

# MINUTES

Cumberland Town Council Meeting

Town Council Chambers

**MONDAY, May 9, 2022**

**6:00 P.M. Executive Session with Town Attorney**

## **6:00 P.M. Call to Order**

Present: Councilors Edes, Foster, Segrist, and Vail

Excused: Councilor Storey-King

Motion by Councilor Foster, seconded by Councilor Segrist, to recess to Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A., § 405(6)(E) Consultation with the Town Attorney.

VOTE: 4-0 UNANIMOUS

TIME: 6:01 P.M.

## **I. REGULAR SESSION CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:03 P.M.**

Councilor Copp arrived for regular session.

Chairman Vail read the following statement in regard to Councilor Gruber's resignation:

*The Cumberland Town Council would like to share that Councilor Thomas Gruber has decided to step away from the Town Council for personal reasons. This will be effective immediately.*

*Councilor Gruber was first elected in 2011. His contributions to the Town of Cumberland have been immeasurable since then. Along with the Town Council, Tom has served on the Planning Board, Lands and Conservation Commission, Shellfish Conservation Commission, Coastal Waters Commission and is currently, Chair of the Finance Committee.*

*Along with all his committee work, Tom has been an incredible advocate for residents in Cumberland. He helped begin our Aging in Place program, to assist older residents living in Town, and continued to serve on that committee as well as our Senior Property Tax Rebate program. Tom's impact and passion can probably be felt strongest within the Community Food Pantry, that he also spearheaded. From picking up milk, to making deliveries and loading vehicles, Tom is a staple at the Pantry and has helped hundreds of local families every single month since it's opening.*

*Toms' presence, sense of humor, experience, and incredible kindness will be missed dearly. We wish him all the best. Thank you, Tom, for your service.*

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Foster, to accept the April 25, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: 5-0 UNANIMOUS

## **III. MANAGER'S REPORT**

We are close to finalizing a new union contract with our full-time Fire/EMS staff. When it is complete, we will have the Finance Committee review it and forward it on to the full Town Council for approval.

We are currently working with the Maine Department of Transportation on the roundabout project in West Cumberland. We should have a preliminary design report from MDOT within the next month or so. He and the Finance Director attended a MDOT training session last week to become certified local project administrators.

This Friday, we will have our second meeting with Ecomaine to continue discussions about a regional trash and recycling program.

Paving in the Wildwood area will be happening within the next month or two. We will also be holding neighborhood meetings onsite regarding drainage and catch basins on Old Musket and Long Meadow Roads.

We have successfully combined 2 sidewalk projects through PACTS. One is a \$200,000 project and the other is a \$400,000 project for reconstruction of the sidewalks along the Main Street school zone, all the way to the North Yarmouth town line, and the addition of safety ramps. We will also do sidewalk improvements down Blanchard Road to the Apple Barrel and in the Middle School area.

#### **IV. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Teri Maloney-Kelly of Maloney's Ridge Way said that May is National Mental Health Awareness Month. In 1949, the United States declared May as Mental Health Awareness Month to raise awareness of those living with mental or behavioral health challenges. Mental illness is a disease that can present itself in many forms including anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder, PTSD, dementia, eating disorders, depression, bipolar disorder, etc. The list is long. 1 in 20 adults in the U.S. suffer from mental illness, but many are not diagnosed or under medical treatment. In an effort to bring awareness to the prevalence of mental illness, our community started a "Smash the Stigma" campaign in 2021, in which Councilor Foster was very involved (she thanked Councilor Foster for this). Every week, the Town Crier has resources, under the community news section, for people to access mental health topics. This is a very tough and sensitive subject to discuss publicly. One of the efforts to get the conversation started was the "Smash the Stigma" lawn sign campaign. Over the winter, she noticed that the signs disappeared around Town, and she invited those who still have their signs to put them back up in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month. It could help to spark a conversation with someone who may be in need. You never know who that may be. To this end, she wants to applaud our Town in joining Falmouth and Yarmouth in sharing a mental health responder to work with our Police Departments. This person will respond to those calls involving mental health related issues. This is a great first step to help our public safety personnel with mental health issues.

