

CAMDEN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 4, 2012

PRESENT: Acting Chair Richard Householder; Members: Chris MacLean and Jan MacKinnon; Alternate Member Sid Lindsley; Don White, Select Board Liaison to the Comprehensive Plan Committee; and CEO Steve Wilson

ABSENT: Members Kerry Sabanty and Lowrie Sargent

ALSO PRESENT: Jean Freedman-White, Coordinator and Liaison to the Chapter Working Groups

Mr. Householder called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

1. MINUTES

August 16, 2012:

Page 3: Line 20: The word “gals” had been changed to the word “goals”.

MOTION by Mr. Householder seconded by Mr. Lindsley that the Minutes of August 16, 2012, be approved as amended.

VOTE: 4-0-0

September 6, 2012:

MOTION by Mr. Householder seconded by Mr. Lindsley to approve the Minutes of September 6, 2012 as written.

VOTE: 4-0-0

2. CEO ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Wilson had just received the Minutes today and had not had a chance to complete all of the Action Items:

- He did report on the timeframes regarding the due date of the Comp Plan re-write to Mr. Sargent, who had that information in time for his presentation to the Select Board.
- He has just started to review Mr. Nims’ files, and has not yet found an Executive Summary.

Discussion of the remaining Action Items is deferred to the next meeting.

3. CHAPTER ASSIGNMENTS, SCHEDULE of WORK, ETC:

Spreadsheets:

Ms. Freedman-White recommended several additions to the chapter assignments spreadsheet, *Recommendations for Staffing*, dated September 7, 2012; the spreadsheets will be revised to reflect all comments.

Consultants:

Mr. Householder recommended designating which chapters the Committee believes will require outside assistance or consultants. Although the chapters won’t be addressed until later in the process,

and the Committee won't know how much money they will have to work with until the 2013 budget is completed, they should decide on which chapters will be set aside for work at this time. Those Chapters should be: Population, Economy (Housing and Schools), Fiscal Capacity, Capital Improvements, and Future Land Use Plans. Mr. Lindsley suggests that Chapters 1 – 16 are the ones that should be done at this time. Ms. MacKinnon supports bringing in all the committees that will be working on chapters and hearing from them what they think their timeframe to finished draft might be; they should be the ones to determine the schedule, not the Committee. Their work submissions can be scheduled so the Committee isn't overwhelmed.

Projections:

The Committee discussed how far out they need to make projections for issues like Population, Housing and Schools. Members agreed that many of projections in the current plan are not accurate, but Mr. MacLean believes there are some issues where they must make some projections regardless – affordable housing and education for example. It is difficult, with the changes in population moving to an older population, to project future population, housing, and schools. This is one of the jobs consultants will be asked to do -- analyze data and to make projections. The Committee has used 2020 as their benchmark for projections in discussions so far, but that is only four years out from the due date of the revised Plan, so they may need to go beyond that time to set goals, recommendations and strategies. Mr. White suggested the further out the projections the less accurate they are likely to be; there may be a middle ground between making short-term projections that are more accurate, and making projections based on a best guess. It would seem the more conservative longer term projection is more useful than projecting something that could be nearly impossible to foretell. This also fits into the Board's goal to make more positive statements based on fact rather than fictional analysis.

Chapter Summaries for newspaper notices:

The Committee needs to provide language to the Select Board that summarizes for each chapter the unique characteristics of the work to be done. In order to do this they must decide exactly what they, the Committee, wants revised in each chapter. Ms. Freedman-White suggests that there might be two steps: The first step is to write up the advertisement to attract volunteers; the second step would be to provide each working group with detailed instructions on the changes the Committee wants to see addressed in the re-write.

Working Schedule for Chapters:

→ Mr. Householder suggested that each member come to the next meeting with a list of Chapters they think should be scheduled first, and the reasons for doing so.

Some of the Chapters overlap, and they should be scheduled for work at the same time.

Budget:

Mr. White noted that any budget requests for the upcoming budget year need to be in the Town Manager's hands by the first of February.

There being no further business before the Committee, they adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Jeanne Hollingsworth, Recording Secretary