

MPC workshop meeting Oct. 3, 2023

Karen McFadden called the meeting to order at 6:00

Attendance

Karen McFadden

Kate Rochford

Anne Brenton

Noriko Yoshida-Travers

Sue Coppeta

Ken Grant

John Ottow

Minutes of Sept 11 meeting approved

Minutes of Sept 21 meeting approved

Goals reviewed by the team with input from all members.

Items changed can be found in *italics*.

Goal 1. Provide a high quality of life for Atkinson residents by ensuring sufficient housing opportunities, community services, and access to well-protected natural and cultural resources. This goal assures the continued focus on the quality of life in Atkinson by protecting and maintaining what residents love about the community, ensuring access to basic resources, and creating the conditions where residents can also meet their needs.

Objective: To provide for a high quality of life, Atkinson should work towards addressing housing needs, maintaining adequate community services, and protecting the town's natural resources, historic and cultural resources, open space, trails, and community spaces which provide enjoyment to the town's residents.

It was agreed to let the goal stand as written
Objective was left as written

Goal 2. Recognize Atkinson's regional role, while protecting its rural character and context within the region. *Atkinson residents are part of a regional economy, and this should continue to be supported.* Atkinson is a primarily residential community and wishes to stay primarily residential in the future, so economic growth and commercial development will be limited and directed strategically.

Objective: The objective is to provide for balanced growth and change while maintaining the existing rural character of the community. In doing so, it must reflect the densities and specific uses permitted within certain areas of the community. *The careful identification of land uses*

and their interrelationship and coordination with soil and subsoil is also imperative. The Town seeks to maintain a primarily residential development pattern and environment through zoning and land uses standards (e.g. lot size, cluster subdivisions) that preserve open space, direct and concentrate development to appropriate areas of the community, and minimize demand on municipal services.

Second sentence removed

Objective: Third sentence moved to Goal 7.

Goal 3: Continue to strategically evaluate conservation opportunities in Atkinson to protect the town's natural resources and rural character. Protected open space lands preserve the quality of wildlife habitat, clean water, and the small town feel of the community.

Objective: The 2022 Land Conservation Plan, prepared by the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) in collaboration with the Atkinson Conservation Commission, identified several locations in Atkinson for priority conservation based on a co-occurrence analysis. These should inform evaluation of future conservation opportunities.

It was agreed to let the goal stand as written

Objective was left as written

Goal 4. Embrace fiscal responsibility, balance community needs and resources, and consider impacts to property taxes and values. Part of the duties of local government are focused on stewardship of financial resources. In planning for the future, the town must recognize the importance of how future investments are funded and being sensitive to *burdens to the taxpayer where possible*.

Objective: While implementing the Master Plan and related capital improvements, the town should consider how investments are funded, the impact on property taxes, and seek diverse funding avenues to offset potential impacts.

"burden to taxpayer where possible" changed "impact on taxpayers."

Objective was left as written

Goal 5. Provide robust recreational facilities, historic and cultural programs, and community events. This goal is to provide for the continued opportunity for residents of different ages and abilities to enjoy physical activities and community gatherings throughout Atkinson.

Objective: Atkinson should continue to expand relevant recreational opportunities and community programming that meet the needs of Atkinson residents.

It was agreed to let the goal stand as written

Objective was left as written

Goal 6. Protect the quality of Atkinson's surface and groundwater resources. Atkinson should consider the impact future development and growth will have on the quality and quantity of Atkinson's water resources.

Objective: *This will include* property owner education, environmental land use planning, and partnerships with *Hampstead Water Company, Big Island Corporation, and other neighboring communities.*

It was agreed to let the goal stand as written

Objective:

"This will include" changed to "The objective will include"

"Hampstead Water Company" changed to "Hampstead Area Water Corporation"

"Big Island Corporation" changed to "Big Island Pond Corporation"

"Other" removed from "other neighboring"

Goal 7: Maintain a sufficiently low development density that will allow for individual sewage disposal systems. *Atkinson's infrastructure should support and be compatible with the desired low-density development pattern of the community.*

Objective: The objective is to avoid the large capital expenditure required to provide extensive public infrastructure, such as public sewer services. *To assure the avoidance of town sewer, an objective is to provide* for continued measures that allow such densities and such regulations addressing subsoil conditions that will keep individual water supplies and sewage disposal systems efficient without ground water or surface water pollution.

Goal:

Second sentence removed

Objective: "To assure the avoidance of town sewer, an objective is to provide" changed to "The Town is to provide"

Sentence inserted from Goal 2

Goal 8: Investigate opportunities to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety in Atkinson.

Walking and bicycling should be safe activities for community members to participate in Atkinson, especially popular walking and bicycling routes.

Objective: Consider bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements that are compatible with the rural roadway character of the community, including traffic calming, safety signage, and designated separated travel space, as resources allow.

It was agreed to let the goal stand as written

Objective was left as written

Goal 9: Strategically plan for municipal facility upgrades, repairs, and renovations. Evaluate and track facility condition and needs.

Objective: Strategically coordinate capital investments of municipal facilities to ensure Atkinson is proactively addressing facility needs.

It was agreed to let the goal stand as written
Objective was left as written

Goal 10: Collaboratively implement the Master Plan. Engage in a collaborative effort to implement the Master Plan that includes local officials, board and committee members, town staff, non-profit partners, businesses, property owners, residents, and others.

Objective: To effectively realize the vision and goals of the Master Plan, local officials should work together to continuously review, assess, provide feedback, and roll forward *update*.

It was agreed to let the goal stand as written
Objective: "update" changed to "updates"

Implementation Action items were not discussed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50.