She thanked Sergeant Thomas Burgess for his 33 years of service with the Cumberland Police Department and congratulated him on his retirement. Sergeant Burgess, or Tommy, as she has always known him, grew up in her neighborhood. She remembers his parents and family very dearly. Although at times they may have had disagreements about the police departments approach, she has always respected and appreciated Tom's dedication to our community. As a new member of our Public Works team, we can look forward to him greeting us with a big smile when we go the brush dump or perhaps when he is helping the residents at senior housing. Tommy is an oldie, but a goodie, so congratulations from the bottom of her heart. Thank you for your service to our community.

## V. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

### **22 – 056 To hear a report from the Town Attorney re: a Consent Order with Randall Copp for property located at Map R007/Lot 57C, Pointer Way, and to set a Public Hearing date of June 6, 2022 for action.**

Councilor Copp asked for permission to recuse himself from voting on this item.

Chairman Vail asked for a vote to allow Councilor Copp to recuse himself.

VOTE: 4-0 UNANIMOUS

Town Attorney, Alyssa Tibbetts provided a brief history on this matter. The proposed Consent Order stems from a Notice of Violation on the property from back in 2018. The Notice of Violation was appealed to the Town's Board of Appeals. The board upheld the Notice of Violation, and it was then appealed to Superior Court, under a Rule 80-B Motion. The Superior Court also upheld the Town's decision regarding the Notice of Violation, as well as the Board of Appeals decision. They were all based on earth extraction and earth moving activities on the property that were in violation of the Town's ordinances. Through the process of the Superior Court action, the Town filed a counterclaim in defending the complaint and sought damages, namely remediation of the property to resolve the earth moving and extraction activity, attorney's fees, and a civil penalty to the extent that the Court would award it. The Superior Court judgement didn't occur until 2019, and the last step in the process was for the Court to hold a hearing on the Town's request to collect damages and remedies. The hearing did not happen because of Covid and is still on the Court's docket. Since that time, the parties have been in discussions to arrive at a negotiated agreement for the proposed Consent Order as it relates to those remedies. The terms of the proposed Consent Order have been negotiated with the property owner and are (in summary): a remediation and revegetation plan that has to be fully engineered and approved and inspected by a third party inspector (Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District), the work must be completed by October 15, 2023, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the matter until July 1, 2024 to ensure that any further enforcement that needed to occur could occur, the Town's Code Enforcement Officer will retain the right to inspect the property for all other state and local ordinance and code compliance, the property will require a certificate of occupancy from the Town, and the property owner will bear all the costs of all inspections by the third party inspector, and \$20,000 in attorney's fees will be awarded to the Town. A \$19,000 penalty has been agreed to, but if all the work is satisfactorily completed, the penalty will be permanently suspended. The property owner will be required to provide a performance and payment bond for 100% of the work required to complete the remediation and revegetation plan upon approval from the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District. The Consent Order also limits the future activity of removing materials from the property to 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to the extent that it is needed as part of the remediation and revegetation plan. There is no action on this item this evening, only to set the Public Hearing for June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Vail asked for any public comment.

No public comment.

Motion by Councilor Edes, seconded by Councilor Segrist, to set a Public Hearing date of June 6<sup>th</sup> to consider and act on a Consent Order with Randall Copp for property located at Map R007/Lot 57C, Pointer Way.

VOTE: 4-0-1 (Copp abstained) MOTION PASSES

**22 – 057 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on a Contract Zone Agreement for The Grange at Longwoods, as recommended by the Planning Board.**

Alex Timpson said that the Conservation Easement has been finalized and closing documents filed. The scope of this project is 65 acres, 55 of it will be preserved. Conceptually, the plan has not changed from when he first presented it to the Town Council back in July. It will have a farm-to-table grange hall pub, with 3-miles of walking trails with sculptures throughout, and a working farm. He feels that this project will be a benefit to the Town.

Councilor Foster said that the Planning Board made recommendations to the Town Council on a couple of topics that she would like some clarification on. Regarding the second residential dwelling and limiting the number of rooming units in it, she asked what the intent of the second dwelling is for, and is it based on the size of the farming operation.

