

Notes from the Comprehensive Plan Exploratory Group meeting of 3/6/2017

In addition to the regular group members, we had 6 guests who participated in the lively discussions. The agenda for tonight's meeting was to define three Georgetown specific issues that can ultimately be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. A summary of the discussion for each of these issues is noted below.

Aging in Place:

John McIlvain provided the following Georgetown-specific statistical data from the Census Bureau..

<u>Year</u>	<u>Residents over 65</u>	<u>Residents over 75</u>
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2000	167	62
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2015	333	118
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Note that the total population of Georgetown has remained slightly over 1,000 people since the 1990's.

Some background information was provided/discussed. 29 communities in Maine have already enacted '*age friendly*' communities. Age friendly communities include features such as in-law apartments, volunteers to check in on people and/or provide services, public transportation (sometimes by volunteers), etc. It was noted that there may be grants available from SRP for some work in this area. It was also noted that these issues need to be addressed in Georgetown whether or not the Town goes ahead with an update to the Comprehensive Plan.

Specific Aging in Place detail issues identified for inclusion in the Plan include:

1. Transportation locally within town (to vote, attend town meetings and functions, etc) and to Bath/Brunswick area (to shop, to make doctor's appointments, etc)
2. Having list of snow shovelers/handyman available on-demand as needed
3. Formalize a way to check-up on elderly people living alone
4. Getting more people involved in community activities
5. How best to reach out to people without being intrusive
6. Having a directory of services or, perhaps, a call center for services
7. It may be possible to get help from Island Institute
8. Improved communications: maintain phone land-lines, improve broadband access, establish an interactive website (bulletin board) for resident use, etc
9. Reduction of isolation
10. Address fire/ambulance issues (e.g. oxygen bottles, access) related to serving aging residents with the fire department (chief is interested in doing so)

Roads, especially Route 127:

Bob Arledge provided some background information obtained from the DOT. There have been 70 accidents in Georgetown in last 5 years. 46 of them have been on #127. Of those, 24 were deer and 10 were near the 127/Robinhood Road intersection. There are no statistics on folks jumping into bushes to avoid being struck by a vehicle but there are a growing number of pedestrians and bicyclists on our roads.

Specific Route 127 detail issues identified for inclusion in the Plan include:

1. DOT's opinion is that peninsula roads tend to be narrow and old with limited shoulders. They do not appear to have much concern about #127.
2. Arrowsic somehow arranged for DOT to widen and pave their shoulders.
3. Lack of shoulders are unfriendly to pedestrians and cyclists
4. Pedestrians and cyclists are a potential hazard to motorists, especially those from away who don't know Maine law about 3 foot clearance - much of our summer traffic is from away
5. Mailboxes close to the road are often damaged by snow plowing
6. Without shoulders, plows damage the edge of the road, thus increasing the danger to cars
7. Skunks and possums have migrated from Arrowsic to Georgetown over the new bridge

A couple of specific comments were also discussed. A Comprehensive Plan gives the Town more leverage in dealing with DOT. It was pointed out that the Town turned down the opportunity to widen bridges when they were replaced back in the 90's.

Town Dock:

It was noted that there are really three separate aspects of the dock that should be addressed: (1) commercial fishermen use, (2) recreational use, and (3) the take-out (restaurant) area. The underlying question is how best to address these aspects from an overall Town benefit perspective. It was also noted that the TOPMB is responsible for managing the dock but there is no clear-cut strategic plan or objectives for their guidance.

Specific town dock detail issues identified for inclusion in the Plan include:

1. Need to develop a long term plan/strategy for the dock
2. Both commercial use and the take-out create/support jobs for townspeople
3. Might there be ways (e.g. reduce costs, improve facilities) to better support the fishermen in order to preserve their livelihood here
4. Tourists come to Georgetown to buy fish and/or see fishermen
5. Tourists, including those who rent for vacations, want to become part of the island culture
6. Do take-outs primarily support residents or tourists. Do we want to change/encourage either.
7. Sanitary facilities at the dock need to be improved

The Next Meeting will be **Monday, March 20, 2017, 7:00 pm**, again at the Town Office Conference Room. We welcome new group members and/or visitors to our informal meetings.

The agenda for this meeting is define issues in 3 areas:

- Energy (including alternative energy)
- Communications (in a broad sense)
- Marine Resources (fishing, clamming, worming, aqua-farming)