



TOWN OF BREMEN  
P.O. Box 171~ Bremen, ME 04551

*Wayne Barber, Member*  
*Steve Barnes, Member*  
*Mary Berger, Member*  
*Susan Carr, Member*  
*Bennett Collins, Member*  
*Isobel Curtis, Member*  
*Hal D'Alby, Member*  
*Debora Elliott, Member*  
*Cheryl Ferrara, Moderator*  
*Martha Frink, Member*  
*Charles Miller, Member*

---

## **Summary Bremen Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting** **Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**

**Committee Members Present:** Wayne Barber, Steve Barnes, Mary Berger, Susan Carr, Debora Elliott, Hal D'Alby, Martha Frink, Bennett Collins, Cheryl Ferrara and Charles Miller

**Members of the Public Present:** Susan Davis

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Survey Progress Report**

The committee heard a progress report on the first three weeks of the Community Survey in the field. The total number of surveys circulated as of August 27, 2026, was 158. The total number of surveys returned by that date was 23.

The survey was introduced to the public at the Community Club's Chocolate Sunday event on August 9, 2026. Forty-two (42) surveys were given to locals who stopped by the committee's promotion table. Committee members at the table explained that the survey would be used for a collective town vision as part of Bremen's updated Comprehensive Plan.

Two emails were sent one week apart to the 506 resident subscribers on the town's community email list. Those emails received 18 household responses requesting surveys for one or more family members. The committee mailed 33 surveys as requested. The remaining 83 surveys were picked up at the Town Office or handed out at other events such as the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen meetings.

On the week of August 20, 2026, an article submitted to the Lincoln County News was published announcing that surveys were being circulated and could be picked up or mailed. There was no way to track responses from the newspaper article.

#### **Survey Rollout Continued**

Email outreach will continue into September. Charles Miller has volunteered to collect data from the surveys and process it for review. That work will include the essay questions; however, if that is too daunting for one person, others may be asked to help.

## **Community Club Country Fair**

The Community Club has graciously allowed the Comprehensive Plan Committee to have a table at its Country Fair from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, September 26th. Wayne Barber, Debora Elliott, Charles Miller and Cheryl Ferrara have volunteered to staff the table.

## **Public Forum/Information Sessions**

The committee will host public forum/information sessions at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at the Town Center. A subcommittee will be asked to develop logistics for the meeting. All committee members are asked to supply agenda ideas for the forums to be discussed at the September full committee meeting.

Bennett Collins suggested the committee invite a representative from Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission to the forum/information sessions to talk about the importance of a Comprehensive Plan.

The committee agreed that some other topics for committee members to cover are: 1 – How the town is more protected by having a Comprehensive Plan; 2 – How the Comprehensive Plan could help the town secure more grants; 3 – How the Comprehensive Plan is integrated with the town's ordinances; and 4 – How the Comprehensive Plan is the voice of the townspeople to their elected officials.

Other suggestions for the community forum/information sessions were: 1 – Consider specific invitations to town boards and committees; 2 – Invite stakeholders from other towns; 3 – Invite Broad Cove abutters; 4 – Invite the Fire Department and School Board.

Subjects discussed for the community forum/information sessions were: 1 – Define what a Comprehensive Plan is, 2 – Use a slide presentation for an overview; 3 – Explain the value of a Comprehensive Plan and how it protects the town; 4 – Find out if LCTV will record and televise at least one of the sessions; 5 – Explain how the committee came to be, how it is organized, and how the Comprehensive Plan will be used.

## **New Business**

1. Each committee member was asked to create a one paragraph bio for use in the final product and to have available for use at other times.
2. A report was given on current expenditures. To date the committee has spent \$849.72 of its \$10,000.00 budget. New expenditures include postage for mailing surveys - \$36.00, and labels and envelopes for packaging surveys - \$91.00. Surveys continue to be printed on the paper and with the ink purchased in July at a cost of \$226.69.
3. As the planning process continues, there will be a need for photos. Cheryl Ferrara suggested developing a photo gallery that will be available for the final editing and pagination of the Comprehensive Plan. Martha Frink said she would contribute a picture of herself snowshoeing on the Hay Property.
4. Other considerations for the final product are a cogent mission statement and acknowledgement of those who help with the process. The committee agreed that all those to be acknowledged should first give consent.

5. By request of a committee member, Cheryl Ferrara presented a list of non-profit properties that are tax exempt. In the 2025-2026 tax year, non-profit assessed property values equaled \$10,896,400 with a tax value of \$94,798.68. To date for the 2026-27 tax year, non-profit assessed property values equal \$12,070,100 with a tax value of \$109,837.91. That number may change as new conservation properties are purchased and added to the tax-exempt list. The list is open for new property additions until April 1, 2027.

### **Working Group Reports**

- **Marine Resources:** Martha Frink reported on her interview with Blair Pyne, business owner and operator of the Broad Cove Marine Services, at 374 Medomak Road.
- **Recreation:** Cheryl Ferrara presented a list of ponds wholly or partially in Bremen. She included recreation information from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and information on the health of ponds collected by Mary Berger and Martha Frink from Sarah Gladu, Director of Community Science for the Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust.
- **Natural Resources:** Cheryl Ferrara presented a “work-in-progress” report on clam flats in Bremen. Steve Barnes shared information about a recent concern with spraying chemicals that could enter the Bug Tussle watershed and ultimately end up in the clam flats there. He also suggested that the committee research the number of primary producers in the fishing industry in Bremen as it relates to surrounding towns. Martha Frink suggested that a focus on eelgrass as a natural resource should be included.

### **Future Agenda Items**

#### **Agenda items to be included at the September 24th meeting:**

- Transportation presentation by the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission
- Materials and presentation plan for the community forum/information sessions
- Continued Survey updates
- Working Group Presentations
- Discussion on the December meeting date

#### **Agenda items to be included at the October 29th meeting:**

- Population and Demographics presentation
- Q&A with the committee’s consultant
- First view of the preliminary survey results
- Debrief of the community forum/information sessions
- Set Dates for January-June 2027 meetings

### **NEXT FULL BOARD MEETING DATES (the public is always invited):**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th 6:00 P.M. IN THE TOWN OFFICE**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29th 6:00 P.M. IN THE TOWN OFFICE**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24th 6:00 P.M. IN THE TOWN OFFICE**  
**DECEMBER - TBA**