Growth Planning Committee
Minutes April 6, 2021

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

Dan called the meeting to order at about 6:01 pm.

Abbie Sherwin (Senior Land Use Planner & Coastal Resilience Coordinator) and Karina Graeter (Sustainability Coordinator) of the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC) provided a presentation on the SMPDC's Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program.

Abbie kicked off the presentation with a few slides explaining who SMPDC is and the work they perform supporting the 39 municipalities within the Region on Land Use, Economic Development, Transportation and Sustainability and Resilience topics.

Karina and Abbie then presented slides detailing the purpose and objectives of the Sustainability and Resilience Program. This is a two-year pilot program is being funded by the Towns of Kennebunkport, Kennebunk, Wells, Ogunquit, York, and Kittery. The four goals of the program are:

1. Collaboration – create a network to share and coordinate efforts on sustainability and resiliency in York County.
2. Assessment – assist with the evaluation of climate change and coastal issues
3. Integration – support communities in incorporating sustainability and resiliency into community operations, culture, planning and decision making.
4. Action – Increase community resilience of Coastal York County through coordinating climate change mitigation and adaptation planning and strategy implementation.

Six objectives in place to work towards achieving these goals are:

1. Establish baseline of sustainability and resilience efforts and needs in individual communities and the coastal York County region.
2. Enhance intercommunity communication and collaboration on sustainability and resilience efforts.
3. Help each community develop the capacity to complete greenhouse gas emissions inventory.
4. Help towns expand low carbon transportation in their communities through the pursuit of alternative transportation vehicles and EV charging infrastructure.
5. Assist with the evaluation of coastal hazards and associated impacts in individual municipalities and the broader coastal York County region.
6. Support towns and the Region with the implementation of sustainability and coastal resilience strategies and projects.

Major projects the SMDPC is working on associated with this work is the Southern Maine Solar Collaborative and the Sea Level Rise Projects. The Maine Solar Collaborative is a project

involving six towns, Kennebunkport, Ogunquit, Kittery, Waterboro, Fryeburg and Old Orchard Beach, to procure electrical energy in Maine's Net Energy Billing Program.

One of the Sea Level Rise Projects is funded by the Economic Development Administration to conduct a GIS based vulnerability assessment of the impacts from different scenarios of sea level rise and coastal flooding hazards on the six program towns, including Kennebunkport. This assessment is expected to be completed over the summer and presented in December 2021.

Details on SMPDC's Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program are provided on the SMPDC website at https://smpdc.org/rsrp. On this page there are additional links to the Program Workplan and to the Kennebunkport Assessment.

The committee would like to thank Abbie Sherwin and Karina Graeter for their time and professional presentation on the SMPDC's Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program.

Liz Durfee and Tom Murphy then led a discussion entitled *Maine Won't Wait Maine Climate Council's State Action Plan Dec 2020*.

The topics of the conversation covered the included:

1. What the Science Tells Us – Challenges Ahead
2. The Four Goals of the Maine Climate Council
3. The Eight Strategies Proposed by the Climate Council
4. Implications for Kennebunkport

The science used for the Maine Climate Council includes:

- Temperature
    - Statewide annual temperature has increased 3.2°F since 1895.
    - Winter season warming faster than other seasons.
    - Coastal areas warming faster than inland.
    - Projection is a +2°F to 4°F by 2050 and +10°F by 2100 relative to 2001.
- Precipitation
    - Increase in the average number of heavy precipitation events
    - Annual increase in rainfall by +6 inches since 1985.
- Sea Level
    - Sea Level rise has shown a 0.6 to 0.7 feet/century over the last century.
    - Over the last few decades this rate has increased to 1 foot/century.
    - Recommendation to plan for 1.5 feet of sea level rise by 2050 and 3.9 feet by 2100. Plan for 3.0 feet by 2050 and 8.9 feet by 2100 for critical infrastructure.
- Oceans & Lakes
    - Ocean temperatures rise under all scenarios will continue to rise thru 2050 with warming afterwards dependent on emissions.
    - Ocean acidification has shown a 30% increase in acidity since beginning of the 19th century. Oceans absorb 25% of the anthropogenic CO2 emissions. This effects the size and abundance of shellfish.
    - Hydrological system changes have shown lower snowpack and earlier ice out dates for lakes.
    - Lakes have experienced a 1.4°F increase per decade from 1984 to 2014.

