

**Winthrop Comprehensive Planning Process**  
**Public Facilities**  
**June 22, 2009**

Committee Attendance:

Patrice Putman  
Andy Wess  
Brian Ketchen  
Jim Norris  
Ken Johnson  
John Carpenter

Kristen Bartlett  
Phil Locashio  
Sarah Fuller  
Cornell Knight  
Chris Huck

Lonny Steeves (recreation), Colleen Crowley (library), Jan Tewksbury (finance), Joseph Young (police), John M. Dovinsky (ambulance), Matt Burnham (roads), Dan Brooks (fire), Priscilla Jenkins (Town Council), Russ Hazzard, Jay Lindsey, Tom Sturtevant

7:00pm—Meeting begins

Patrice mentioned discussing health as a component of the comprehensive plan. She will be meeting with representatives from Healthy Futures, Mill Medical Facility, etc. She also looked for help with planning the all-day meeting in September. Andy Wess volunteered.

Cornell distributed a handout detailing the capital improvement list. It included estimates of funds needed through the next ten years. Large items on the list included the library addition and fire station construction.

Phil Locashio detailed recent improvements to the grade school including replacing heating, plumbing, electric and new windows. Other recent changes include the following:

- \*updated grade school with town office.
- \*Built \$11 Million high school that cost town \$1 Million.
- \*Renovated police station.
- \*Purchased Masonic Hall next to library.
- \*Acquired buildings on Annabessacook road (old transfer station site). Use facility to store some things there that use to have to pay to store.

Cornell Knight met with DOT officials last week. Repaving Main Street (at a cost of approx. \$600,000) was part of the projects that were cut from budget for next three years. The town is paving only 1,100 feet of road this year, due to budget cuts. There was much concern over what the quality of the roads says about the town and how it might affect visitor interest.

Matt Burnham discussed the roads and road maintenance in town. Some roads in desperate need of repair include the causeway at Narrows Pond (were unable to get grant

money from feds. Money is main deter to fixing things) and several culverts on Case Road that need replacing. Sturtevant Hill Road also in tough shape. Colleen noted that bad roads are harmful for cyclists as well because they are forced to ride closer to the traffic lane. Matt also mentioned that Winthrop is one of the few towns left that doesn't have sand and salt shed.

Joseph Young spoke about the Police Department. They were moving to their new location in a few days. It is a 150 year old building that is brand new on the inside, but outside still 150 years old. In the future, the key will be to maintain the infrastructure to keep it in good shape. He would like to see police department become more involved in the community and vice versa and would also like to build the force little by little so can have certain officers focus on speeding, etc. (but budget constraints are an issue to further expansion).

John Dovinsky spoke about the ambulance service in town. They just moved into their facility at the end of November 2008. They have four bays housing three ambulances. Maintenance will be a concern for the future (as with the police station) so the building is kept in good condition. Depending on call volume or future regionalization of EMS service, may need an addition to the structure in 15-20 years. Currently they are servicing Winthrop, Wayne, Mount Vernon, Fayette, Manchester, and Readfield (I'm not 100% sure this is the other town) They handle 2,200 calls a year.

Colleen Crowley from the Winthrop Library mentioned the new downloadable audio books that are now available to patrons. In the future there will also be film and music downloads available. The library currently has an up-to-date, well-working computer systems. Possibilities for the library expansion were mentioned. A meeting room can be profitable for a library and she would like to see one in the expanded library. An outside entrance to the meeting room has been helpful in other libraries, so people can access after library closes. The library as a community center was also discussed. A Library consultant has been hired with to help with expansion plans. The option of storing town historical records at library was mentioned and Colleen agreed with possibility of introducing space into the expanded library that will include history.

Lonnie Steeves spoke about recreation within Winthrop. He mentioned that the boardwalk with need maintenance in the future as some boards starting to crack. The tennis courts rebuilt 9 years ago and will be resurfaced next year. Lights at the courts were reworked last year and can now operate from a button. Skate park built, but never maintained. Falling into severe disrepair and close to being unsafe. More rails and street elements now desired (more than ramps and bowls). Surface of skate park refinished and in excellent shape. Fields in reasonably good shape. Redeveloped two fields behind town office. New concession stand. Desire to develop another field. Money already set aside, but currently scoping out locations. Piece of property cleared on Rambler Road is unusable as athletic field. Water problems. Skating rink could possibly be put there. Field behind middle school also unusable due to pitch. Housing of rec. dept. (old alternative school) needs fixing. It is not handicapped accessible and roof leaking. Building built 21-22 years ago and not well maintained. Good enough space now, but

asking council for permission to move into old ambulance Garage and turn it into community center. He is working with Margie. This also appears to be a possible location for a community center. Very safe area and with variety of fields, skate park, tennis courts. Teen Center/Community Center/Senior Center.

Jay Lindsey also spoke. He mentioned that Norcross Point is washing away due to Spring high water and primarily ice. Shore buffer/vegetation would cost \$3,000-5,000. He mentioned the possibility of connecting the trail systems within town. There are Nordic ski trails at H.S., but these need to be promoted more within community. Fitness trail/stations (\$5,000-10,000 cost) are a possibility as well. Beaver Park in Lisbon is an example of this. Could be possible to do this cheaper. Track is coming closer to going through permit process. \$700,000 estimate to see it to completion. Need money even to get through permit process, though. Field behind Middle school needs attention (could be a great resource...under \$10,000).

Mt Pisgah – Getting ‘loved to death’. Nobody to keep up fire tower.

Dan Brooks– Fire Department. Entering into purchase agreement to buy land at top of hill. Wooded lot to right of Carlton mill parking. Applying for federal grant (from stimulus package to build 100 fire houses). Currently have five pieces of apparatus. Replacing oldest truck this year. 3 engine, aerial truck, small utility truck, also have a boat. To outfit department is expensive (1,500-2,500/person). Have large volunteer force. 29 firefighters, five junior firefighters. At the point where may run out of money to outfit ever-increasing number of volunteers. Training facilities are needed. Training is what they spend the majority of their time doing. Dan mentioned the departments desire to integrate training facilities into new firehouse.

Jan – Finance Town Office. Two part time employees. Potential to turn to full time in future. Her office has no heat. Using blow heater in winter. Potential need to upgrade computer system in future.

Cornell—tax collections down a little. Excise taxes down significantly over last year. Very little in the way of tax increment financing (Carlton Mill and 48 Main Street).

Priscilla – along with hiking trails, etc. Priscilla mentioned an interest in waterway trails.

Town Office leasing space from the school. Problems—parking. Space wanted for meetings, but hard to find parking space during the day. Cafeteria should be renovated to make it more meeting friendly. Not any prospects for parking increase in the near future.

Need for more public restroom facilities in downtown. Port-a-potty being used at Norcross point currently. What do other town do that has been successful?

Transfer station—Paid off. Start charging for business waste this year. Many complements and other towns look to us as an example. Take in cardboard from

Livermore and another town. Took in \$70,000 in recyclables, this year looks to be closer to \$40,000.

Five cemeteries in town. Nearly all burials done in Glenside. Expansion into Glenside with last another 5-10 years. Can expand more property for later. Also possibility to expand at Lakeview (correct name?) on Narrows Pond.

9:25pm— Meeting adjourns

Next meeting Monday, August 10, 2009 Topic: Housing