

TOWN OF JACKSON
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING
March 26, 2024

The Town of Jackson Comprehensive Plan Committee held a working meeting on March 26, 2024 at the Town Hall at 6:30 pm with the following people in attendance:

Committee Members:
Erik Vandenberg
Mark Mahoney
Jennifer VanDeWater
Molly Dixon

Others present:
Connor Record
Sharon Dunn
Kelly Donahue
Lewis Steele

Erik Vandenberg opened the meeting recapping on the ideas discussed during the February 27th meeting. Erik pointed out that big milestones for the Town of Jackson were developing Site Plan and Solar laws and we will add to this progress with the development of the Battery Energy Storage law that the Planning Board is currently drafting. The rural aspect of Jackson is something we are trying to retain when developing a plan for the future.

The Committee members discussed the following points in regards to what could be incorporated into the Town Comprehensive Plan, and what issues could be addressed:

- Resident and former Town Historian Sharon Dunn shared that Jackson used to have a Post Office and Town Center many years ago. Erik added that an interesting aspect of the Town history is it's 10 remaining historical schoolhouses, as well as its covered bridges that connect Jackson with Salem over the Battenkill. An appendix and map could be added to the Plan detailing the Town's historical buildings and places. Local history buffs and the Town Historian could be involved in locating significant historical markers.
- There are 4 hill roads that connect State Route 22 and County Route 61. The Plan could incentivize these as future bike routes for local cyclists.
- The Committee discussed the Town's need for a grant writer. Resident Lewis Steele stated that the Town of Greenwich pays LaBella Associates to find and apply for grants and this could be a possible expense covered by ARPA grant money the Town currently has. Committee member Mark Mahoney stated that the Town of Greenwich is much more comprehensive than Jackson and has different needs.
- The Committee discussed the possibility of a bus service in the Town at the last meeting. Erik Vandenberg brought this up again as a possible inclusion in the Town Plan.
- Erik Vandenberg stated that the Town has more growth we could try to foster going forward. There are significant holes in broadband coverage here that need to be addressed.
- Encouraging more business in the Town is important. Recreational businesses are a good start but pushing for more year-round business would help the Town to grow. The Committee discussed giving a 10-year tax incentive to businesses starting up in Jackson.
- Planning Board Chair Kelly Donahue pointed out a need for a coworking space for those in the area that work from home, such as a coffee shop or a community center. The Committee discussed the possibility of raising funds for a community center.
- The Town no longer has a Church in it. This is something that could be addressed in the Plan.
- A welcome packet for residents moving to Jackson could help aid newcomers in learning about the Town, its resources and its history.

Committee member Erik Vandenberg agreed to talk with the Town Historian and Dick McGuire of Penope Farm for historical research. He asked Committee members to consider the Town's natural and historic resources and how we can harness these by implementing them into the Comprehensive Plan. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Dixon
Town Clerk/Planning Board Clerk