



TOWN GRAY
GRAY TOWN COUNCIL
AGENDA • FEBRUARY 16, 2021

**Gray Town
Council Workshop**

**Henry Pennell Municipal Complex
24 Main Street
Gray, ME 04039**

5:30 PM

OPENING STATEMENT:

Due to the Governor's latest Executive Order, the Town Council meeting will NOT take place in person. The meeting will be held online with the link provided on the Town website (www.graymaine.org) the day of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

WORKSHOP 5:30 - 6:55 PM

- Comprehensive Plan
 - Review of Committee Summaries
 - New Committee?
 - Next Steps

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn

** The Town of Gray is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all applicable equal access to public accommodations law. If you are planning to attend a Town Council or Town committee or board meeting and need assistance with a physical disability, please contact the Town Manager's office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting to have the Town assist you. 657-3339. TTY 657-3931.*

To: Town Council

The DMS Committee has reviewed the Comprehensive Plan to determine how our Committee can assist the Town in implementing the newly approved plan. We have found that our work would facilitate working towards achieving two Major Goals and several specific activities of the plan. We have identified the following activities, tasks and/or goals the Committee is or will be working towards:

Protect Gray's Rural Character and Natural Resources:

-Work with Public and Private partners to extend and maintain a network of trails for motorized and non-motorized uses. Connect with regional trails systems where possible.

- Work with Gray Historical Society (GHS) on the History walk/trail through the Village and extending to DMS Site.
- Work with the Maine Wildlife Park to evaluate the possibility of a walking trail between the DMS and MWP. This would allow safe pedestrian access between the two sites without requiring the movement of vehicles.
- Coordinate with other One Room Schoolhouses to create a Statewide map of locations to encourage visitation.
- Work with the GHS on a proposal for a Historical District in Gray.

Invest in the Village and Community Programs:

-Encourage town-wide events and festivals, like Gingerbread House Making, Trunk or Treat, and the Blueberry Festival, year-round.

- Create Maine Bicentennial Events throughout the upcoming year – working with GHS/Library:
 - Speaker Series – at Library, Festivals, Schools – History of Gray
 - Bean Supper – partnership with American Legion and GHS – Oct 2021

-Grand re-opening of DMS in Fall 2021

-Create an annual DMS event, such as an Old-Fashioned Lemonade Picnic – to correspond with a Saturday event at the Maine Wildlife Park.

-Continue to participate in Maine Wildlife Park events like Harvest Trick or Treat and Civic Organization Day and the Blueberry Festival

-Working with ExCel Class at GNG High School to identify Town projects – like work at the DMS Schoolhouse – to integrate their learning, their capacity with real life Community based tasks/activities bringing a sense of Community to the students and helping the Town achieve goals.

-Work with the Gray Lifelong Living Committee to determine the current needs of seniors in Town and prioritize the most critical.

- Create new programming at DMS which is attractive for Seniors such as “reunion party” days
- Create a Memoir Project which will include video, audio and written stories from those who attend DMS or other one room schoolhouses to encourage active participation by Seniors.

-Encourage business development in Village and Business Park Growth areas to diversify tax base.

-Working on History walk and above Community events brings ‘boots to the ground’ in the Village.

We look forward to continuing our efforts and working with the Council and Town Staff.

The Dry Mills Schoolhouse Committee: Jenn Dupuis, Chair, Sherrie Baker-Hewey, Joyce Burrows, Janet Smith, Cindy Chamberland, Mikell Perry, Alternate and Sandy Carder, Council Liaison

To: Town Council

The Recycling Committee has reviewed the Comprehensive Plan to determine how our Committee can assist the Town in implementing the newly approved plan. We have found that our work would facilitate working towards achieving one Major Goal of the plan, as well as maintaining one Core Value.

