

Initial thoughts on the update of the 2003 Waterboro Comprehensive Plan

Historical context:

The Town comprehensive plan was initially created in 1990. Thirteen years later, the plan was updated in a goal-centric format. Emphasis was placed on the Town's ruralness, the State's Growth Management Act and five Town guiding principles. During the 1990's, the Town of Waterboro is reported to have become the second fastest residential growing community per capita in the State. Since the comprehensive plan was updated in 2003, huge local/county changes have occurred, which prompts the Town to define a broad new vision in shaping its infrastructure, economic, business, residential, and cultural futures.

Central questions:

Leading the discussion on reasons for a complete update of the Town's Comprehensive Plan is whether this undertaking should be a local-driven initiative or a State of Maine driven initiative. This will become a complex conversation, because it will require all Town decision-makers and participants in the comprehensive plan update process to be knowledgeable in **Chapter 208: The Comprehensive Plan Review Criteria Rule**, which sets forth all the State's goals, substantive guidelines and procedures. Thus, two central questions are:

- > Is the Town's updated plan to be an **Asset-Based Approach** to our future or is it to be a **Needs-Based Approach** to our future?
- > Should the Town embark on a public-private leadership alliance to assist in stewarding the Waterboro 20/20 Vision/Comprehensive Plan?

Process (initial start-up only)

- > Continue briefings and strategies to BoS & TA, & PB
- > Build clarity on responsibilities, time commitments, benchmarks, accountability and completion timelines for future members of a new Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee (CPOC)
- > Recruit/appoint new members to a new CPOC
- > Initiate training sessions for new CPOC members
- > Begin facilitated visioning sessions to public-at-large and to business community
- > Determine priorities and sequencing of plan elements (see next page)