

Growth Planning Committee
Minutes
3/2/2021

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

Dan called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Tom presented the first draft of Chapter 17 Regional Coordination

Kennebunkport has historically made a coordinated effort to share resources and services with neighboring municipal governments in keeping with the State of Maine Chapter 208.

The following collaborations illustrate this practice.

1. **Regional Planning/** The Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC) was established in 1964 to support towns in York County and ten other communities in Oxford and Cumberland Counties. It is concerned with issues related to transportation, energy, aquifer protection, solid waste economic development, brownfield redevelopment, open space protection, rails, sustainability, resiliency and climate change response. In addition to providing technical assistance and cost sharing, it creates a forum for towns to share successes and solve common problems. As a member, a KPT staff member, currently Werner Gilliam, sits on the Executive Board.

2. **Transportation/** The federal government created Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) to plan and coordinate federally funded transportation projects. While not a member of PACTS, the Portland area MPO (see map, Figure 17-3) , KPT is in proximity to Biddeford and Arundel who are members and as such, we could potentially benefit from future opportunities.

3. **Bicycle Routes/** The Eastern Trail and the U.S. Route 1 bike trail are accessible to residents via Log Cabin Rd. Additionally, the State's DOT manages three bike loops through Town, originating at the Wells Transportation Center. Additional local investment in bicycle infrastructure supports cleaner air/less time spent in motor vehicles.

4. **Hiking Trails/**KCT maintains extensive trails extending into Biddeford and Arundel. (see Chapter 11 Transportation)

5. **Parking/** Dock Square and the Lower Village both provide parking for the downtown which is commonly perceived as one commercial center.

6. **Emergency Response**/The KPT Police Department is a signatory to three Memorandums of Understanding (MoU), one with Kennebunk, a second with the county wide Regional Tactical Team and a third, in response to COVID-19 which ensures assistance with police staffing in York County municipalities in the event of shortages due to illness.

7. **Emergency Communications**/ All emergency calls are dispatched to York County, screened and then forwarded to KPT.

8. **Emergency Management**/ KPT's emergency management teams work in conjunction with those in York County and the State of Maine. A York County Comprehensive Emergency Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan (most recently updated 2015) are in place and regularly updated.

9. **Water Supply**/40% of the Town's properties receive water from the KKWD, derived mostly from the Branch Brook but supplemented by Maine Water and the York Water District.

10. **RSU#21**/with a flexible school selection policy in place, Elementary age children can attend either Consolidated School in KPT (K-5), Kennebunk Elementary School (pre-K through 2) Sea Road School in Kennebunk (3-5) or Mildred L. Day School in Arundel(K-5). After 5th grade, students attend The Middle School and High School in Kennebunk.

11. **Solid Waste**/ Casella is contracted to collect and remove household waste as well as recyclable materials that go to EcoMaine in Portland. Batteries, lightbulbs and ink cartridges can be recycled at Staples, Home Depot and NAPA in Biddeford. Redeemable glass and single use plastic can be taken to local Hannaford and Shaws supermarkets.

12. **Other Recyclables**/Larger recyclable household items, including refrigerators, mattresses etc. and yard waste can be taken to the Sea Road Transfer Station on Sea Road. Hazardous Household Waste collection sponsored by the Transfer Station is regularly scheduled by the towns.

Natural Resources

13. **Undeveloped Habitat Blocks**/Northwest of Guinea Rd. is an unfragmented block of 2,086 acres within KPT. It is part of a larger block(toal 3,035 acres) that extends into Biddeford and Arundel. This undisturbed land will be important to wildlife displaced by future climate change.

14. **Habitat Focus Areas/** the Maine Depart of Inland Wildlife and Fisheries (MDIFW) has designated 140 acres of statewide ecological significance. The Biddeford/Kennebunkport Vernal Pool Complex and the Wells and Ogunquit Marsh are located partially in KPT

15. **Kennebunk River Committee/** Founded in 1995 with the purpose of providing oversight on the River's safety and environmental protection, KPT and Kennebunk manage this shared resource. Three representatives from each town and one rep from Arundel sit on the Committee.

16. **Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge/** Part of the 50 mile stretch of this preserve lies in KPT. Established in 1966 to protect salt marshes and estuaries for migratory birds, the 550 acre conservation land provides forested upland, barrier beach and islands, coastal meadows, tidal salt marsh and rocky coast.

17. **Aquifers/** As detailed in Chapter 18, there are 118 acres of high yield aquifers in Town. Located at the intersection of Whitten Hill Rd and Guinea Rd.(Beacon Corner) and at Oak Ridge Rd. extending into Biddeford. That portion of the aquifer underlying Biddeford is protected by the City's Aquifer Protection Overlay District. After some discussion, it was decided that further exploration of this shared resource is advisable to determine specifically what protections are contained in Biddeford's CP and if they are aligned with ours.

18. **Water Testing/** Since 2003, volunteers with Maine Healthy Beaches have regularly tested the water at GRB and the Little River for bacteria levels. There is continued concern about the quality of the river water and its impact at GRB. It was suggested that we use the model of the Kennebunk River Committee to determine if and how the city of Biddeford is testing the Little River water quality. Since it is shared pollution, it requires a shared approach to identifying and dealing with the problem.

19. **Climate Change/**The towns of KPT, Kennebunk, Wells, Ogunquit and York are members of the Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program created by the KPT Town Manager in 2019. Its purpose is to pool municipal resources of these coastal towns to provide otherwise unaffordable technical expertise in planning for the effects of climate change specific to this region.

20. **Kennebunkport Climate Initiative**/Launched by the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust (KCT) in 2020, its mission is to educate, empower and activate students to work towards stewardship of this coastal town and surrounding area. The Initiative is partnered with Portland's Gulf of Maine Institute and the University of New England in Biddeford.

21. **Archaeology**/the Cape Porpoise Archeological Alliance was started in 2017 by the KCT and the Brick Store Museum. It conducts research in the area of the CP Harbor for the benefit of "Kennebunk and the surrounding communities."

22. Summary Table of the Regional Coordination and Collaboration/ Based on the specific topics discussed in Chapter 17, this visual summary lists all of KPT's collaborations with surrounding coastal towns.

Mini Survey#2 (Recreational and Cultural Resources) will be posted this week. Werner will provide Liz and Tom with the raw data from the 2028 CP survey.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 P.M.

Next meeting, 3/16/2021 6:00 P.M.

Discussion: Chapter on Hazard Mitigation