

**Dewey Beach Comprehensive Plan Committee
Meeting Minutes for August 28, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 4 pm.

Members in Attendance: Julie Johnson, Jimmy O'Connor, Phil Winkler, Dave Davis (quorum)

Others in Attendance: Gary Persinger (Liaison), Dale Cooke, Ashleigh Hudson

Administrative Items:

The agenda was adopted as written.

Members of the committee were introduced.

Discussion of Business:

The committee reviewed the town's Annual Report on the Comp Plan, dated June 23, 2020.

Observations and recommendations are as follows:

1. Phil recommended that the report be annotated with letters and/or section markers and paragraph numbers so that references to items can be more easily going forward.
2. Demographics and Population Section - Julie offered an observation that this may be important given the changes in town demographics due to the recent COVID situation. However, it was generally agreed that this is likely a temporary change and therefore no action on this point is warranted at this time.
3. Housing Section - It was generally agreed that due to the current economic and pandemic situation, neither of the objectives listed were in need of immediate attention or action.
4. Land Use and Annexation - Given the existing work underway on bulk standards, zoning requirements, and a building maintenance ordinance the members agreed that there is no additional action needed at this time.
5. Transportation
 - a. Phil noted that he believes that nearly all but the final objective (an education program for the public) are substantially complete, perhaps since the town's status report was completed in June. After a further review, Phil believes this to be true, and verification with the town would be appropriate.
 - b. It was also generally agreed that the objective related to education the residents and visitors about the safe walking, bicycling, etc. was desirable now that the improvements to the transport corridor have been substantially improved.

- c. The members also agreed that the development of a comprehensive parking strategy for the town was in need of attention at some point in the near future.
6. Community Services and Facilities – progress is now underway on funding for additional surveillance cameras in town and the public restrooms at Van Dyke and the Hyatt are now in place and available.
7. Natural Resources – no immediate attention was deemed necessary.
8. Infrastructure
 - a. It was noted that while there has not yet been significant progress on improvements to the stormwater drainage systems throughout the town, a pilot project has been completed and is in review as to the effectiveness and this will be used as input to a more thorough analysis and study of the needs.
 - b. With respect to the maintenance and upgrades to community infrastructure, the committee agreed that the Infrastructure Committee should be given a priority assignment to commence work on a comprehensive infrastructure plan.
9. Cultural Resources - The members felt that these objectives should be referred to the town Marketing Committee and given priority in their near-term efforts.
10. Economic Development
 - a. The town’s Budget & Finance Committee is commencing an effort to identify and recommend additional revenue streams for the town and should be given a high priority.
 - b. There has been some limited work done in the current budget to begin work on a long-term capital improvement plan, but this should be given a higher priority and completed before the coming budget cycle.
11. Climate Change & Sea Level Rise
 - a. The committee discussed the need to begin work toward a long-term resilience and adaptation plan for the town. The Council should form a task force or committee to begin work on this effort, given that we are already two years into the current plan and there has been no meaningful progress in this area.
 - b. Gary suggested that work is needed by both the Charter & Code Committee and Planning and Zoning on the objective of minimizing flooding, specifically in the freeboard and flood zone elevation requirements. The members agreed to make a recommendation that this be prioritized.
12. Preservation of Nature – No particular recommendations were made in this area.

Recommendations to the Council:

1. Near-term (< 1 year)
 - a. Transportation: Create an educational program for residents and visitors on safe walking, bicycling, etc. through and in town.
 - b. Infrastructure: Assign Infrastructure Committee the task of developing a comprehensive plan for the town infrastructure maintenance and improvements.
 - c. Economic Development: Complete analysis and recommendations for more stable and predictable revenue streams for the town and begin enacting them.
 - d. Economic Development: Complete a capital improvements plan for the next budget cycle.
 - e. Climate Change/Sea Level Rise: Revisit the freeboard and flood zone elevation requirements to clarify and update as required.
2. Longer-term
 - a. Climate Change/Sea Level Rise: Charter a task force or committee to begin work on a long-term resiliency and adaptation plan for sea level rise and climate change.

We agreed that it is important to ratify these recommendations and forward to Council before their Sept. 11th meeting. To meet that need, this document has been circulated to members of the committee and all have agreed to the content and support of the recommendations herein.

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 4:48 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Davis, Chair