

Growth Planning Committee
Minutes
December 1, 2020

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

Absent: Jim McMan

Other Guests: Tom Morgan

The meeting was called to order at 6:01PM by Dan Saunders, Chair.
The November 17, 2020 minutes were approved with one revision.
There was no mail to review.

Tom presented an overview of Chapter 9 **Marine Resources**.

The **Marine Resource Inventory** includes:

Harbors/the Kennebunk River Harbor, Cape Porpoise Harbor/Stage Harbor (commercial and recreational)

Beaches/Goose Rocks Beach, Colony Beach, including the Breakwater and Town Beach, and Cleaves Cove.

The coastline provides abundant ecosystems for sandpipers, sanderlings and nesting grounds for Piping Plovers. The nearby/Rachel Carson Preserve provides invaluable, undisturbed habitat for birds

Kennebunk River Fishery/ spawning grounds to numerous varieties of fish. Overabundance of nutrients in the water threatens Eelgrass which provides stability and functions as nursery grounds for marine life. Information on eelgrass available in the DMR.

Conditions and Trends

Depletion of fish stock despite years of overfishing, there is a **resurgence of Bluefin Tuna** in the GOM (10 lobster boats fish for tuna, one commercial boat exclusively)/shrimp industry has effectively disappeared/appearance of newer species such as BlackSea Bass and Striped Bass/**Lobster industry** extremely healthy although tremendously damaged in 2018 due to Trade War with China and Canadian presence in European Market/future threat to the **lobster and fishing industry** due to warming water in the GOM and corporate consolidation. Jim Fitzgerald suggested a chart to show how finfish as well as lobster have fared in the past decade.

Protecting the waterfront/ town has **prioritized the local fishing industry** through permitting and mooring allotments fairly well/ a discussion of **threats to water quality** and the **coastal flora and fauna** include homeowners abandoning the natural landscape in favor of overly manicured lawns, use of pesticides and fertilizers, pollution from landscaping equipment/ should there be additional appropriate policies adopted and enforced to protect the environment from these threats? It was decided that the term Critical Edge Buffer was removed from the last CP and will not be used in this current plan.

Marsh Migration/ It is recommended we evaluate the current impact of CC on marshland and identify suitable means to save them. The Nature Conservancy is working to identify these areas and find potential remedies for their fragile state. Paul asked if we know much about the marsh data and who, if anyone, is measuring them and recording data? Also, what do we know about the long standing practice of water testing of GRB? Werner said the State does measure these resources but does not share data locally. He also provided more information about geologist, Steve Dixon, who assessed damage of GRB after the 2018 storm. His assessment of the sand returning to the beach did in fact occur as predicted. Paul described a proven method of protecting the sand from piling up on King's Highway after storms by constructing elevated walkways that avoid cutting into the natural contours of the dunes.

Strategies for Protecting the Waterfront

1. Consider creating or joining an existing **CSF (Community Supported Fishing)** Portsmouth and Portland have created these support networks to allow fishermen to sell directly to subscribers.
2. Marsh Migration (previously mentioned)
3. Reducing soil nitrogen levels threatening water quality (fragility of eelgrass and negative impacts from landscaping)
4. Offshore Wind vs Fishing Industry/find ways to balance and support both
5. Protected Land/continue to support KCT's efforts and educational programs
6. Revisit Regulations/to make them more fishcentric/currently centered on lobster
7. Public Education (see KCT's **Kennebunkport Climate Initiative**. www.kennebunkportclimate.org)

Dan suggested that it is important to find distinct strategies across each chapter to ensure that they are consistent and cohesive. Werner mentioned the LUO and the importance of reviewing regulations for relevance and removing and updating Shoreline and Resource Protection regulations as needed. Mike mentioned the importance of addressing consistency across local, state and DEP regulations.

In reviewing the Chapter 208, State of Maine requirements, Tom asked if, in fact, **coastal waters** are regularly **monitored**? Is there a **regional plan** to eliminate pollution? Werner mentioned he was not aware of one. Tom mentioned the State will soon be releasing a quantity of data that will be added to the chapter. On Dec 2, Paul sent every GPC member the link to the **Maine Climate Council** Report. climatecouncil.maine.gov

Tom asked if there was a local or regional management plan. Werner stated that there is joint management of the KRHarbor/ CPH, and while there is no specific plan, it has been historically well managed and sees no need for an additional plan. He added that dredging is sometimes done by private marinas and that joint towns and the federal government manage the River.

It was unanimously agreed that the Committee must be proactive about involving the community in the creation of the new CP. Suggested means? Contact the KRA, GRB group, Chamber, Kennebunk Business Association, Offer Survey Monkey tailored to several chapters at a time, collate data, plan a larger Zoom meeting for residents over the winter and notify groups by email with a link to the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM

The next virtual meeting will be **Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM**. The next chapter for discussion will be **Chapter 12 Economy**