Attorney Brenda Buchanan said that everything is speculative at this point because they have not yet identified the farmer who would operate the farm. The intent is to create room for there to be farm worker housing with 6 bedrooms with a common room and kitchen. It could be that the farm help would be in the existing farmhouse and the second dwelling would be a home for the farmer and his or her family. We just don't know yet.

Councilor Segrist asked, based on the size of the land, how many workers would traditionally be working a field or fields of that size.

Attorney Buchanan said that they do not know yet, and it could change with the season, depending on what they are growing and how mechanized the farming operation may be.

Councilor Copp asked if growing marijuana would be allowed on this parcel.

Attorney Buchanan said that nobody is asking for anything more than what would be allowed in the current zoning. No more, no less.

Mr. Timpson added that they would adhere to the current and future Rural Residential I Zoning rules regarding to marijuana.

Councilor Segrist asked Mr. Timpson what activity was going on recently. He noticed some equipment on the property.

Mr. Timpson said that he misinterpreted a conversation he had with the Code Enforcement Officer regarding roughing in the road. He had some logging done on the property, which resulted in some ruts in the area where the parking lot will be. His contractor had some time to begin working on roughing in the road, so he told him to start working on it. He received a phone call from the Town Manager telling him to stop work immediately. This was his mistake due to some miscommunication and he takes full ownership for the mistake.

Councilor Edes said that he is in favor of this project but feels that Mr. Timpson betrayed the trust of the Town Council by building that road. It was more than just filling in potholes, it was basically rebuilding the road. That was not a good way to start working with the Town.

Chairman Vail opened the Public Hearing.

Teri Maloney-Kelly of Maloney's Ridge Way said that the issue of growing marijuana on this property being allowed or not allowed was not clear. There are specific areas in this Town where growing marijuana commercially is allowed. Is this property in one of those zones?

Town Manager Shane said that it is not, and growing marijuana would not be allowed.

Rod Vogel, Chairman of the Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust (CCLT) thanked the Town Council for their support of this project. This project is a priority for CCLT, and they have been working tirelessly on getting the conservation easement completed. They are very excited and are working on raising the money to make it happen.

Chairman Vail closed the Public Hearing.

Chairman Vail asked Mr. Timpson what the plan is for the building that will be constructed after the first year to replace the food truck.

Mr. Timpson said that the building will be a 42' x 72' barn, less than 35 feet high, with an open floor plan, including an open kitchen, that opens to an outside terrace.

Councilor Foster said that there was a request for outside music to be allowed from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and inside music from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. If the Town Council approves this, this would be an amendment to the Planning Board recommendation.

Mr. Timpson said that the 11:00 p.m. curfew would be the only change.

Councilor Segrist said to clarify, these are not separate amendments. They are moving forward with the Planning Board recommendation.

Chairman Vail said that he is looking forward to seeing a working farm and a place to go to get a beer and some food. He feels that this is a worthy project.

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Segrist, to approve the Contract Zone Agreement for The Grange at Longwoods, as recommended by the Planning Board, with the following amendments: the second housing unit will be limited to 7,000 sf with no more than 6 bedrooms units, and to allow indoor music up to 11:00 p.m.

VOTE: 5-0                      UNANIMOUS

**22 – 058    To hear a report from the Lands & Conservation Commission re: Phase II of Climate Action Plan and accept the plan.**

Chairman of the Climate Action Team, Denny Gallaudet, and members of the Climate Action Team presented the following:



**CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

Phase 2 – Recommendations for Action

Prepared for Cumberland Town Council  
& MSAD51 Board of Directors  
By the Sustainability Subcommittee (or CAPSC)  
of the LCC

