

GROWTH PLANNING COMMITTEE
Minutes February 11, 2020

Attendees: Dan Saunders, Barbara Barwise, Jim McMann, Paul Hogan (Skype)
and Werner Gilliam

Absent: Mike Corsie, Jim Fitzgerald and Janet Powell

Guests: Liz Durfee and Tom Morgan

Chair, Dan Saunders opened the Meeting at 7:00 PM.

January 28, 2020 minutes approved.

No mail to review.

Liz reviewed the Chapter on Demographics

Population: Current Kennebunkport population is estimated at 3582 which has declined. Liz will check on census date as the estimated become available. Medium age in Kennebunkport is 53.5 years. The US median is 37.9.

Age Distribution: Kennebunkport has a declining birth rate and an aging population.

School Population: Figures based on RSU 21 data indicates a downward trend most probably as a result of the declining birth rate.

Household Income: Kennebunkport's \$79,295 is higher than the average York County median income.

Educational Attainment: Kennebunkport has an exceptionally high level compared to the state average.

Vulnerable Population: The poverty is less than 3% down from 3.5% five years ago compared to York County's 8.4%. Health remains near or above state average. Climate change ranks 'medium low' although many of the coastal residents will become increasingly vulnerable with the rise of sea level. Rise in heat and decline in air quality will also impact Kennebunkport's residents.

Future Population: Rate of increase will slow but still grow. In 2019 there were 28 new housing starts.

Dan raised several questions regarding the impact of seasonal housing and the town support needed to serve the aging population.

Werner mentioned the need to know what the residents of Kennebunkport want the future demographics to look like?

Liz reported that the next step will be the Chapter on housing and wrapping up the climate change chapter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Next meeting scheduled for **February 25, 2020 at 7:00 PM.** (Dan will not be available)

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Barwise, Secretary