

Monroe Comprehensive Plan Committee

Minutes

November 20, 2025 6:00pm

Attendees: Rebecca Fee, Ray Wirth, Eric Bunker, Grace Johnston-Fennell, Ryan Wing (arrived at 6:25), Lyndsey Marston.

Lyndsey called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

Action Items:

1. Ray will start the draft master list of links
2. Grace will continue to look into historic research and focus group options and will reach out to Eric Rector, the State, and neighboring historical societies.
3. Ray will work with the Conservation Commission to complete the Water Resources questions in the information checklist.
4. Review Natural Resources map, checklist questions, and plan requirements.
5. Read Brooks plan for any upstream threats.

Old Business:

A. Review/approve September meeting minutes

Rebecca **made a motion** to approve the September minutes. Grace seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Updates on September Action items

- a. Eric brought the Committee Charter to the Select Board for review/approval. He noted it was seen and okayed.
- b. Lyndsey has gained access to a GIS license to use for mapping at no expense to the Town.
- c. Rebecca has not yet made the master list of links (for google docs, maps, etc). Ray offered to start it instead, and others can add to as needed.
- d. Grace provided an update on her research into the archives and a potential focus group. She noted that Cipperly Good and Linda Didalot are both working on the archives in the Town Hall basement. They offered to host a visit from the Committee, but are both unable to assist with a focus group. They also showed Grace the archives, which include local deeds, tax records, some family history, some maps, some “dug up stuff”. They are discussing how long to keep records.

New Business:

A. Information Checklist Review

a. Historic/Archaeological resources:

The focus group/archive update overflowed into a conversation on where to gather additional information. The State had provided maps showing 4 historic sites and 1 prehistoric site in Town, but did not provide any additional details on what/where they are. The previous comprehensive plan has some town history. The website blog also has notes from a town history presentation a few years back—those involved might be good candidates for a focus group (Eric Rector, Guy Sanderson). There is also an old interview with Charlie Biebel.

We need to identify what we what to know so we can recruit volunteers (known sites, mill history, old buildings, cemeteries, fairground, etc). Grace will clarify what other details we can get from the State regarding the identified sites.

Ray noted that the Bowdoinham plan didn't have all of the historic data complete but instead showed an intent to do the research. Ray reminded everyone that we don't have to have it all done and could simply note the goals in the plan. Grace suggested we reach out to neighboring historical societies (Brooks, Frankfort) to see if they can help in our research.

b. Water Resources:

Lyndsey reviewed how to use the GIS map she created and shared as a web map. She noted that most layers were downloaded from the State, but a few she created herself (shoreland zoning, gravel pits, utilities) and made notes of these in the metadata. She asked what other data we might want to add. The new State maps showed there are no discharge sites or areas of concern, but Lyndsey is also waiting on a call back from DEP regarding any known spill sites or problem areas. Lyndsey asked Eric if there are any permitted junkyards; he said we have 1 (which should be added to the map). We should check Town records regarding storage tanks. Ray suggested we consider upstream threats as well, and reference the Brooks plan for any concerns along the stream.

Lyndsey asked if we want to include houses or farms on the maps. All agreed that it can be added in later if desired, but it would be too much data for general use. Ryan suggested that when we make printed versions for public maps, we'll likely want fewer layers.

The information checklist questions were reviewed, and Lyndsey asked Ray if the Conservation Commission would be willing to gather information in the conditions and trends section. Ray agreed and will pass the request along to the Conservation Commission. Ryan noted that other towns included very little in this section, so we can be as detailed or simple as we want.

B. Next Steps/Timeline

Based on our progress, Lyndsey noted that we may be looking at tackling one topic area per meeting for the next few months. Some of the sections (economics, population, etc) won't need as much research and should go faster.

As we start to compile data, we need to make sure it is legible. Full size maps and specific zoomed in pdfs will be needed. We'll also want a projector for meetings, and possibly use the school as a meeting location.

C. Other

n/a

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm.