

Swan's Island Comprehensive Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 30, 2018

Swan's Island Library

ATTENDANCE

CPC members in attendance included Keith Harriton, Belva Staples, Sarah Lane, Bill Banks, Jennifer Helman, Sonny Sprague and Dexter Lee. Absent CPC members included Sonja Philbrook (joined later), Christal Applin and Sue Estler. Carol Loehr attended as a representative of the Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC).

The meeting was called to order by the secretary at 6:15 PM. Jennifer Helman moved that the reading of the minutes be waived and accepted as is. Billy Banks seconded. Motion carried.

The entire discussion centered on selecting a new planner. Anne Krieg was fired from Hancock Planning and has started her own consultancy. The group agreed that there are basically three options...continue to work with Anne Krieg, keep contract with HCPC or hire someone completely different. Pros and cons of each were discussed.

Anne Krieg was also fired from one other planning office. Her short tenure at HCPC is a large concern. Members felt that the vision meeting went very well despite Anne's disorganization and lack of leadership. Sonja Philbrook learned that DOT funds have not yet been applied for. She also found out that none of the other towns under contract have chosen to move forward with Anne. There were concerns that she wouldn't be able to secure enough contracts to make a living, requiring she obtain other employment and perhaps completely dropping clients. The positives for staying with Anne included no learning curve, so we could maintain momentum. Because we might be her only client she may be more focused and determined to prove herself.

Sherry Walsh (Interim Executive Director) said that Rodney Lynch is currently filling in in Planning. They have interviewed a number of qualified candidates and hope to have a full-time person in the position by mid-October.

Dexter Lee moved that we keep the contract with HCPC. Jennifer Helman seconded. Discussion centered on whether to move forward with them now or not committing until they actually hire a planner. Members also considered what we do in the meantime regarding the survey and October vision meeting. Sherry will be providing notes from the July meeting. Motion withdrawn.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Bob DeForrest recommended we contact Noel Musson, a planner from Southwest Harbor with an extensive resume.

Jennifer Helman moved that we postpone the decision on which consultant to hire. Sarah Lane seconded. Motion carried.

Sarah Lane moved that we cut ties with Anne Krieg. Sonja Philbrook seconded. Comments included keeping her lined up as a back-up in case we don't want to use the new HCPC planner or Musson. 5 yay, 2 nay, motion carried.

Billy Banks moved that we schedule an interview with Musson. Sarah seconded. Motion carried. Sonja Philbrook will set it up asap.

Keith mentioned the two planners he had talked to during the initial search. Group agreed that we prefer having someone local because of all the additional costs associated for travel and for the local knowledge.

HOUSEKEEPING

Future meetings to be held at 7 PM at the library.

ADJOURNMENT

Dexter Lee made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Billy Banks seconded. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Helman
CPC Secretary