Protect Gray's Rural Character and Natural Resources:

Core Value: People value the cost effective delivery of municipal services:

We have identified the following activities, tasks and/or goals the Committee is or will be working towards:

- Create education material and opportunities to increase awareness on how to reduce overall trash needing disposal through (1) point of sale choices (2) repurpose options (3) recycle options (4) diverting options (5) trash disposal as last resort.
- Create partnerships with MSAD15 to involve students in activities/projects and to provide classroom education.
- Host clean-up days to pick up trash on roadways and in open spaces.
- Host Hazardous Waste days – and expand Regionally to include area Municipalities – to prevent/reduce illegal disposal of materials which can harm the environment.
- Work to develop a proper composting program which could be later expanded to involve other Towns at the Industrial Level.
 - Wet waste adds a significant tonnage to hauling/tipping costs and if properly composted can assist with enhancing the environment and dropping costs for residents/businesses/farms.
 - Composting can also be used on open spaces to facilitate growth of new vegetation which helps with sequestration of CO2.
 - Wet waste makes the trash to energy process inefficient creating the need for more resources to generate the electricity which increases costs to those using the facilities.
 - Note – composting/climate concerns were specifically mentioned in comments in the Comp Plan
- Create partnership with NG to determine long term options to regionalize bulky waste disposal and possible shared composting site.
- Work with Transfer Station personnel to continue to identify cost drivers, issues impacting efficiencies and collaborate to find solutions.

We look forward to continuing our efforts and working with the Council and Town Staff.

The Recycling Committee:

Rachel Lyn Rumson, Chair

Michelle Sanborn, Helena Ives, Zhenya Shevchenko

Sandy Carder, Council Liaison

Randy Cookson, Solid Waste Director

Committee Comments: Comp Plan

Feb. 7, 2021

Committee	How CP Informs Comm. Work	How Comm. Can Support CP	Potential Road Blocks	Resources Needed
Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserving rural character- big emphasis on this; • Identification of critical rural areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying/prioritizing/conserving areas that meet public expectation; • Strengthen OS planning in subdivision planning (public access/connectivity). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners interest in/willingness/ability to work with conservation efforts; • Lack of experience in land conservation; • Resources for land acquisition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed and approved OS Plan (in process); • Staff to support planning & conservation efforts; • Match funding for grants (OS Fund); • Ongoing support for Landowner Principles of Cooperation; • Landowner survey (OSC) • Increasing residential/business development in/near village.
Rec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in and enthusiasm for OS protection; • Focus on village walkability/streetscapes/playgrounds/other activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased outdoor programming; • Programming that helps build community (events like Blueberry Fest); • Programming directed to all ages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for bike-ped infrastructure; • Limited space for programming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sidewalks, bike lanes, increased connectivity. • Increased space for programming.
Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys indicate support for library; • Proposed village walkability/increased density will support library usage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be site for Gray CTV production and equipment rental (space available- needs build-out); • Continue offering community building activities (lecture series. Gingerbread houses. etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing patterns of library usage- may require some shifts (more toward digital, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds to build out GCTV space; • Continued support for library staffing/books, etc.
Com Com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to strengthen community awareness of important initiatives like the CP, budgets, other community activities, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a platform for Council, & other town committees & organizations to get their message out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources needed for library improvements; • Cable TV franchise fees- current/future use w/in town budget, AND decreasing over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New cameras/editing equipment; • More of Grant's time to support residents in developing/uploading original programming; • Updated and approved GCTV policy (in process- will bring to Council)

Gray Blueberry Festival

Value - Invest in the Village

Goals:

- To strengthen community connections through Town-wide events and Parks & Rec facilities and programs.
- Promote an economic climate that increases job opportunities and overall economic well-being.

Objectives:

- To create programs and services for seniors who would like to stay in the community while aging.
- Promote a business friendly environment that will encourage local, unique businesses to be attracted to Gray.

Action Item:

- Encourage town-wide events and festivals, like Gingerbread House Making, Trunk or Treat, and the Gray Blueberry Festival.
- Encourage business development in the Village....to diversify tax base.

Measurements of success/accomplishment:

- Estimated number of attendees at events like Trunk or Treat, the Blueberry Festival and other community events.