

Good evening, everyone.

I would like to open tonight's meeting by reflecting on and responding to the events of our last meeting. We received a significant amount of public feedback regarding the committee's current assignment and direction, and I want to thank all those who have taken the time to share their thoughts.

Since that meeting was only two weeks ago, we are still in the process of reviewing and organizing the feedback. This includes constructing a clear timeline of events and gathering materials to support both the timeline and the various testimonies. The goal is to create an objective and accessible record for all interested parties.

Because this work is still underway, the chairs have deemed it unwise for the committee to continue those discussions at this meeting. We want to be clear: the feedback has not been ignored or forgotten.

Following this statement, I will propose that the committee agree on a brief set of facts to present to the Selectboard, so that we may receive guidance on how they would like us to proceed. The main options are:

1. 1. Continue with revisions to the existing management plan and take additional public feedback once a complete draft is ready for review, or
2. 2. Pause that work in order to gather immediate community input and address questions and suggestions.

We can discuss these options further in a moment.

I would also like to remind everyone of committee procedure. While we encourage public engagement, the format of public comment may need to be adjusted temporarily in order to complete work on the management plan. This is consistent with Town and State policy. As many recall, we spent nearly two hours on public comment at our last meeting, which, if repeated, would prevent us from moving forward with our charge. To clarify:

1. Public meetings are not intended to function as Q&A sessions; they are primarily for the committee to address the agenda.
2. Public comment may be limited to a single period of up to 10 minutes per meeting.
3. Standard procedure is for the committee to discuss agenda items first, with public comment following. The chair will indicate when public comment is open and will recognize speakers.

I intend to run meetings in a flexible and welcoming way, but it is important that we all follow these ground rules so the committee can do its work.

It is the chair's responsibility to maintain order and keep discussion on topic, and I will do my best to uphold that. Stating these expectations clearly helps me as much as it helps everyone else.

The committee looks forward to continuing to foster constructive dialogue and to carefully consider public input as we move toward final revisions of the management plan.