

**CITY OF NISSWA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #2 SUMMARY



Date: Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Location: Nisswa City Hall

Meeting Chair(s): Ashley Kaisershot and Dawn Espe

Summary by: A. Kaisershot

In Attendance: Dawn Espe, R5DC, Ashley Kaisershot, NJPA, Brent Jones, Nisswa Planning and Zoning Administrator, Alex Hondl, Parks and Recreation Director. Steering Committee Members: Mike Sedivy, Cari LaRose, Suzie Wetrosky, Larry Petron, Shawn Hansen, Lisa Woog, Bob Fier, Reed Larson, Woody Haecker, Planning Commission, Sheila Johnston, Molly Raske.

Copies: To all steering committee members

1. Introduction and Presentation: Meeting facilitators, Ashley Kaisershot of NJPA and Dawn Espe of R5DC, started the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Nisswa City Hall. Steering Committee (SC) members, those in attendance, and meeting facilitators introduced themselves.

2. Ashley Kaisershot gave an overview of selected demographics for the City of Nisswa. Key demographic data such as population, household, housing, age, income, and others were collected from the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), and MN Demographer's Office. The entire report will be made available for the Steering Committee (SC) to review at their leisure before the next meeting. Discussion occurred around specific methodologies and definitions of the US Census Bureau. Nisswa and Lake Shore share the same zip code which needs to be considered when looking at the numbers. Incorporate some regional and micropolitan information.

3. Dawn Espe lead and facilitated a SWOT analysis regarding built and natural assets in the community. The SC provided comments regarding each asset topic. Their responses are as follows:

**Natural Assets (Water, air, open space)**

**STRENGTHS:** Paul Bunyan Trail, trees and environment – leading theme, wildlife, loons, air quality, lack of light pollution – you can see the stars, open space, public lands, good people, drinking water, fish, snowmobile trails, wetlands, no floodplains, lake of noise pollution, low density land uses and open spaces, low impact uses, lots of outdoor activities to choose from, recreational opportunities (fishing, skiing, hiking, hunting, and biking), winter activities, being able to see the sunrises and sunsets, forested tracts.

**OPPORTUNITIES:** Shoreline enforcement, lakeshore improvement incentives, possible buffer ordinances.

**THREATS:** Lack of appropriate buffers leading up to a natural resource, water quality – threat if that diminishes, property owners who want to over build and not interested in green spaces (less pervious surface the better), invasive species in the lakes, risk of invasive species rising due to tourism and influx of people during peak tourism months, road salt over-application and water softeners, addressing chlorides and water quality, preservation.

### **Built (Roads, trails, utilities – wet and dry, energy sources)**

**STRENGTHS:** Broadband is successful – though some problem areas, easy access to bigger city amenities, Paul Bunyan Trail (summer and winter activities), highway 371, good utilities – natural gas, paved roads, vibrant downtown, GrandView lodge, resorts, elementary school and school district, easy access on and off Highway 371

**WEAKNESSES:** Many above ground utilities, sewer vs. septic discussion occurred, there is no city water, wells can be a concern and there are a significant number of them, no frontage road from the south side of Nisswa to the north side, lack of collector streets and gaps in the transportation network, short on bike trail networks, regional trail need (intergovernmental cooperation) or connections with Lake Shore on County Rd 77.

Conversation occurred around the relationship between built and natural resources. Further research and topic development should be explored with community residents. The majority of visitors who come to Nisswa come for the natural resources. How do we involve the visitors and seasonal residents in change and preservation of our natural resources? The planning team will explore this theme further. Tourism and economic development are the two topics that will be explored at the next SC meeting.

4. The purpose and goals of the visioning session was discussed. The majority of the visioning session will be group discussions. Seven (7) stations will be available for residents to provide input. Those stations include land use, transportation/infrastructure, economic development, park and open space, and two (2) amenity mapping stations where residents will map their favorite spaces and places in town. SC members will ask about the ideas, strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats of each topic. Visioning Session to be held at Nisswa Community Center on January 10<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 8:30pm

5. The next meeting will be held on **February 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 – 8:00pm at Nisswa City Hall.**

### **NEXT STEPS**

Project managers will summarize the meeting, e-mail it to the SC, and follow up with those who were unable to attend. Meeting content will be posted to the project's website. Demographic data, online survey, visioning session and SC meeting packet will be posted online in the month of January.

### **UPCOMING MEETING DATES:**

Next SC meeting is scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 – 8:00.

Visioning Session, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 – 8:30 at Nisswa Community Center.

Our project staff believes that this document accurately reflects the business that occurred during the meeting. If any member believes there are inconsistencies, errors, or omissions in the minutes, they should notify Ashley Kaisershot at [Ashley.kaisershot@njpacoop.org](mailto:Ashley.kaisershot@njpacoop.org). If feedback isn't received within seven (7) days, the meeting minutes will be considered approved.