

Notes from Hancock Comp Plan Meeting February 1, 2024

Comprehensive Plan Committee members present: Nick, Chris, Mary, Ant, Doug, Patricia, Ruth, Rod.
Guests: Averil Varney & Alicia Cockerham from Hancock County Planning Commission (HCPC)

Averil reviewed the background of comprehensive plans, noting that it usually requires 18–24 months, public information sessions, focus groups, a vision session and development of several town goals. Public meetings may include food, such as a potluck.

There are state required policies, a future land use plan and other requirements.

State approval is best prior to seeking Town approval to be sure all the requirements are met.

HCPC can help with inventory and mapping as well as development and analysis of the questionnaire. They are currently working with Sullivan and Gouldsboro comprehensive plan committees.

They recommended including a "Friends of the Comp Plan Committee" to include others in the town who are not regular members of the committee, but can be very helpful.

They recommended conducting the survey AFTER holding focus groups to determine what questions we want to ask.

The survey can best be conducted by sending out a postcard with a QR code and information on how to obtain a paper copy or to use a dedicated computer at the Town Office to complete the questionnaire.

We spent most of the meeting reviewing the questionnaire based on the 1991 survey, as edited by committee members in the google doc after the last meeting.

- Many questions are best asked in a "matrix" format instead of individually.
- The "demographic" questions are useful to compare the respondents with the census data for the town
- A few of the questions may be useful to compare with the 1991 responses
- Many questions are better left "open-ended" and tabulate the responses as a "Word Cloud" to show the range and popularity of the various ideas.

Actions:

- Averil will get us a proposal prior to March 1 for our consideration at our next meeting and in time to make a request for funding to the Hancock Town Budget Committee. She will also send us a list of other consultants. She is aware of our budget constraints after speaking with Cheri in the Town Office.
- We decided to wait to send out the questionnaire until after conducting one or more focus group meetings.
- Next meeting: Thursday March 7th at 6 pm.

Notes by Doug Kimmel