TOWN OF HOLLIS

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of first meeting 16 September 2014 (draft)

Present:

River Payne, Brian Atkinson, Dave McCubrey, Len Van Gaasbeek Jr., Dana Gray, Randy Gray, John Wood, Jonathan Waugh, Jack Regala, Ben Haskell, Ben Wallace, Jason Johnson, Meg Gardner

River Payne introduced Randy Gray who will serve as facilitator for tonight’s meeting. Ms. Gray emphasized that tonight is a purely conceptual meeting; an overview of what the members would like Hollis to look like in the future; a working group to get the ball rolling. She noted that the town’s Comprehensive Plan is a state-mandated roadmap for the town’s future, which was approved by both the State of Maine and the residents of the Town of Hollis.

 Members introduced themselves, describing their backgrounds and interests in the town.

Ideas brought forward included:

* need to take an inventory of what assets the town currently HAS
* what makes Hollis a unique and desirable place to live
* why do people live here, e.g., lower taxes
* encourage new businesses to locate in Hollis, esp. “clean” businesses
* “needs” of the community vs. “wishes”
* update the town’s Comprehensive Plan
* increase communication among all town departments, boards, and committees
* demographics of Hollis and surrounding towns
* things outside of our control will influence the town
* road maintenance; need for a highway department
* need for a Hollis police force and increased fire/rescue services
* emphasize natural resources such as Saco River and large aquifer
* develop a town center with sidewalks
* senior housing and low income housing
* develop town sewer and water
* change the structure of town government
* libraries/learning centers
* regionalization of services
* transportation issues
* development of another TIF area
* maximize use of current TIF with Poland Spring
* work with Poland Spring on community projects
* maximize use of town-owned land and buildings

Draft 9/16/14

Southern Maine Regional Planning can provide the town with demographics for Hollis and surrounding towns, such as traffic and population shifts. They might also help with possible changes to the town’s codes and ordinances. Individual towns can be more restrictive than the state if they so desire. Fees for such consultations can come from the TIF.

Developing a single statement describing the goals of this committee. For example: “What can we do to make this a more enjoyable, cohesive, and financially sustainable community.”

A list was posted, indicating various areas of concern within the town, with specific topics listed under each category of consideration. These will be attached to the minutes.

Another meeting of this Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 30, at 7:00 PM.

Before that date, information will be emailed to all participants.

Minutes submitted by Martha Turner, Secretary