May 9 2022

# Introduction



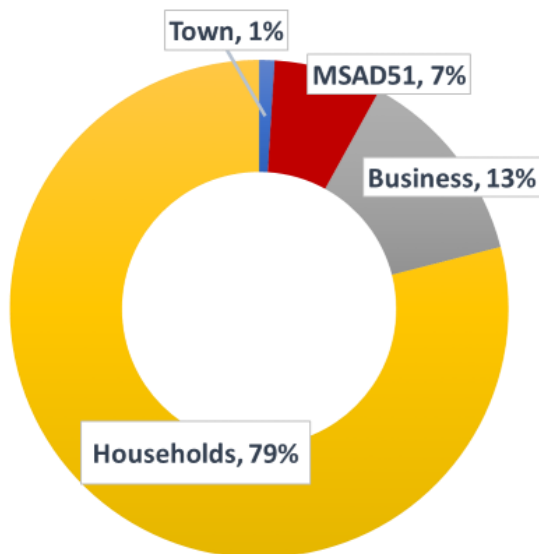
- In 2019, Cumberland's **Land and Conservation Commission ("LCC")** formed a **Climate Action Plan Subcommittee ("CAPS")** to expand on the work of the 2009 Cumberland Comprehensive Plan.
- Under its Charter, CAPS was tasked with taking **inventory** of the **Town's Greenhouse Gas ("GHG") emissions** and proposing a **goal and action plan** to **reduce GHG** in the coming years.
- This presentation summarizes **Phase 2** of CAPS work: to develop a goal and action plan for the Business and Household Sectors

Town of Cumberland CAPSC CAP II Report to Town Council, May 2022, p. 2

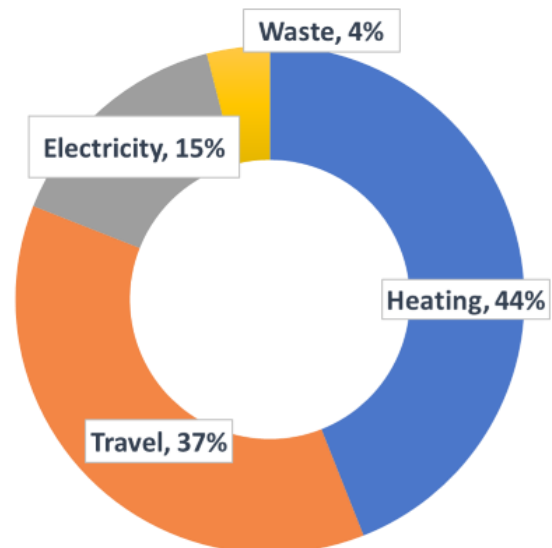
## Household 2015 Baseline 52,353 MT GHG



By Sector



By Use



Town of Cumberland CAPSC CAP II Report to Town Council, May 2022, p. 3



# Actions Households can take to become Climate Positive \*



Phase II Recommended Actions		MT CO2e Avoided
1	Reduce GHG emissions from home energy use – promote heat pump use	24,000
2	Reduce GHG from transport	18,000
3	Adopt ecologically productive, low carbon/ low water landscaping practices	10,000
4	Support 30X30 goal of conserving 30% Cumberland's lands by 2030	4,000
5	Purchase low-cost carbon offsets from Town owned forest lands	3,000
6	Install low-cost solar panels	1,600
7	Decrease food waste through composting	1,000
8	Adopt the 2021 IECC "stretch" energy efficiency goal for new construction	800
9	Buy more locally grown food.	Not yet calculated
10	Ensure the integrity of water quality in Broad Cove.	Not yet calculated

