

Monroe Comprehensive Plan Committee

Minutes

December 18, 2025 6:00pm

Monroe Comprehensive Plan Committee

Attendees: Rebecca Fee, Ray Wirth, Eric Bunker, Grace Johnston-Fennell, Lyndsey Marston, Troy Moody (6:20)

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

Action Items:

1. Grace will continue to look into historic research, connecting again with archivists, contacting Charlie Biebel, and posting a notice in the Midcoast Villager.
2. Rebecca will post a call out on Facebook for interest in historical outreach
3. Rebecca will speak to Andrea about including a call out in the next library newsletter
4. Lyndsey will update Town website for a volunteer call out
5. Lyndsey will post on Town website to for favorite local scenic areas/views
6. Ray will work with the Conservation Commission to complete the Water Resources questions in the information checklist.
7. Review Ag & Forestry checklist questions, and plan requirements.
8. Review Brooks and/or other local plans Ag & Forestry sections.

Old Business:

A. Review/approve November meeting minutes

Ray **made a motion** to approve the November minutes. Grace seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Updates on November Action items

1. Ray compiled a master list of links. Everyone is welcome to add to as needed.
2. Grace provided an update on continued outreach regarding historical landmarks/areas of significance. She spoke to Wendy Ward who has noted interest in historical groups with particular interest in cemeteries and genealogy, but not necessarily in a focus group. Grace will connect with Cipperly and Linda again. Rebecca will follow up with the library to see if it has been included in the newsletter. Rebecca will also do a Facebook post to ask for volunteers. Lyndsey suggested we put a notice in the Midcoast Villager “Talk of the Town” section. Grace will look into this. She will also

check with Charlie Biebel. Ray suggested we put it on the home page of the website as well.

3. Ray updated that the Conservation Commission did not meet in December, so they have not discussed the Water Resources section. The next meeting is in January and Ray will add our request to the agenda. There will likely be another special meeting scheduled to answer the questions.

New Business:

- A. Information Checklist review: The next topic area is Natural Resources. Lyndsey reviewed the GIS map she created and shared as a web map. It includes all of the data from Beginning with Habitat (BWH), which is also printed on large maps. Lyndsey also shared the BWH Natural Resources Inventory, which notes that Great Blue Heron, Wood Turtle, Spotted Turtle, and Brook Floater are rare animals in Monroe. It also lists Deer Wintering Areas, Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat, and Significant Vernal Pools as Significant Wildlife Habitat. Lyndsey explained that “significant” is a legal term which provides certain types of protection. She also noted that she spoke with a biologist with IF&W that shared that Golden Eagles had been spotted in Monroe. She did not disclose the exact location, but indicated generally the northeast portion of town.

The Committee then reviewed the questions in the information checklist. Regarding shoreland zoning, Ray noted that this section in the Brooks Comprehensive Plan simply referenced Maine requirements and noted any follow-up would be done by the Planning Board. There are no plans for Frankfort or Jackson as neighboring communities. Regarding the regulatory and non-regulatory measures, Troy noted the Planning Board is actively working on proposed ordinances to bring to the next Town meeting. A discussion followed regarding the timing and relation to our comprehensive planning efforts. Rebecca asked if a public meeting will occur before the Town meeting; Troy noted he would mention it to the Planning Board.

The checklist also asks for a map or description of scenic areas/views. Ray noted that Brooks did not list any requiring protection but those of interest to the town. The Committee discussed areas like the cemetery view into the village, or overlooking Doak Farm, but are mostly interested in hearing feedback from residents. Lyndsey will post a survey on the website.

B. Next Steps/Timeline

- a. The Agriculture and Forestry section will be discussed at the next meeting.

C. Other

- a. Information Request: Lyndsey received a request to view the Information Checklist in google docs. All agreed that it makes sense to have our all of our work available to the public. Lyndsey will respond and change the sharing settings of the document.

- b. Planning/Statute Information: Following the Planning Board discussion, Lyndsey offered to share solar siting guidelines. Troy also asked to see documentation of when a comprehensive plan is required. Lyndsey will share these documents with the Committee after the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm.