

To: The Winthrop Comprehensive Planning Committee  
From: Russ Hazzard Resident 6 Lower Narrows Lane , Winthrop , Maine Date:  
9/20/2010

Dear Members of the Committee:

Sorry I wasn't able to attend tonight's meeting but I have another simultaneous commitment.

The following are my thoughts on the Comprehensive Plan.

I do not see a Long Term Financial Component to the Plan as suggested by Gordan L. Weil and purposed solutions by the type of actions suggested by Minute Traq, IQM2, see attached.

The previous plan had a survey of resident's opinions. Why was there no survey done this time with empirical data gathered from townspeople as to their thoughts and opinions?

Why are College educated adults choosing Manchester (36.7%) and Readfield (40.8%) to live rather than Winthrop (26.7%)?

The plan states there is a "linkage between good education and higher income levels."

On Page 22 there is a Vision for Winthrop 's Main Street . How does this Vision 2000 differ from the present day reality and why?

Page 52 shows declining enrollment in the School System "forcing up the cost of education." Is there an accompanying chart that shows the staffing levels for the school system for the same period?

What efforts have been made to enroll foreign tuition paying students?

On Page 54 the Plan states: "The principal threat to a stable budget is the one time, large ticket expenditure, such as new buildings or equipment." On the next page is an outline of The Capital Improvement Plan from 2010 to 2015.

The gross total for this time period exceeds \$5,000,000.00. \$1,600,000.00 has to do with a fire station and Pumper and \$1,300,000.00 has to do with a Library Addition. The Library, in a Council meeting, felt it could raise \$500,000.00 in other funds presumably reducing the town share to \$650,000.00 or more.

Currently I am being told by the Chairperson of the Council we are spending between \$72,600.00 to \$78,445.00 per year on C.I.P. How will this amount of money cover C.I.P. projects for the next five years without substantial increases in Property Taxes? And this does not take into consideration probable decreases in State Aid to Towns and Schools as we had this year.

On page 61 Item E. is “Establishing a comprehensive road maintenance plan for local roads.” This is a very expensive item and one would think there would be in existence an up to date assessment of the condition of all roads in town and a long term plan as to which road will be repaired or resurfaced with estimated projected costs. Shouldn’t this be side by side with C.I.P.?

On Page 73 the Department of Transportation has classified Route 202 as a “Retrograde Arterial which means that it has a higher than average incidence of highway crashes caused by cars entering and exiting.”

Yet the plan on Page 26 Policy #3 states that we should “Target continued development along Route 202 to activities that require transportation and regional commerce that do not impact the mobility off the highway” and the town has purchased land by the old Carleton Mill for \$150,000.00 as a site for a future fire station. Previously, a High School and Public Safety Buildings on Rte 202 have been voted down by 2 to 1 margins.

Lastly, on Page 92, “Carleton Pond experienced an Algae bloom in 1998 and total phosphorus levels are relatively high for such a pristine lake and have a history of several years of poor clarity and low dissolved oxygen levels.”

“None of these problems rise to the level of significant concern to the Water District. This seems to need further explanation especially since it discharges into Upper Narrows Pond, our water supply.

And Camp Mechuwana has over 200 acres on Lower Narrows Pond. What protections are in place in the event of a sale to a private developer?

I would like my comments attached to the Final Plan along with any other comments by townspeople, verbal or written.

Thanks, Russ Hazzard