

**BOOTHBAY HARBOR**  
**SELECTMEN’S MEETING MINUTES**  
**Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission**  
**January 9, 2023**

In addition to these typed minutes, video recordings of all Selectmen’s meetings are available to be viewed at BRCTV and audio recordings are available at the Boothbay Harbor Town Office.

ATTENDING:           Michael Tomko - Chair  
                              Tricia Warren – Vice Chair  
                              Alyssa Allen  
                              Denise Griffin  
                              Kenneth Rayle  
  
                              Julia Latter, Town Manager

Chairman Tomko called the Workshop to order at 5:34 p.m.

Emily Rabbe, County Planner, Mary Ellen Barnes, Executive Director, and Laura Graziano, Assistant Planner with Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission gave a presentation regarding what they have done and what they can do for our region.

Services and activities include land use, national resource planning, transportation planning, and economic and community development. Funding is provided through the county, and grants are received through the Maine Department of Transportation, the Department of Conservation, Agriculture and Forestry, and the Department of Economic and Community Development.

As a result of surveys conducted priorities are housing, broadband, transportation, sustainable community and economic development, intergenerational community building, and environmental sustainability.

Planning provided to communities can include comprehensive planning, ordinance review, development, planning board assistance, harbor management, downtown planning, economic development, housing studies, town planning for specific work, working directly with specific board members, and transportation services.

It is recommended that any funds available for broadband initiative work be used before it is unavailable. The county received 6.7 million dollars in ARPA funds and some criteria discussed included setting aside 1.5 million dollars to match town applications for broadband projects. Fiber is available, but what happens to someone who can’t afford it or are unaware of how this works? They are working along with Lincoln, Knox, and Sagadahoc Counties on a grant to improve how resources can be used by people not able to afford or understand the process.

One of the projects they are working on now included a Community Resilience Partnership grant with The Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF). If Boothbay Harbor moves forward with the partnership they would be eligible to work with a “service provider” who can help with grant applications and help move forward with projects. Funding processes informational workshops and webinars are posted in newsletters as well as on the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission website.

The ASK program is a grant which ranges between \$250 to \$2,500 to help towns with smaller projects.

Vice Chair Warren asked questions regarding lists of plans and levels of priority. Latter mentioned setting up a future workshop to set up a priority plan including action items.

Questions were asked about the town being aware of funding opportunities. LCRPC mentioned the website updates opportunities as well as their reaching out to the towns as opportunities become available.

Housing topics were discussed. One recommendation made was to set up committees and look at other organizations to see what impacts are and to see studies done and how things such as affordable housing can be addressed. Boothbay Harbor is one of the highest percentages of short-term rental housing. The numbers in some of the studies show that it might be worth looking at some recommendations for ways to improve this.

Roger Matthews, a Boothbay Harbor resident, asked about the bicycle-pedestrian plan. Matthew's asked if there is data available to help the town prioritize the plan in the future. Meetings are set with public safety as well as Maine DOT. If the town deems this a high priority then funding can be applied for.

The workshop was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.