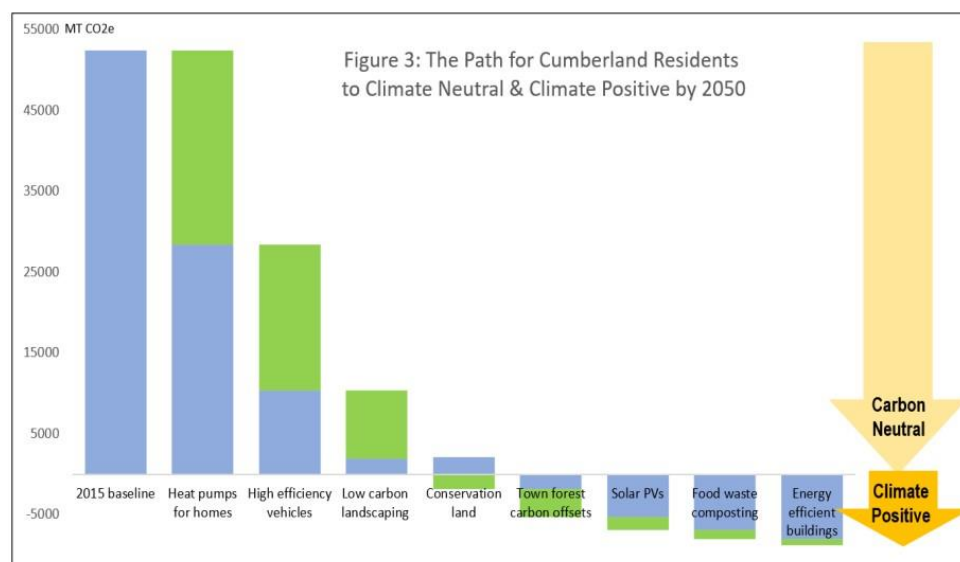
Combined, these actions will reduce household GHG emissions by 60,535 MT GHG 415% below their 2015 baseline (52,353MT GHG)

Actions for TC: approval of concept, modest fiscal note, future staff help

\* Climate Positive –when actions cause more GHG emissions to be avoided from your activities than those activities produced

Town of Cumberland CAPSC CAP II Report to Town Council, May 2022, p. 4

## Path to Carbon Neutrality for Household Sector



Town of Cumberland CAPSC CAP II Report to Town Council, May 2022, p. 5

## Action Item 1 –Retrofit 80% of homes with heat pumps



- Home heating is the single largest contributor to GHG emissions by households
  - In Maine ~2/3 of households still heat with carbon intensive fuel oil
- Heat pumps are a cost effective and climate friendly alternative
  - Lower cost heating vs. oil
  - As the grid becomes greener, so does your home heating/cooling
  - Over 70,000 installed in Maine homes, 20,000 in 2021 alone
- Additional benefits include
  - Low cost air-conditioning
  - Improved air quality
  - Safety

Town of Cumberland CAPSC CAP II Report to Town Council, May 2022, p. 6

## Action Item 2 –80% of households adopt EV/PHEV\* vehicles

### 2021

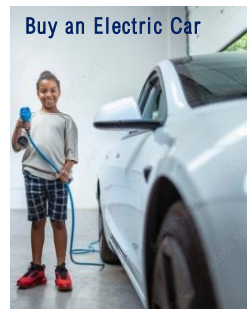
- 7,454 vehicles
- 56% light duty passenger trucks incl. SUVs
- 2.6 per household
- 99% gas/diesel 1% electric
- 8 yr average age

### 2030

- State of Maine assumes a 5x increase in New Light-duty Electric Vehicles (EV) sales to 219,000
- Cumberland Town is committed to zero GHG, including for most vehicles
- Total Cost of Ownership of an EV/PHEV projected to be at or better than parity with a similar gasoline vehicle

### 2050

- Cumberland households buy a new car every 8 years
- CAPSC estimates that they will make 3.5 new purchases by 2050
- If 80% of these are EV or PHEV, the town can reduce its transportation GHG emissions to 5,650 MT GHG.



\* EV – Electric Vehicle; PHEV – Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle

Town of Cumberland CAPSC CAP II Report to Town Council, May 2022, p. 7

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## Action Item 3 -Adopt Sustainable Landscaping



Sustainable, low-carbon landscaping is a “low-tech” climate action item with high potential for helping Cumberland reach carbon neutrality. Low-carbon landscaping steps include:

- Plant more native trees, shrubs, and flowering plants and shrink the area of your property that's turf grass.
- Mow your lawn less frequently. Set your mower above 3" high. Practice “No Mow May.” Let your lawn bloom!
- Replace gas-powered mowers and leaf-blowers with electric models. (Better yet, leave leaves as mulch)
- Reduce or eliminate the use of lawn fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides that run off into Casco Bay.
- Water less; use a rain barrel for lawn and garden work.

