

/Growth Planning Committee  
Minutes  
February 2, 2021

Attendees: Dan Saunders, Chair, Jim Fitzgerald, Paul Hogan, Werner Gilliam, Director of Planning and Development, Janet Powell  
Absent: Jim McMann, Mike Corsie  
Guests: Liz Durfee, Tom Morgan

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by Dan Saunders, Chair.  
Tom presented the first draft of Chapter 13 Facilities and Services.  
This chapter's inventory includes:

**1. Fire Department**

In 2005, the Town reorganized the four fire companies into one department headed by a Fire Chief and a Fire Protection Administrator. The consolidated fire department includes three administrative districts:

- a. The Village Fire Company covering District 1
- b. The Wildwood Fire Company (Wildes District) and the Atlantic Engine Company (Cape Porpoise) covering District 2
- c. The Goose Rocks Beach Fire Company covering District 3

In 2020, the department's personnel included the fire chief, the administrator and 77 volunteer firefighters. With the median age of the firefighters at 55, it is anticipated that the department will move to a hybrid system of paid firefighters during weekday daytime hours. The Village and Wildes District firehouses are owned by the town, the Goose Rocks and Cape Porpoise firehouses are owned by the respective companies and are leased to the town. The fire companies raise private funds to augment operations. Additionally, there are two funds available to purchase equipment and trucks, the Clifford Seavey Fund and more specifically, the accrued annual interest from the Kittredge Family Fire Equipment Fund endowment. The Trust's balance as of 2019 was \$729,867. Its earned income is divided among the four companies.

**2. Police Department**

Built in 1997, the police station, shared by the Department of Public Health, has since been upgraded for accessibility and security and enlarged to include a multifunction room. Improvements necessary in the near future include mechanical systems, IT updates and climate control in the basement for evidence storage. Personnel, as of 2021, are a police chief, two sergeants, a detective and eight other officers, two of whom serve as School Resource Officers. Ten to twenty seasonal public safety officers help operate the parking at the CP Pier and in Dock Square.

The town also employs four full-time and one part-time dispatchers. Due to increased demand on wireless technologies in the town, radio communications are seriously limited in critical neighborhoods. Converting to a digital system and erecting towers at the Wastewater Plant and Goose Rocks Fire Station are anticipated. (est. \$1.8 million)

### **3. Emergency Medical Services**

Ambulance services are provided by the private entity, Kennebunkport Emergency Medical Service (KEMS) which is governed by a 9 member BOD and leases space at the GRFD. KEMS employs 16 Paramedics and 37 active EMTs on a per diem basis. It is funded through annual membership drives, fees for services, private donations and an annual appropriation by the town.(2021/\$165,000) Current challenges include operating through Covid-19 advisories and growing the endowment for future financial stability.

### **4. Public Works**

The Public Works Department maintains town-owned roads and related structures, drainage systems and sidewalks. It also is charged with mowing, repairing roads and shoulders, painting crosswalks, maintaining culverts, plowing and winter maintenance. See Chapter 11 Transportation for additional information. Figure 13-4 and Table 13-6 show stats on road repair, reconstruction, the vehicle and equipment inventory and replacement schedule.

### **5. Sea Walls**

Public Works is instrumental in lining up grants, designers and building contractors to maintain and/or rebuild the seawalls along Ocean Ave. Completed in 2020 was the reconstruction of the Village Seawall (extending from the Nonantum to Chick's Creek) at a cost of \$1 million. Reconstruction of Walls A and B will not be scheduled prior to 2026. (estimated cost \$2 million)

### **6. Cape Porpoise Pier**

Plans are in the works for a three part/three year reconstruction of the CP Pier in anticipation of sea level rise. (2022-2026/\$2.5 million)

### **7. Stormwater**

Stormwater is collected in a series of small systems in more densely populated areas of town. Run-off is collected and discharged into the Kennebunk River. Roadway culverts are monitored for condition and the stormwater system is regularly monitored with reference to land development by the Planning Board.

### **8. Wastewater**

The Wastewater Treatment Facility at 15 Recreation Way provides secondary treatment and nutrient removal from wastewater.. The plant has been approved to treat an average daily volume of 700,000 gallons. The average daily amount over the past eight years was 313,346 gallons off season and 450,00 to 470,000 in season.

## **9. Sewer Collection System**

The wastewater collection system comprises 25 miles of gravity sewer mains and low-pressure force mains, 16 major pump stations and 100+ low pressure grinder pumps serving individual residences. It services about 3,500 customers in the most densely populated areas of town/ slightly over half of the inhabited buildings in town. Due to the age (30-50 years old) of many of the town's sewer lines, the department's priority is to maintain rather than expand the collection system. Beginning in 2012, the department replaced pump stations at King's Highway, Chick's Creek and Green St. Proposed in the near term are replacement of pumps in Cape Porpoise, Paddy Creek and Wildes District and replacement of filter presses and circular clarifiers. Expenditures for these projects are estimated at \$5 million and would be bonded. The Ocean Ave (2024) and South Maine St(2025) pumps are scheduled as well. The remaining eight pumps will be done after 2025. In response to concerns over the ever-increasing financial demands of maintaining the town's infrastructure, Werner explained that the town is funding capital reserves as part of the budget process and a percentage of the funds is being set aside.

