

**Town of La Pointe
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Thursday February 23, 2023
4 pm at Town Hall/Zoom
Minutes**

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

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. February 23, 2023

Motion by Dan to approve minutes, seconded by Sarah, all ayes. Motion carried.

4. Public Hearing Promotion Update

- Alex has not heard back from Northland or Marie on an e-mail contact list.
- Michael K did get the ok from the TPC and Emergency Services to move the public hearing to the Emergency Services building if necessary.
- Michael K does not believe the draft document will be completed 2 weeks prior to the public hearing, which then we would need to have the date pushed back. We will wait until next week before taking any action.
 - He plans to have a draft of most topics by next week. This information will then need to be narrowed down to what are final recommendations are.
 - Supporting narratives, current trends and survey results will then need to be worked into the draft.
 - Northland students have done a boiler plate draft with lots of data that will need to be summarized.
 - Michael has asked Nicole at Northland for a clean presentation of all the survey results so we can decide what information should go in the plan.

5. Implementation/Accountability Discussion

- Dan brought up a few ideas to think about for recommendations including; annual plan review, think about how elements of the plan affect Town staffing/Town committees and what kind of role the roundtable would have in the yearly review for the community elements.
- Northland had the idea of a community coordinator to help in implementation and accountability in their suggestions; this idea will be looked into in the next few weeks.

- Jane suggested the idea of a proposal writer on staff to help with funding recommendations of the plan.

6. Committee Member Action Step Draft Discussion

Charley – Pursue specific ways to consistently engage seasonal residents in decision - making on the island.

- This has always been and still is a problem; comments from the survey state season residents pay taxes but have no say in where the money is spent.
- Solutions may be more communication/community outreach via e-mail newsletter, text alerts, Island Gazette, etc. and having the roundtable consist of both year-round and seasonal residents, and increase/promote opportunities for all residents.
- Some ideas discussed: annual summer gathering/forum with the Town Board to give seasonal residents a chance to ask questions; encourage seasonal residents to be on committees; digitize the Gazette; Town leaders identify specific topics to discuss throughout the year.

Dan – Ensure that ferry line, windsled and other means of access to and from the island are affordable, available, and reliable.

- Ferry service was the number one concern raised in the survey. Windsled and ice road were mostly positive comments.
- The Harbor Commission should be acknowledged as already working on a solution to the ferry service and its succession plan. A windsled/ice road succession plan should be addressed.
- Some discussion on the Winter Transportation Committee function.

Dan – Importance of unique sense of place

- Survey comments highlight how important this is. This is embedded in the comprehensive plan mission, vision and values and is the perspective that infuses this entire project. Consensus that this should be listed early in the plan.

Alex – Create community gathering opportunities / a new “community center” what kind and where?

- Consensus: this is a very complex and controversial subject, including a physical building (new or repurposed), programming, and funding.
- Discussion on the need to lay out a framework for further community evaluation separating building and programming.
- Consensus: This could be a topic for an island roundtable discussion and a task that could be facilitated by a community coordinator.

7. Public Comment #2

None

8. Set next meeting and agenda

Next meeting scheduled for 3/9/23 at 4 pm

9. Adjourn

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

Minutes taken from recording and submitted by D. Goetsch, Clerical Assistant **Approved 3/9/23**