Benefits of low-carbon landscaping include:

- More CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed and carbon stored by trees
- Better filtering and absorption of rainwater, reducing run-off



- Cleaner, healthier air; less noise pollution
- A healthier Casco Bay
- More resilient habitats that support wildlife
- Fruits and berries for people, birds, and wildlife
- More Biodiversity, More Biomass, More Beauty
- Reduce Cumberland's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 8,500 MT

Town of Cumberland CAPSC CAP II Report to Town Council, May 2022, p. 8

## Conclusion



- The CAP outlines action opportunities to build a future Sustainable Cumberland and become net positive - avoid more GHG than we emit:
  - ✓ a town that supports investments in clean energy and transportation;
  - ✓ where local farmers produce and sell local food and improve local food security;
  - ✓ where forests and ecosystems thrive and encourage healthy recreation.
- Cumberland's investments in land and forest conservation position Cumberland as an innovative leader in responding to climate change

Town of Cumberland CAPSC CAP II Report to Town Council, May 2022, p. 9

Chairman Vail asked for any public comment.  
No public comment.

Motion by Councilor Segrist, seconded by Councilor Edes, to accept Phase II of Climate Action Plan, as recommended by the Lands & Conservation Commission, and require the Commission to return to the Town Council for additional funding as needed.

VOTE: 5-0                      UNANIMOUS

**22 – 059 To appoint Democratic, Republican and Unenrolled Election Clerks.**

Motion by Councilor Edes, seconded by Councilor Segrist, to appoint Democratic, Republican and Unenrolled Election Clerks per the list provided by the Town Clerk.

VOTE: 5-0                      UNANIMOUS

**22 – 060 To consider and act on the formation of a Housing Task Force to be appointed by the Town Council to develop strategies and recommendations around the current housing crisis facing refugees, asylum seekers, and affordable housing issues in the Town.**

Chairman Vail said that this would be an ad hoc committee made up of interested citizens and members of the Town Council to look at what we can do regarding the housing crisis and perhaps collaborate with surrounding communities. There would be a defined working period for the committee to come back and make some recommendations to the Town Council. We may find that the housing challenges are too great for us to achieve, but he feels that there is an opportunity for us to try and do something.

Since Councilor Storey-King is absent this evening, she sent the following email to Chairman Vail, which he read: *I'd like to weigh in on one more matter but recognize that I'm not there to help with the decision-making. I will go with the will of the Council since this is a difficult topic.*

*I would support the creation of a committee of interested parties to see if our community can assist with housing immigrant refugees. I recognize that we have to be responsible for our seniors and mindful of the decisions we make that impact them directly, but I also have a belief that in our great country of immigrants, we have a moral and humanitarian obligation to help if we can. I am not necessarily in favor of assistance that would impact our budget, but if town leadership could facilitate a committee seeking solutions to this moral and ethical challenge, I would be entirely supportive. Like you Bob, I believe there may be ways we can help that we just have not thought of yet. For example, there has been much discussion about the land south of the Route One developments. Maybe there is some joint venture that would allow for temporary housing of immigrant families.*

*Similarly, I will encourage caution because it seems like there is a great deal of development happening in some larger communities like Westbrook and Brunswick that might be better suited for the needs of immigrants. I have thought about this, perhaps a great deal more than others because I will soon have an immigrant nephew, from Senegal, and I recognize how difficult assimilating into our communities can be. Gaining citizenship, documentation and permission to work is much more difficult than it needs to be. I believe there are any people who would like to see more immigrant assistance, but I also believe, to a certain extent, that if these people are sincere, they will step up.*

*In conclusion, I grew up learning the phrase, "the great melting pot." We were taught it in school, but it a phrase we as a country seems to have lost sight of in our consciousness. There are many points of view on this subject and much debate to be had. For me, it's an ethical dilemma, and I used to teach that an ethical dilemma is not the difference between right and wrong, but the difference between right and more right.*

Councilor Segrist said that this is a very worthy cause and one that he would be pleased to be a part of if he were asked. He does not view this as just an asylee or refugee issue, he views it as an affordable housing issue for our Town, which may also include the assistance for some of these folks.

