



Minutes

Town of Blue River

Blue River Comprehensive Plan Committee

June 3, 2021

6:00p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Meeting was held via Zoom.

Sarah Thorsteinson-Chair; Brownell Bailey; Dan Cleary; Bevan Hardy; Jon Warnick; Tim West;
Town Manager Michelle Eddy

Excused: Tori Aidala; Mark Fossett; Town Attorney Bob Widner.

I. Purpose and Goal of a Comprehensive Plan:

- Comprehensive planning is a process that determines community goals and aspirations in terms of community development. The result is called a comprehensive plan or general plan, and both expresses and regulates public policies on transportation, utilities, land use, recreation, and housing. Comprehensive plans typically encompass large geographical areas, a broad range of topics, and cover a long-term time horizon.
 - Chair Thorsteinson reviewed and provided a reminder of the definition of a comprehensive plan and the focus of the committee.

II. Tonight-Facilities/Utilities

III. Review of Remaining Schedule

- July 1st-Transportation/Community/Economic Development
- August 12th-**Date Change**-Review of Comp Plan Language to date
- August TBD-Town Hall to get resident feedback and suggested changes
- September 2nd-Review suggestions from residents and make any needed changes
- September/October-Present to the Board of Trustees for adoption.
 - Chair Thorsteinson provided an outline of the remaining schedule and goal for completion.
 - Discussion on whether or not to have a town hall/survey on land use and the community engagement.

IV. Brief Follow up Discussion on Housing-Brownell Bailey Comments

- Brownell stated the need to look at the community and what is wanted. There is a need to define the vision for the future. He noted that housing and affordability is

driven by factors surrounding Blue River. He noted it should be expressed that Blue River should not become the overflow to address issues from surrounding towns/area. Important to maintain community, quiet, environmental sensitivity and neighbors. He noted that the committee needs to stop giving solutions but to voice what it that is desired. Reaffirm the qualities and character.

- Discussion of how to move forward with the current condition but recapture the past vision for character of town, “get back to the roots.”
- Discussion of whether or not Blue River is a bedroom community by definition.
- Encourage a reasonable mix/balance of residents, renters and visitors.
- Encourage the town to explore all factors that contribute to housing challenges within the town. Creating a mix and balance of residents, second homeowners, renters and visitors to maintain the community character of Blue River.

V. Facilities & Utilities

- Encourage the expansion of broadband, sewer, infrastructure, and utility improvements to provide consistency, improved technology and livability in the town while being sensitive to the environment as appropriate guided through public outreach.
- Suggestion to leave phrase to all utilities and not single out specific utilities.
- Facilities: Encourage the town to review improvements and expansion to existing facilities as needed.

VI. Future Growth

- Recommendation to maintain current language in plan on page 32. Add in future vision with consideration to density and in consideration of surrounding area plans where they align with the community values guided by town resident input.
- Discussion to include language on impacts of the evolution of the town for sustainable development.

VII. Next Meeting July 1, 2021, 6:00 p.m.