The Four Goals of the Maine Climate Council

1. Reduce Maine's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions
    a. Reduce GHG by 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2050.
    b. Achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.
2. Avoid the Impacts and Costs of Inaction
    a. More vector-borne disease.
    b. Flooding $17.5B in damages by 2050.
    c. Loss of beaches, saltmarshes and eelgrass.
3. Foster Economic Opportunity and Prosperity
    a. Solar installation
    b. Offshore Wind
    c. Advanced Wood Products
4. Advance Equity through Maine's Climate Response - The costs of inaction would be acutely borne by vulnerable, lower-income communities that are the least able to recover from a disruption.

The Eight Strategies to achieve these goals are:

A. Embrace the Future of Transportation
    a. 54% of Maines GHG are from transportation.
    b. Support the deployment of electric vehicle fast chargers.
B. Modernize Maine's Buildings
    a. 60% of Maine households rely on oil.
    b. Keep money for heating fuel from leaving the state.
    c. Install 100k new heat pumps by 2025.
    d. Weatherize an additional 17,500 homes by 2025.
C. Reduce Carbon Emissions
    a. Transition to a Distributed Energy System
    b. 80% renewable electricity by 2030.
    c. Offshore wind – huge potential in the Gulf of Maine
D. Grow Maine's Clean Energy Economy
    a. Grow Maine's forest product industry.
    b. Increase reliance on local food producers from 10% to 20% by 2025 and 30% by 2030.
E. Protect Working Lands and Waters
    a. Increase acreage of conserved lands to 30% by 2030.
    b. Focus conservation efforts on high biodiversity areas.
    c. Incentivize carbon storage.
F. Build Healthy and Resilient Communities
    a. Emphasize resilience through land-use planning and legal tools
    b. Develop and implement new land-use regs, laws, and practices by 2024.
    c. Adopt official sea level rise (SLR) projections.
G. Invest in Climate Ready Infrastructure
    a. Assess climate vulnerability.
    b. Respond with climate-ready design.
H. Engage with Maine People and Communities
    a. Raise awareness of climate change impacts and solutions.

b. Increase public education related to climate and energy.

Aligning the Kennebunkport Policies & Regs with the Climate Council's Goals and Strategies

A. Identify places in town that would be good locations for electric vehicle chargers.
B. Expand the network of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
C. Install heat pumps in 300 Kennebunkport homes by 2025.
D. Weatherize 52 Kennebunkport homes by 2025.
E. Amend the Building Code to require that new buildings are well insulated, be solar ready and utilize local building materials.
F. Conserve 30% of the town's land area. Currently at 24% with 3,167 acres.
G. Explore new land use patterns that would reduce reliance on motor vehicles.
H. Establish official Sea Level Rise standards to guide land use development.
I. Ensure that municipal infrastructure meets the Climate Council's recommended standards.
J. Raise awareness of climate change impacts and solutions.
K. The Town should lead by example with its buildings, facilities, and motor vehicles.
L. Leverage nature-based solutions.

Committee discussed the potential impact to emissions due to the pandemic and reduction in travel. Liz noted that there have been some studies which did show a decline.

Committee also discussed advantages and challenges of heat pumps. They work well as part of new construction but can be an economic challenge as a replacement heat source in older homes.

Concern with the electrical system reliability and its impact on some of the Climate Councils goals and objectives was noted. This issue was identified by the Climate Councils plan and is assigned to the MPUC for study.

Llz reviewed the question for Mini-Survey #3. The questions were approved by the committee with minor revisions.

The minutes of March 16, 2021 were reviewed for approval. Dan Saunders suggested an amendment to the section on the approval of changes to the Growth Area Map to replace the last sentence with the following.

> "Based on this discussion and the information presented in the memo from Werner Gilliam to the GPC, dated March 2, 2021, the GPC voted unanimously to move the Binnacle Hill 2 property from the Rural zone to the Transition zone on the Growth Area Map. The Town of Kennebunkport Growth Areas Map will be updated accordingly."

The memo from Werner should be attached to the memo. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as amended. The motion passed 4-0.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting at about 8:03 pm.