

Growth Planning Committee  
Minutes November 17, 2020

Attendees: Dan Saunders, Jim Fitzgerald, Jim McMann, Mike Corsie, Paul Hogan, Janet Powell and Werner Gilliam, Director of Planning and Development

Guests: Liz Durfee and Tom Morgan

The virtual meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Dan Saunders, Chair.

The minutes of the October 22 meeting were unanimously approved.

There was no mail to review.

Liz Durfee opened the meeting with a presentation of the first draft of **Chapter 7 Water Resources**. Her Power Point focused on the town's freshwater resources, including lakes and ponds, rivers and streams, wetlands and groundwater. (Discussion of saltwater resources will be found in Chapter 9 Marine Resources.)

Playing a key ecological role, rivers and surface water provide an essential habitat for many species and numerous ecosystems benefiting communities and offer

- supporting services/ maintaining floodplain fertility and primary production
- provisioning services/ drinking water, domestic, industrial use, power and transportation
- regulating services/ natural filtration and water treatment, erosion and flood control
- cultural value/ recreation, tourism

The Resource Inventory of Kennebunkport includes:

**Rivers and Streams**/the Kennebunk River, a tidal river flowing 25 miles from the Kennebunk Pond in Lyman to the Atlantic Ocean forms a natural 5.2 mile boundary between Kennebunk and Kennebunkport. The Batson River, a second tidal river runs approximately three-quarters of a mile from its mouth to the dam downstream of Route 9 and feeds 15 miles of perennial streams within its watershed.

Paul suggested that information culled from Healthy Beaches research on the Little River and the Batson River be included in the CP.

**Lakes and Ponds**/ several small scattered ponds are suitable for fishing only. There are no Great Ponds in KPT and though not classified as one, the Lake of the Woods, across from Walker's Point, is protected by the Resource Protection Zone of the town's Land Use Ordinance. (LUO)

**Drinking Water Supply** This is derived from private wells, public wells, and surface and groundwater supplied by the Kennebunk Kennebunkport and Wells Water District. 40% of the parcels in town receive their drinking water from KKWWD which today receives its supply from the Branch Brook, the Biddeford and Saco Water Company and the York Water District. Liz mentioned that pending clarification of wells and well data from the DEP will be added to the chapter as well as information from the presentation by Dr. Jane Knott on **Groundwater Rise** in the summer of 2021.

**Wetlands/** National Wetlands Inventory(NWI) data states that 25% of the town or about 3,300 acres are Wetlands. These wetlands provide plant and animal habitat, flood flow alteration, finfish habitat, sediment retention, shellfish habitat and cultural value.

**Floodplains/** These areas adjacent to streams, rivers and coastline experience occasional flooding and can change over time. The town regulates these vulnerable areas through its **Floodplain Management Ordinance**. Joining FEMA in 1975 to offer flood insurance (NFIP) to residents, the town requires ongoing recognition and reevaluation of flood hazards in all actions related to the Land Use Ordinance in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Before the completion of the CP, Werner hopes to have the updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS) information from FEMA. Werner and Liz will compare available data on local vs. state numbers related to flood insurance premiums and claims for the second draft. Tom asked if the two town dams and culverts had been considered. Werner stated they are Shoreline and Resource protected. Liz asked if the Public Works Department had clear guidance on best management practices to protect water resources. Werner suggested that Liz contact Mike Claus regarding specifics of the question. Paul raised concern about the use of MDF and plastic building materials in relation to water quality. Dan asked about stormwater runoff in new construction. Werner confirmed that current building regulations require construction sites to be maintained in such a way that there is no change regarding the rate and speed of stormwater runoff before and after construction, adding that the town is always open to current standards being updated to maintain and protect water quality.

**Water Quality/** The Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report prepared by the Maine DEP summarizes water quality and data. Statewide levels of mercury have already impacted consumption of freshwater fish and the bacteria levels in the Kennebunk River are being monitored at the Route 9 bridge. Non-point and point source pollution regulations allow only one residential and business wastewater discharge into the Kennebunk River that has previously been treated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Beaver Pond is at moderate risk for infestation of invasive aquatic plants.

#### **Existing Protections and Preservation Measures**

The town's Land Use Ordinance defines the boundaries and use without permits of Shoreland and Resource Protection Overlay Zones with regard to surface water resources. Approximately 30% of the Kennebunk River Watershed is conserved, 2,000 acres owned by the KKWWD.

The next virtual meeting of the GPC will be Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 6:00PM

Discussion: **Chapter 9 Marine Resources**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM

