

Machias Comprehensive Planning Committee Minutes
Monday, June 2, 2025
At Machias Tele-Business Center

Ann-Marie Evans called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

Committee members in attendance: Ann-Marie Evans, Aaron Ackley, James Jackson, Frank Rodriguez, Julie Barker, and planners from Sunrise County Economic Council Patricia Tilton and Tora Johnson, recording secretary Sharon Mack.

Approve Minutes: On a motion by Jim Jackson, second by Frank Rodriguez, the committee **VOTED** to accept the May 5, 2025 minutes as presented.

The committee reviewed and discussed the upcoming survey, which will be distributed on-line, in paper form and through one-on-one meetings and small group gatherings. This is intended to provide key information to create and inform the town's upgraded comprehensive plan.

The committee refined the wording of each of the individual topics in the survey, including: age, employment status, type of employment, remote or out of the home work and whether that is in or out of Machias, year round or seasonal residency, how many years the respondent has lived in Machias, types of residences, whether it is owned or rented, water supply, sewer use, as well as opinions on various types of future housing developments, specific industries, town needs, preservation of historical places and natural resources, maintaining the rural character, land use, planning, and recreational opportunities. The survey also includes each respondent's level of satisfaction with various town services, and facilities.

Ann-Marie Evans said there will be great strength in the information garnered with one on one conversations and in small gatherings. She suggested setting up information tables at the Wild Blueberry Festival, outside Hannaford and other locations. Although the survey is admittedly long, with 90 questions, the committee opted not to split it up into several separate surveys, stating that could limit responses. Ann-Marie Evans said volunteers will also be needed to assist the elderly with completing the survey.

Patricia Tilton said the survey will be in final form by the next meeting and she will issue copies to members to review.

The committee's next meeting is June 16, 2025 and Rodriguez invited everyone to meet at an event at the Gates House in East Machias which features a historic speaker. He said this could be very helpful as the committee moves into the history section of comprehensive plan.. The board agreed to meet on June 16, 2025 at the Gates House at 5:30 for a tour and presentation. Patricia Tilton said the history and economy chapters will be the topics of the July 7, 2025 meeting.

On a motion by Aaron Ackley, second by Jim Jackson, the committee **VOTED** to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.