

## Monroe Comprehensive Plan Committee

### Minutes

March 19, 2026 6:00pm

Attendees: Lyndsey Marston, Eric Bunker, Ray Wirth, Ryan White, and Kitty Wilkin.

Lyndsey called the meeting to order at 6:14pm.

#### **Action Items:**

1. Grace will continue to look into historic research.
2. Lyndsey will continue to follow up on aquifer risk, farm/forest acreage, and community forest information from local cities.
3. Lyndsey will add the new water resources information to the checklist.
4. Ryan (or anyone who is interested) will try to quantify seasonal residences.

#### **Old Business:**

##### **A. Review/approve February meeting minutes:**

Ryan **made a motion** to approve the February minutes. Eric seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

##### **B. Updates on February Action items:**

- a. Lyndsey provided some updates on her action items:
  - i. The State contact for aquifer information is retiring, so she now has a new contact point to reach out to.
  - ii. Addie Halligan from DEP provided more detailed information on water resources. Lyndsey put her email and letter on the Drive and will add it to the information checklist.
  - iii. Lyndsey has not had a chance to work on farm/forest acreage or follow up again with the City of Bangor or Belfast. Neither City has responded since the last meeting.
- b. Ryan has not had a chance to work on the estimate of seasonal residences. Everyone has the excel spreadsheet via email, so anyone can work on it at this point.
- c. Eric looked into the question of voting on the plan via ballot. He said we can either do a citizen's initiative, or the Select Board can decide to put it on the ballot. We should have a public hearing to discuss the merits of having it on the 2027 ballot, which can coincide with public meetings for the plan as we progress. No action needed this year.

#### **New Business:**

A. Information Checklist Review:

The next topic area is Economy, which shares the same State data as the previous topic. The Committee reviewed and responded to the Analyses and Conditions & Trends questions. More analysis is possible (what are the local strengths/weaknesses, why did people settle here originally, what could bring in more tourism, what are the limits to development), but the Committee would want feedback from the community regarding the amount of economic development that is desired before spending time on more analysis. The 2025 survey results noted that residents want to protect natural resources from development and that the rate of growth is ok as it is. Residents also responded that they want the Town to develop restrictions on commercial use and that certain types of businesses are not desired. The Committee agreed it would like to include a list of businesses in the plan (as was included in the last plan). A google spreadsheet of business was developed by the library for fundraising. It needs to be updated and culled to reflect businesses located in Monroe only.

B. Next Steps:

The next meeting will focus on the business list, and discussion will continue to the Housing topic if time allows.

C. Other:

The Committee will draft an update on our work for the Town Report. Eric was not sure when the deadline is since the Town meeting date has not yet been set.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.