

Minutes approval postponed to next meeting because they were not on the warned agenda.

Survey has been listed on FPF.

Jesse, our NVDA rep introduced us to The Municipal Tech Assistance Program which helps towns with projects that are in process. Do we have any town projects in housing, waste water, community recovery, climate resilience? What is Walden in need of? Roads were identified as main on going project in Walden. We could qualify for assistance from this program in the future.

Future public engagement opportunities can be an opportunity for a local raffle.

The public meeting spaces were identified as the school, the firehouse and library.

Jesse presented a work plan schedule with dates and agendas to guide our work.

Discussed Walden's needs. There are formal needs and informal needs. Walden's Select board is seeking eligibility for grants. Do we need a post office? It is clear that the town is not interested in zoning. Do we need weatherization?

Discussed what do people love about Walden? How do we come to a common vision? The Town Plan may say 'leave everything the way it is'.

Roles and Responsibilities for writing a town plan: In Brownington people wrote different sections. Jesse will assist in this how ever we choose to do it.

Walden's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were discussed:

What defines Walden?

Open land
Dirt roads
No town center
Wildlife

Strengths:

Natural features
Wildlife Mgt area
History of admirable characters
Town crew

Threats:

Housing (school choice turn over)
Declining dairy, farming in general declining Uncertain climate outcomes Internet.
LVRT
Town center designation

Weaknesses:

Expensive
Political tensions
Lack of community cohesion
Road classification

Opportunities:

Farming
School choice
Bedroom community
LVRT
Vast

Potential outcomes for establishing a town plan:

Funding access
Act 250 standing access
Land protection
Protection from industrial development
Empowering citizens
Common ground
Recognition of ecological principles
Energy efficiency
New or retrofitted municipal buildings
Recreation fields

Next meeting December 6 at 5:00