What is a Comprehensive Plan?

As far back as 1943, Maine enacted a requirement that zoning be based on comprehensive planning. A flood of unchecked development in the 1970’s and 80’s led to the Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Act passed in 1988 which provided towns with the resources needed to manage growth. The aim was to accommodate and stimulate economic growth while also conserving working landscapes and natural resources.

Surry approved its last Comprehensive Plan in 2014. In 2022, the Surry Code of Ordinances was updated to comply with this plan. The town goal is to continue to update the Comprehensive Plan every ten years which is now underway to present to Surry voters in 2024.

The Plan identifies current issues and opportunities that the town faces and discusses what is expected to happen within the next five to ten years. It reflects the desired future of the town. Input is sought from Surry residents who are asked to respond to surveys and potentially participate in in-person focus groups.

Representing all areas of Surry, members of the Comprehensive Planning Committee are chosen by the Selectmen for diversity of knowledge and expertise. Committee meetings are posted on the town website and open to the public.

Following are the chapters under review:

1. Population and Demographics

2. Economy

3. Housing

4. Public Facilities and Services

5. Village Assessment

6. Rural Assessment

7. Transportation

8. Marine Resources

9. Fresh Water Resources

10. Natural and Scenic Resources

11. Agricultural and Forest Resources

12. Historic and Archaeological Resources

13. Recreation

14. Fiscal Capacity and Capital Investment

15. Existing Land Use

16. Future Land Use

17. Climate Change

18. Education