Councilor Edes said that we all understand what the issue is, but we also have to understand that the City of Portland caused the majority of this problem. They kept encouraging the influx of refugees to come to Portland. That was prior to all the apartments in Portland being developed into condominiums and duplexes becoming single family homes. Portland has gone through a transformation, and they caused this problem. Now they want us to bail them out after they have said, no more. We have tried to bring affordable housing to this community. It's affordable with the first sale, but then people start flipping the houses and they aren't affordable anymore. He feels that our role is to get the word out that assistance is needed and how individuals can help. He does not think that Cumberland is structured to provide the type of support that Chairman Vail is seeking. We don't have the land and we are too far away from social services.

Councilor Copp said that on Route 100 there is 24 x 30 ranch for sale that is over 60 years old and on a one-acre lot. The asking price is \$499,000. Where does affordable start in the Town of Cumberland? You can't even find an affordable rent in the Town of Cumberland. He thinks that perhaps this should be tabled because he does not think that it will pass if voted on tonight.

Councilor Foster said that she would like some clarity on what Chairman Vail is looking for this task force to do. She envisions that it is a bigger housing conversation. We've talked in pieces about affordable housing for our seniors, housing for folks (regardless of their age) who want to stay in their home but with property taxes going up, they may not be able to. This seems to be a bigger housing conversation, so perhaps we do table it and put a little more clarity around what we are asking this committee to do.

Chairman Vail said that there is a group of volunteers that are willing and ready to tackle this charge, and we should give them the opportunity. The challenge is not easy, and part of the challenge is to re-examine the whole concept of housing. It may be high-rise housing. The point of where he is trying to take this is that we have a group of people who are willing to take this task on and come back with some recommendations. He understands the recommendation to table this, but he feels strongly about it that he wants to see where we can go with it. Without trying, we won't get anywhere.

Chairman Vail asked for any public comment.

Rick Doane of 4 Catalpa Lane said that fundamentally, he feels that this process is not taking into account some important factors that it should. We have a Comprehensive Plan, and we just took a town-wide survey. He strongly encouraged the Council to not act on this issue until we start to develop (through the Comprehensive Planning process) what the issues and values really are that the people of the community want and need. The asylum crisis is a terrible thing and there is absolutely no chance that anything that the Town Council does right now will impact 1,700 families that Portland has brought here and can no longer help. We would be years down the road before the first family could move into new housing that we build. We have time to find out what the values of the community are and have a thoughtful process. Portland failed and there are currently no solutions at the state level, but there are bills in the legislature that are talking about these same issues. He hopes that the state will be able to provide some guidance to us. There are long-term issues in this community that involve senior citizens, and they should be front and center. The asylum seekers should have our compassion and as private citizens, we should do what we can. But at the end of the day, he thinks that we should solve the issues that we already have. We should look at our taxes, we should look at our growth, we should do a lot of things that are front

and center to this community that are not yet solved. He encouraged the Town Council to take a step back and define this more completely.

Teri Maloney-Kelly of Maloney's Ridge Way said that she appreciates that we are having a public conversation about this issue. She was quite disappointed a few years when there was not a public discussion amongst our leadership and citizens regarding the needs of those who are coming from away. As a community we need to discuss this. Our community is very generous and perhaps the citizens would be willing to support the communities that are able assist with housing.

Chairman Vail said that he recognizes the challenge ahead and is willing to take a step back and give us some more time to come up with a specific committee charge.

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Edes, to table.

VOTE: 5-0                      UNANIMOUS

**22 – 061    To consider and act on moving the June 13<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting to June 6<sup>th</sup> and the June 27<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting to June 20<sup>th</sup> to swear in newly elected Town Councilors.**

Motion by Councilor Edes, seconded by Councilor Foster, to switch the June 13<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting to June 6<sup>th</sup> and the June 27<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting to June 20<sup>th</sup> to swear in newly elected Town Councilors.