## **10. Climate Adaptation**

In 2016, the Town contracted Wright-Pierce to prepare a Climate Adaptation Plan for the town's sewer system (See Table 13-7) based on a sea level rise of 2-3 ft. Since then, it has been noted that the Maine Climate Counsel today advises using models of 4 ft. However, the CAP is comprehensive, exhaustive and capable of being readily adjusted to meet any future changes recommended by the Science Community

## **11. Solid Waste**

Household trash is collected weekly and recyclables every other week. Educating residents on the approved ways to eliminate contamination will save the town from paying EcoMaine extra for exceeding the 6% contamination rate. The current cost estimate for curbside recycling is \$56 per household. Recyclable items too large for curbside pickup can be taken to the Sea Rd. Transfer Station in Kennebunk.

## **12. Public Health**

Located in the same building as the Police and Communications Department, the Public Health Department is staffed by a director (Health Officer) and two nurses. Some of the on-site services include health evaluations, medication administration, TB testing, wound care, blood pressure monitoring, vaccine administration and managing advisories on COVID-19. Some of the non-medical services to residents and families such as the Lifeline Program, FISH, Meals on Wheels, SOM General Assistance, KPT Fuel Assistance, and information on state and federal programs related to health care food, housing etc. It offers a comprehensive public health program that successfully meets the needs of the town.

### **13. Public Education**

Kennebunkport's newly-renovated Consolidated School serves students in grades K-5 and has a capacity for 284 students. Currently, 149 students are enrolled. From there, most students continue on to The Middle School of the Kennebunks (grades 6-8) and Kennebunk High School (grades 9-12).

### **14. Administrative Services**

Town Hall, located at 6 Elm St., provides offices for Assessing, Code Enforcement and Planning, Finance, Human Resources, the Town Clerk and the Town Manager. Currently lacking a public meeting space, a secure entry, storage space and adequate parking, the future North St. Town Office design will include these essential spaces.

### **15. Libraries**

The **Cape Porpoise Library** is located at 173 Main St. in historic Atlantic Hall and is regarded as a central element to the community. It provides the community with access to books, periodicals and is a favorite spot to gather.

The **Louis T. Graves Memorial Public Library** is located on Maine Street in a distinctive brick building built in 1813 as the Kennebunk Bank in Arundel. In 1831, it became a U.S Customs House and was taken over by the Library Association in 1898. Abbott Graves bought the building and donated it to the town in memory of his son, Louis T. Graves, who died during World War I. The Mother's Wing, a recent 5,000 square foot addition houses a Business Center and a large community room with a state-of-the-art AV system.

### **16. Electricity Distribution**

The town's electricity is delivered by Central Maine Power. Rates are relatively high compared to other regions. Frequent power failures due to CMP's antiquated infrastructure have placed Maine first in the country for the number of outages (3+ per year) and the most lengthy outages (40+hours per year).

### **17. Shade Tree Commission**

Recognized 44 times by Tree City USA, KPT is dedicated to preserving the tree canopy of KPT by immunizing, replacing and pruning the town's Elm Trees. There are currently 1300 shade trees logged into the town's GIS.

### **18. Cemeteries (see Chapter 3)**

There are 70+ private cemeteries in town but only the Arundel Cemetery on Walker's Lane is accepting new interments. Columbariums were installed in 1996 and 2020, the latter able to accommodate 96 cremation urns. There are 400 burial plots available as well.

## **19. Street Lights**

In 2020, the Lighting Committee oversaw the purchase of 280 street lights from CMP and by the end of the year had successfully converted them from incandescent to LED bulbs. The Committee is investigating additional savings through use of a mesh network that could manage the lights remotely. Cost efficiency and preserving the night sky are the ultimate focus of their efforts. KPT has one of the oldest municipal Dark Sky policies in the US. Paul asked, “Do people want to see the stars?” After discussing the implications of residents overlighting their homes, we agreed to look further into the purpose and practice of Dark Sky policy. Werner mentioned that there is a lighting code and it is possible to look at the current requirements/limits for efficient illumination to the end of keeping our “Dark Skies” dark.

## **20. Regional Cooperation**

Service-sharing with neighboring communities reduces costs and improves service. The following partnerships have been adopted :

- a. The Fire Department and EMS services
- b. The River Committee in managing the Kennebunk River Harbor with the town of Kennebunk
- c. Chamber of Commerce (3 towns, one community)
- d. Regional School District #21 (KPT, Arundel, Kennebunk)
- e. Shared use of the Sea Rd. Transfer Station with Kennebunk
- f. The 2019 creation of the Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program with Kennebunk, Wells, Ogunquit, York and Kittery by KPT Town Manager, Laurie Smith.

The survey questions on sustainability and the economy are posted on the CP website and will continue to be available for residents.

The GPC agreed to accept the Growth Area Map Revision policy as currently written. Dan commented that we could use it for the current period and if needed, discuss and amend it. Werner will have the document proofed and prepared for the next meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for 2/16/21 at 6:00 P.M. Next Chapter to discuss/ Recreation