chair at meetings, and would like to deputize a sub-Chair, possibly Amy Files, to take the lead so that meetings will still continue. Amy Files suggests that we know who will be able to attend the meetings in advance and choose the person for each meeting to be the leader. Eileen expressed concern that with current schedules and with members' other commitments there may be instances where there will not be enough members present for a quorum. Amy suggested that as summer is coming, she would be willing to compile dates that members are not available and to maintain a Google calendar so we may know what dates are not going to work out.

Discussion ensued about recruiting new members to the Comprehensive Planning Board.

John Grondin, from the audience, explained to the Commission that there was a conservation study done in 1983-5 on the Rockland Bog which showed some trees in the bog are diseased, and that foresters will be coming to the City Manager at some point. John expressed that he would like a forester to take out the diseased trees. John suggested Collin Emery could give the Comprehensive Planning Commission a tour of the Bog.

Eileen Wilkinson expressed an interest in going to a Parks Commission meeting to see what other City Committees are doing. Eileen explained that we may not get to the Agriculture & Forestry Chapter on the agenda as we have to do the survey first.

Survey

Eileen Wilkinson inquired what the City wants to get out of the survey. Amy Files explained that the survey is required by the State and intended to be used to gather data to finish the work on the remaining chapters of the comprehensive manual, and also to capture the values of the residents to help with guide the work on the comprehensive manual.

Survey Question: Why do you live in Rockland? Callie Black inquired why this question is asked. Amy Files explained that it is a value question and defines what is attracting people to Rockland. Julie Lewis explained that the answer defines where the City's resources should go by what the residents are valuing. Callie stated that this is going to show trends and not absolutes. Walkability, year-round community, economically and culturally diverse population, and working waterfront were suggested as additional answers to the question by Eileen Wilkinson after surveying each of the Commission members for their answers to this question.

Survey Question: How long have you lived in Rockland? No changes were suggested by the Commission.

Survey Question: What describes your current living situation? Amy Files pointed out that the answers don't cover people who are roommates, and suggested that additional answer. Eileen Wilkinson suggested adding what type of housing they live in. Eileen pointed out that this question is really two separate questions, and would like transient population addressed because Rockland's transient population causes a large turn-over in the school system. Short-term resident was suggested as an additional answer.

Conversation moved back to Survey Question: Why do you live in Rockland? Seasonal worker, social/health services, education program population (i.e. Apprentice Shop, Center for Furniture Craftsman, Maine Media), and access to outdoor activities were suggested additional answers by the Commission.

Conversation moved back to Survey Question: What describes your current living situation? I live alone, with family members, with others/roommates were suggested by the Commission as additional answers. Single-family, multi-family, and apartment complex were also suggested additions.

Survey Question: What best describes your current employment situation? Self-employed and telecommute were suggested to no longer be indented under work from home. Sole-proprietor was a suggested additional answer. Looking for work and no longer looking from work were suggested to no longer be indented under unemployed. It was suggested to have the answers to this question be "check all that apply." On disability was a suggested additional answer.

Survey Question: Do you have children in the local K-12 schools? It was suggested to move "yes" or "no" to the top, and add "if Yes" before the listed categories.

Survey Question: Preservation of the City's character the Commission decided to skip this section for now as it may be unnecessary or redundant.

Survey Question: Is it important to you that future facilities and businesses The Commission decided to get rid of this question entirely.

Survey Question: Satisfaction with Rockland City Services "N/A" was suggested as an option under quality. It was suggested to condense the services listed into groups such as Emergency & Police Services, Public Services, City Office Services, etc. It was suggested to change "Water Supply" to "Public Water." Eileen Wilkinson suggested listing categories but keeping all of the services. Categories suggested are City Services, Public Infrastructure, and Community Services. It was suggested to add "City Government" within the City Services section.

Callie Black read a new question that has been added to her copy of the survey.

Callie Black stated that she has made the changes to the survey during the meeting and will email it to everyone on the Commission.

Next meeting: June 9, 2016

Eileen Wilkinson stated that at the next meeting the Commission will continue on the survey, even though Callie Black will not be present.

Amy Files stated that she will find out about putting the survey on the website.

ACTION: Julie Lewis moved to adjourn. Vote 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roxy LaFrance
Code Secretary