VOTE: 5-0                      UNANIMOUS

**VI.    NEW BUSINESS**

**Councilor Segrist** – thank you to Councilman Tom Gruber for all his years of service. It came as a surprise to him that he was stepping down for personal reasons. He wants to thank him not only for his service to the Town over the last 11 years, but also for encouraging him to get involved. When he wanted to get involved in Town government and volunteer, Tom was one of the first people that encouraged him to volunteer to be on the Lands & Conservation Commission. He was on the Climate Action Team and was part of putting together the first phase of the Climate Action Plan. Tom was one of the first people that really encouraged him to run for Town Council. Thank you, Tom. You will be missed on the Town Council.

**Councilor Foster** – she still has the pleasure of sometimes seeing Councilor Gruber at the pool on Friday mornings. She also had the pleasure of sitting right next to him during her first year on the Town Council. There were many times when he would give her a little help while she still learning. She will miss seeing him at Council meetings and as Chairman of our Finance Committee. He brought a lot of experience, grace, and leadership to this Council over the years. Thank you, Tom.

As Teri Maloney-Kelly mentioned earlier, May is Mental Health Awareness Month. A little over a year ago, we formed an ad hoc committee around mental health across our three communities, including the school district. One of the events that we held was planting a tulip garden in all three of our communities, which is currently blooming. We will continue to have the conversation about smashing the stigma and will be installing permanent signage at all the tulip gardens to remind folks what they stand for, and to remind us that hope is always there, you are not alone, and we are a community together.

**Councilor Edes** – Councilor Gruber will truly be sorely missed. Tom is a good and decent man and has always set the bar in civility. As a Council, we may have disagreed at times, and Tom was always a gentleman about it. He was the first to greet everybody when they came through the door to a meeting, and the first to say goodbye. Tom will truly be missed.

In regard to the retirement of Tom Burgess, as Teri said, many of us have known Tom since we were kids. Tom is the epitome of community policing. Tom is his friend, and he wishes him well.

**Councilor Copp** – Tom “Uber” Gruber, that is how he will always remember him. If anybody ever needed a ride, Tom was there to give them one. He is the most kind-hearted man that he ever met. He will surely be missed on the Town Council.

He and Tom Burgess were best friends growing up in West Cumberland. Tom was always there if someone needed help. He knew this community and everyone in it. A few years, there was an elderly gentleman who needed some help and Tom stepped right in to get him the help he needed. There was a picture of Tom in uniform doing the gentleman’s dishes. Tom is still in touch with the man to this day and talks to him every week. This is the type of guy that Tom is.

As he does every meeting, he donated \$20 to the 4-H fund that benefits the Food Pantry and the 4-H kids. This is a very worthy cause.

**Chairman Vail** – Tom Gruber fits into that special group of people, and there are a lot of them in this community, who wear a lot of hats. With every hat that Tom put on, he performed exemplary service. He joins the ranks of the dedicated in this community in so many ways. Thank you, Tom, for your years of service.

He suggested to the Council members a change in the Town Charter. He would like to change the date that new Town Councilors begin their term from the Monday immediately following the election, to the first meeting in July. The time between the election and getting started allows the opportunity for someone who is stepping down to have their last meeting and take care of any unfinished business they may have. It will also allow the new person coming on board the time to get oriented. He requested that the Council members think about this, and we can discuss further.

Councilor Edes said that since any Charter change will have to go to the voters, he suggested reviewing the entire Charter to see if any other minor things could be amended, if need be.

Chairman Vail said that meet the candidate’s night for the Town Council will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup> and the School Board on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. They will be televised.

Regarding the filling Councilor Gruber’s Town Council seat, Chairman Vail said that we have 60 days to fill the vacant seat. We will seek applications from interested members of the community. They can send their letters of interest to Brenda Moore, Council Secretary, at Town Hall. Brenda will collect the applications and the Nominating Committee will review them. Since Councilor Gruber was on the Nominating Committee, he suggested that Councilor Storey-King be appointed to the Nominating Committee in his place. The full Town Council will interview the applicants that the Nominating Committee recommends. After some discussion, this plan was agreed to.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Edes, to adjourn.

VOTE: 5-0                      UNANIMOUS

TIME: 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda L. Moore  
Council Secretary