

**Town of La Pointe  
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee  
Thursday July 14, 2022  
4 p.m. at Town Hall/Zoom  
Minutes**

Members present: Alex Nelson, Chair; Dan Bartholomay, Vice Chair; Charley Brummer, Sally North, Michael Collins, Sarah Caruso, Jane Vogt  
Staff present: Michael Kuchta, Town Administrator  
Public present: Brian Tochterman, Northland College  
Cameron Kadlubowski, Northland College

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Meeting called to order by Alex Nelson, Chair.

**2. Public Comment #1**

None

**3. Minutes to be considered for approval:**

Motion by Michael C to approve the June 23, 2022 minutes, seconded by Dan, all ayes.  
Motion Carried.

**4. Survey Topline Discussion**

- Cameron presented slide show and discussed early analysis of survey. There were 324 completed surveys online, at least 48 paper returns (not all are tabulated yet). More than 100 additional online surveys are in varying states of completion.
- There is uncertainty on how well the responses reflect the diversity of the community. In some areas, breakdown “feels” right, in others it is surprising. For example, roughly 77% of respondents have at least one college degree; about 58% have an income of over \$100,000. Those are eye-opening results. Need to see more-detailed demographic breakdowns to get better picture. Need to do cross-tabulations on selected questions to see differences/similarities among year-round and seasonal residents.
- Initial analysis shows at least 5 areas of high concern among responses: housing, tourism, transportation, property taxes, and use of space, including development. Some overall responses also show contradictions and disconnects, such as support for ideas in concept, but less support for the practical steps that could make these ideas reality. These areas could be explored further in forums. First glances at written responses also suggest vocal skepticism to change, development, and government intervention.
- Cameron and Brian cautioned that when looking at bar graphs, be aware that most are raw numbers, not percentages; in some cases, most-cited priorities may have garnered only slightly more than 100 supporters.
- Some general results of respondents:
  - More than 90% are extremely satisfied or somewhat satisfied with island as a place to live. Access to natural environment, small town/rural living, and personal connections are three areas valued the most.

- Top priorities respondents want addressed in comprehensive plan: Accessibility to/from island, property taxes, housing availability and affordability, public infrastructure and services, availability of goods and services
- Top areas of new businesses respondents want: grocery store, health care, gas station, specialty retail
- Top economic development priorities: more year-round businesses, balance economic development with environmental protection
- Island should work toward year-round self-sufficiency and resiliency in essential goods and services.
- Top environmental priorities: Protect wetlands and lakeshore; address lakeshore erosion
- Top land use priorities: protect lakeshore, wetlands, forests; increase affordable housing; maintain island’s rural character; improve design and feel of central business district
- Highest transportation negatives are bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, gravel roads, “off season” ferry schedule, cost of ferry and windsled
- Town government needs to communicate better

**5. Community Forum discussion**

- First community forums are scheduled for Aug. 2, 6, 11.
- Northland has not done enough breakdown of survey results to know which topics it will pursue. Committee will meet again next Thursday, July 21, to do more forum planning.
- Committee members see need to frame survey topics in ways that are open-ended, future-oriented, and in sync with presenting a comprehensive plan with vision.

**6. Anishinaabe Community Outreach**

Discussion tabled

**7. Discuss Business/Organizational Outreach**

Discussion tabled

**8. Public Comment #2**

None

**8. Set next meeting and agenda**

Special meeting scheduled for Thursday 7/21/22 at 4pm.

Agenda items: focus group topics, framing, process

**9. Adjourn**

Motion by Dan to adjourn, seconded by Jane, all ayes. Motion Carried.

Minutes by Michael Kuchta, Town Administrator  
 Minutes approved as presented 7/21/22