



Town of Castine  
**PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

GBM  
RIB



DATE: Monday, September 16, 2024

TIME: 4 PM.

PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Gordon MacArthur, Chair, Roberta Boczkiewicz, Dan Leader (ZOOM),  
Selectboard members; Derik Goodine, Town Manager; Karen Motycka, Finance Officer  
and Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC: Estimated 20 members of the public; ZOOM = 6.

Gordon MacArthur called the meeting to order at 4PM.

Gordon introduced discussions regarding a proposed Food Sovereignty Ordinance and  
the draft Comprehensive Plan.

Comprehensive Plan: Kate Noel, Comp Plan Committee Chair and Kirk Langford, Comp  
Plan Committee member both present to address.

- The Committee was appointed, and work started on the Comp Plan in 2022
- 15-17 chapters from water usage, land & climate change, population growth,  
utilities, zoning, etc were researched and worked on
- The Committee was a research body not a decision-making body
- Required Public Hearings were held earlier this year
- The State reviewed and approved the Plan earlier this year
- Draft has been posted on the website, available at the Town Office and copy for  
review at the Library
- Once the Plan is approved by the Town individual Board/Committees will need  
to identify and work on specific tasks

Discussions:

- Gus Basile asked if the updated Plan included to change the minimum 2-acre lot  
size off-neck. Kate answered no. It would be up to the PB to recommend such a  
change. Tom Comiciotto, PB Chair, clarified by saying there are no changes  
within the Plan. It must go through a process and a vote to also make a change  
to the Zoning Ordinance.
- Scott Vogell asked if there would be a Comp Plan Implementation Committee?  
Kate answered yes there is a goal to have an Implementation Committee which  
would ideally be made up of one Selectboard member, the Town Manager, a few  
members of the Comp Plan Committee and experts from the community.

Food Sovereignty Ordinance: Selectboard member, Roberta Boczkiewicz addressed.

- Tilth & Timber Farm in Castine brought up the issue a little over a year ago
- The proposed Ordinance is being reviewed by the Town's attorney
- Copies are available on the Town's website, at the Town Office and a copy for review is at the Library
- A quick summary of this Ordinance is to allow selling products grown on one's property without going through the State licensing, procedures, inspections of kitchens (i.e., making salsa from the farm tomatoes)
- Per the Castine Zoning Ordinance a Home Occupation Permit would be needed

Discussions:

- Gus Basile asked about raising beef, milk, etc. Discussion. Roberta said she was going to double check on what the State requires but believes that dairy, meat and cheese must go through State procedures.
- David Avery asked what the upside for adopting such an Ordinance? Roberta said it would be easier and simpler for people to sell items from their property exempting them from State requirements.
- Troy Dickens, Tilth & Timber Farm, asked if there were specific items within the Ordinance targeted towards Castine or is it a general boiler plate version? Roberta said she used portions of the State sample Ordinance plus other Food Sovereignty Ordinances and merged to best fit for Castine needs.
- Jeff Ackerman asked if signage would be allowed? Discussion regarding Home Occupation and Sign permit requirements within the Castine Zoning Ordinance. Roberta said she would add those two conditions into the proposed Food Sovereignty Ordinance.

Town Clerk, Sue Macomber, reviewed Public Hearing requirements:

- Today's (9/16/24) PH was required, at least 30 days prior to the vote, for adopting an Ordinance
- Monday, 10/7/24 PH is required, at least 10 days prior to the vote, to allow voters discussion on the Town Referendum Ballot (Nov 5<sup>th</sup> Election)

With no other business, Gordon MacArthur closed the Public Hearing at 4:13PM.  
Minutes by Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.