

**TOWN OF BRUNSWICK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE STEERING COMMITTEE
DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
March 20, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Emilie Schmidt Howell (Chair), Fred Koerber (Co-Chair), Alison Harris, Catherine Ferdinand, Marcy McGuire, Meghan Kissling, Larissa Darcy, Sande Updegraph (Town Council, District 4), Steve Weems (Town Council, District 7), Steve Walker, Lisa Trombley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Julie Erdman, Director of Planning and Development; Jimmy Dealaman, Principal Planner

CONSULTANTS PRESENT: Vanessa Farr and Ben Meader from Haley Ward

Chair Schmidt called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and called the roll. There was an adjustment to the agenda to move the Growth/Rural Area Boundary Discussion to before the Charette Recap.

Public Comment:

Chair Schmidt opened the meeting to public comment. The following members of the public spoke:

Bruce Gardiner

Louisa Hart

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

Growth/Rural Area Boundary Discussion:

Ben Meader presented to the committee potential plans for decreasing the growth area under the comprehensive plan. Decreasing the growth area would limit sprawl and provide environmental benefits without reducing the capacity for adding new dwelling units, because of the amount of available land within the existing growth area.

Charette Recap/Key Policies and Actions Document:

Chair Schmidt described a plan for smaller groups of the committee to do further work on each of the three main policy areas discussed at the charette after the meeting (development, environment, and infrastructure). Vanessa Farr led a short discussion of each of these policy areas with the full committee.

- Infrastructure: The consensus was that infrastructure has been the most underdiscussed of these three areas. While Brunswick has enough space to support housing for a significantly larger population than it has, the existing infrastructure is not necessarily up to that much growth. Schools were used as an example, as currently Kate Furbish is enrolled over capacity. Ensuring that infrastructure can keep up with town growth was seen as an important goal.
- Environment: There was limited discussion of this area with the full group. The smaller working group will discuss further.
- Development: The group talked about various zoning strategies, design standards, and had a discussion of the Planning Board's role as a body devoted to facilitating development according to town ordinances as opposed to design standards.

The committee planned to divide into these three working groups at the next meeting

Motion to Adjourn:

Larissa Darcy

Chair Emilie Schmidt

Unanimous

NEXT MEETING: April 3, 2025 6:30 PM