

**Town of La Pointe
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Thursday March 9, 2023
4 pm at Town Hall/Zoom
Minutes**

Members present: Alex Nelson (Chair), Charley Brummer, Jane Vogt, Michael Collins, Dan Bartholomay (*left meeting at 5pm*), Sarah Caruso (*left meeting at 4:40pm*)
Members absent: 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. March 2, 2023

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

4. Public Hearing Promotion Update

Michael K will work with the TPC to postpone the public hearing, as the draft plan will not be complete on time.

5. Northland Students' Draft discussion

Introduction – Consensus that the introduction is useful and a good data-driven picture. Contents need to be summarized and the narrative converted into charts and tables for easier comprehension where possible. Content may be redistributed into specific chapters where appropriate. Other content could be put into an appendix. Michael K will ask Northland to help creating the charts and tables.

General discussion on other topics presented. Consensus: most topics are lacking in examples/models and actionable steps. Michael K and Alex will reach out to Brian Tochtermann to see if we can get more information on health care and grocery/food accesses, using the bicycle infrastructure topic as a model. Discussion about viability of some sort of community van or shuttle as transport around the island.

6. Committee Member Action Step Draft Discussion

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

- Dan revised/added a paragraph regarding long-term succession planning for wind sled and ice road.

Dan – Island Roundtable

- This is seen as the instrument/mechanism to implement the full comprehensive plan. The survey data supports the concept/creation of a group of this manner.
- Discussion of creating roundtable as a public-private partnership, participants, role/function, how it is governed, how it ties in with formalizing relationships and responsibilities with existing organizations. There was only one example/model from the Northland College research. Idea of creating a community task force (perhaps with steering committee members as core) to create roundtable, with understanding that Town government ultimately has to take responsibility for plan and its implementation. Discussion of community coordinator position, where it is housed, how it is funded.

Jane – Proper use of density as outlined in Zoning Ordinance

- There is an inconsistency between those who want to maintain low-density and a high community prioritization for affordable housing. The Affordable Housing Committee’s recommendations should direct our work on this topic in having zoning be flexible in those areas.
- Discussion on where to allow increased density, such as town center with easy access to services. Design can help offset impact of density.
- Discussion on height restrictions and their impact on the fire apparatus available on the island; consensus to not recommend increase in building height.

Jane was contacted by a member of the Friends of the Museum asking to be kept informed about the comprehensive plan process; Michael C will reach out to them. Discussion about survey’s support for preserving historic places and buildings. Consensus: Seeking historical designations for buildings such as the Museum, or areas such as Nebraska Row and Mission Hill, should be driven by property owners.

7. Public Comment #2

None

8. Set next meeting and agenda

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

9. Adjourn

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

Minutes taken from recording and submitted by Dorgene Goetsch, Clerical Assistant
 Minutes approved as presented 3/23/23. Dorgene Goetsch, Clerical Assistant