

Comprehensive Plan Committee 4-9-2026

Committee Members Present: Steve Barnes, Bennett Collins, Isobel Curtis, Hal D’Alby, Debora Elliott, Cheryl Ferrara, Martha Frink, and Charles Miller

Others Present: Selectman Tom Papell, Town Clerk Melanie Pendleton

SUMMARY

After a brief statement on the purpose of a Comprehensive Plan, the committee discussed its structure and the duties necessary to keep the workload moving forward. Items discussed included note taking, contacting members within the committee, and the mechanism for replacing members who are unable to complete the process.

On a motion duly made by Debra Elliott and seconded by Hal D’Alby, Cheryl Ferrara was unanimously elected as moderator for the committee.

It was determined that working groups would be populated with committee members and agreed that some sections of the State’s self-assessment checklist could be combined (i.e., Water Resources with Marine Resources or Public Facilities with Housing.)

At the next meeting, the committee will confirm all working groups. Each working group will be self-directed. Working groups can meet in-person and/or via zoom. The job of each working group is to research, organize, and prepare a document for the committee to discuss and approve. Working groups will give monthly reports to the committee on their progress.

Based on members’ areas of interest the following working groups were discussed:

Water Resources/Marine Resources

Wayne Barber
Mary Berger
Bennett Collins
Isobel Curtis
Martha Frink

Housing/ Public Facilities and Services

Hal D’Alby
Debora Elliott
Cheryl Ferrara
Martha Frink
Charles Miller

Economy/Fiscal Capacity and Capital Investment Plan

Steve Barnes
Hal D’Alby
Charles Miller

Natural Resources/Agricultural and Forest Resources

Susan Carr
Bennett Collins
Isobel Curtis
Charles Miller

Historic and Archaeological Resources

Susan Carr
Hal D'Alby

Recreation

Wayne Barber
Mary Berger
Debora Elliott
Cheryl Ferrara

Transportation

The Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission is taking the lead of this.

Population and Demographics

The town staff is taking the lead on this.

Those members not present will be contacted by the Town Office to make sure they are in agreement with their work group assignments.

The committee discussed the public process and ways to involve the townspeople through meetings and surveys. The big question will be: How do you see the Town of Bremen 10-12 years down the road. A \$100 gas card drawing for returning surveys was suggested. In addition, public interface should recognize how Bremen has a business aspect with small business and work-at-home residents.

Steve Barnes brought the board some excellent insights into the 2004 Comprehensive Plan, highlighting some high points and some pitfalls. As working groups move through the process, the committee agreed that his historical perspective will be valuable to their work.

Cheryl Ferrara reminded committee members to use the request form to receive information from MCOG, LCRPC, and town staff. Committee members asked that Maine Municipal Association (MMA) be added to the request area. A new form will be sent with the revision.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, 2026, in the Town Center.

The May full-board meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2026, in the Town Center.