

**Town of La Pointe
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Thursday January 26, 2023
4 pm at Town Hall/Zoom
Minutes**

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

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Alex Nelson.

2. Public Comment #1

None

3. Minutes to be considered for approval:

A. January 12, 2023

Motion by Dan to approve above minutes, seconded by Michael C, all ayes.

Motion carried.

Note: Jane was not present at vote.

4. Committee Member Action Step Draft Discussion

Committee members were asked to work on one topic and complete a draft using a worksheet Michael K provided. The following topics (problem/goal, research/survey findings or justifications, action recommendations, level of urgency, who will implement) were discussed:

- Alex – Access to natural environment, public lake access and Big Bay Town Park accessibility. Discussion about adding details on what kind of access, parking requirements, transient docks, state park trails, and wilderness preserve trails
- Michael C – Bring tourism into better balance. Discussion about which events would not be promoted/approved, how that would affect the fabric of the island, and what the cultural – not just financial – impact of taking a different approach to tourism might be.
- Charley – define “junk” and pursue clean-up. Discussion about not putting into place an ordinance that cannot be enforced; what role fencing/screening/vegetation could play in reducing visual impact of properties; how to connect people who have things with people who need things (Island Closet concept on a different scale); and promoting clean-up as a matter of island pride – how we present ourselves to ourselves.
- Dan – formalize relationships, responsibilities among Town & key island organizations. Discussion about how to make this happen, beyond and in conjunction with any role that the “roundtable” would play. Suggestions about

identifying which organizations could be partners with the Town or each other; highlighting the benefits of weaving ideas and “bubbles” together for higher-level partnerships (Casper Trail as an example); footnoting or indexing organizations and networks.

- Sally – define role of trailers/campers, limitations & requirements for use. Discussion about Plan not being able to resolve this (or other topics), but pointing out this is a contentious public policy issue that needs to be tackled with research and a clear process. Other discussion: Current enforcement is complaint-driven; campers have long been a part of island life – but should they be considered a temporary step toward building a structure, or accepted as permanent; is a designated trailer park an answer to the role campers play in seasonal housing?
- Michael K – Bayfield School District clarity on commitment to island or pursue island-only alternatives. Discussion about how this is an issue that unites island residents, is an existential decision for type of community island will be; that Town financially propping up a system that is failing its students is not good public policy, not good fiscal policy, and is morally questionable.
- In addition, Jane outlined a long conversation she had with Michael and ZA Ed Schaffer; she will summarize proposals for next meeting.

5. Update on Progress w/Northland Students

Dan, Charley, Michael C, Michael K, Alex and Jane all have had conversations with Northland students, who have been available and helpful.

6. Outline Community Engagement

Discussion on promoting March 29 public hearing and on ways to keep momentum in getting the action items implemented, including promoting community ownership of the Plan, recommending specific accountability and implementation measures, and steering committee members taking on additional Town roles in the future.

7. Public Comment #2

None

8. Set next meeting and agenda

Next regular meeting scheduled for 2/9/23 at 4 pm

Agenda – additional draft reports on action steps, 3/29 public hearing promotion, accountability/implementation

9. Adjourn

Motion by Michal C to adjourn, seconded by Sarah, all ayes. Motion Carried.

Minutes taken from recording and submitted by Dorgene Goetsch, Clerical Assistant
Minutes approved as presented 2/9/23.