

Town of Bath Planning Commission Minutes

June 13th, 2024

1. **Call to order:** Larry Landon at 5:00 pm
2. **Roll Call:** Larry Landon (X), David O'Connell (X), Susan Webster (X), Elizabeth Skinner (), Steve Keith (), Guest: Pete Brown (X) for Streetscape
3. **Review and Approval of Minutes:** David O'Connell May Minutes
Larry proposed to accept, Susan 2nd, minutes unanimously approved.
4. **Comprehensive Plan Development Discussion**
 - a. **2017 Comprehensive Plan Streetscape Task Review**
 - a1) Discussed Strategy 2B.c to work with DOH to vehicular & pedestrian bridges in town.
 - a.1.a) Streetscape lacks expertise in bridge design & ability to communicate with DOH on bridges. Thrasher provides a lot of expertise in engineer subjects but more importantly engagement expertise with WV government agencies.
 - a2) Streetscapes at best a supporting organization for many Objectives/Strategies. For example Objective 3B maximizing use of existing properties should be a Public Works or Public Safety issues.
 - a3) Strategy 4B.b Streetscape Concept Plans is ongoing and continuously revised as each new phase evolves. The granting process reflects the latest adjusted concept plans. In the future Streetscape will forward these plans to the planning commission as each phase completes it's design & grant request phase.
 - a4) Strategy 4B.h Green Infrastructure program, at this time Streetscape is the Key-Stakeholder but only because of an individual contributor (Rebecca MacLeod) who defines the requirements. There really is no other organization within town (or town government) to define Green Infrastructure requirements.
 - a5) Strategy 4C.b collaborate with garden clubs.
 - a.7.a) This shouldn't be a Streetscape responsibility.
 - a.7.b) Garden clubs have their own issues in regards to collaboration and cross support. Concern expressed that supported projects are likely to disappear when the individual garden club ages out.
 - a6) Strategy 4C.c collaborate with Berkeley Springs Park Foundation to improve walkway, ADA features and pedestrian footbridges. This is completed in 2024.
 - a7) Objective 4H and associated Strategy 4H.a (town design furniture, lighting & sidewalks) and Strategy 4H.b (upgrade streetlights) are ongoing.
Streetscape takes full ownership of the Objective and associated strategies.

4. Comprehensive Plan Development Discussion (Continued)

b. Other Current Streetscape Committee topics

- b1) Pete emphasize the reality that the individual contribution makes a greater difference in outcome than organizational structure.
 - b.1.a) Concerned with losing or diminishing individual's contribution due to organizational bureaucracy.
 - b.1.b) Streetscapes by authorization, operates with a great deal of autonomy.
- b2) Pete reflected on the difficulties Streetscapes had in the early days to get traction. In Pete's mind two things changed to improve the effectiveness of Streetscapes.
 - b.2.a) First the key partner in Streetscapes projects, the DOH redesigned it's own organizational structure to improve the lines of communications with the local coordinating organizations.
 - b.2.b) Secondly, Streetscapes began using Thrasher as a Subject Matter Expert to help think through the early planning and improve how to prepare grant request for the DOH.
- b3) Discussed expanding the support personnel for Streetscape. An Individual Contributor like Jeff Deval would be a positive addition but the reality is he has other commitments.

c. Potential Future Streetscapes Committee Tasks for Comprehensive Plan 2027

- c1) The bridge on Independence St has been delayed because of the challenges with coordinating sidewalk and road requirements on a bridge for the granting process. DOH District 5 has the bridge experts but Thrasher may be needed to help on the requirements.
- c2) Wilkes st side walk improvements
 - c.1.a) Local advocate needed to help define requirements.
 - c.1.b) Subject Matter Expert (e.g. Thrasher) needed to find solutions to the design challenges.

5. Status of Tasks:

6. Any New Business:

- a. Discussed engagement with BDA at the BDA meeting.

7. Tasks For Next Meeting

- a. Schedule BDA re-evaluation for upcoming Planning Commission Meeting.

8. Next Meeting: Thursday, July 11th at 5:00 PM

9. Motion to Adjourn: Time: 6:20pm approved with common consent.

Attest:

Chair:



Recorder:


