



**Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee**  
**Zoom Hybrid Meeting**  
**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**  
**January 8, 2024**  
**Approved: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Ann DiPetta, Karl Klankowski, Mo Klein, Elizabeth Weatherby, Alison Weaver, Diane Cohen, Tai Basilius

**Committee Members Present on Zoom:** Katelin Olson

**Committee Members Absent:** Roxanne Marino,

**Quorum Present**

**Comp Plan Consultant Present:** Matt Horn

**Town Staff Present:** Niels Tygesen

**Town Staff Present on Zoom:** Mollie Duell

### Proceedings

Chair Ann DiPetta called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm at the Town Hall.

### Approval of Past Minutes

**Motion:** Klein motioned to approve the amended December 4 meeting minutes; Klankowski seconded.

**Vote:** Chair DiPetta, aye; Klankowski, aye; Weatherby, aye; Weaver, aye; Cohen, aye; Klein, aye; and Basilius, aye.

**Motion Carried.**

### Privilege of the Floor

**Motion:** Klein motioned to close privilege of the floor; Klankowski seconded.

**Vote:** Chair DiPetta, aye; Klankowski, aye; Weatherby, aye; Weaver, aye; Cohen, aye; Klein, aye; and Basilius, aye.

**Motion Carried.**

### Old Business Items

#### **Results of Focus Group #3: Capital Facilities & Utilities, Transportation, and Community Well-Being**

Horn shared the results from the focus group discussions. A group of around 10 participants identified strengths and weaknesses. Strengths included the library, state parks system, and schools. Identified challenges and weaknesses included accessibility to water and sewer, a lack of community spaces and places for teens, and few options for childcare, healthcare, and employment within the Town. Problems with housing were discussed, focusing on the lack of housing, age of homes, and threats from short-term rentals. The age of the population is shifting as less young people move to the area. Desired transportation improvements included more trails, public transport, options for non-motorized transit, more EV infrastructure, and car shares.

### New Business Items

#### **Priorities Discussion (SWOT) for Capital Facilities & Utilities, Transportation, and Community Well-Being**

The committee participated in an exercise identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Weatherby spoke about recent efforts to restart an Ag Committee and the difficulty in sustaining participation; she would like feedback from the agricultural community about these issues. Horn noted a variety of transportation needs had been identified by committee members. No car share exists in Ulysses and the reason is believed to be challenges with insurance. Other identified strengths include the nursery school and library.

Weaver mentioned the severe nationwide decline in EMS personnel, acknowledging this is also a problem locally. Issues with aging infrastructure include undersized culverts. Water quality is a challenge throughout the Town for those relying on wells. Discussions indicated that more restaurants are desired since on some days everything is closed. Klankowski spoke about the possibility of transitioning lakefront septic systems to a sewer system. Weatherby spoke about challenges with creating water districts; funding relies on residents who are willing to share the costs. The committee agreed that power reliability is generally ok but certain areas are weak. Broadband access is improving. Discussion ensued on feelings of community in the town. A communal space and outdoor recreational space are desired. Additional mentioned threats included declining lake health and lack of volunteerism.

### **Next Steps**

The drafts for 3 sections are in development and will be ready for review soon. The sections are for Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, and Resilience. The next priority discussion (SWOT) is about Rural Issues and Land Use. An upcoming public forum will allow residents to participate in the exercise the committee just completed.

The next CPSC meeting is February 5.

### **Member Reports**

Klein said there was good attendance at Winterfest. Klankowski said it was good to have help from high school students.

**Motion:** Klein motioned to adjourn; Cohen seconded.

**Vote:** Chair DiPetta, aye; Klankowski, aye; Weatherby, aye; Weaver, aye; Cohen, aye; Klein, aye; and Basilius, aye.

**Motion Carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.**

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Mollie Duell  
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Secretary