

From: [Scott Brown / Active Peace](#)
To: [Paonia](#)
Subject: Comments on the Comprehensive Plan
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July 24, 2024

Re: Comments on Adoption of the Comprehensive Plan

I attended the meeting on July 18th where the Comprehensive Plan was eventually discussed. I was happy with the vote to move the process forward and stay with the timeline. There is no need for micromanagement of the thoughtful and well articulated visions, values, and policy priorities laid out in the Plan.

The August 2 deadline for comments is reasonable and should include any comments the Planning Commission as a whole agrees to and wants to put forward. In its advisory role, it's not appropriate for either the Planning Commission as a whole, or any of its individual members, to micromanage or delay adoption of the Plan. Many citizens gave input into the Plan and it's been a long, drawn-out process. It is my hope that the Plan will be adopted as is at the Sept. 24th meeting and utilized as the forward looking guidance it's designed to be.

The last Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1996. I think the Trustees and the Town in general can be proud when this new one is adopted. It represents an important opportunity and vehicle for moving priorities forward, involving the public in meaningful ways as "we" go (forming ad hoc committees, etc.). I can imagine a new era where there is fresh air and energy blowing through public meetings. Where more people are actively engaged in creating forward momentum and supporting decisions and decision-makers aligned with that.

I believe the Comprehensive Plan as written represents the will of the majority — the majority that took the time to come out to public meetings and otherwise comment. I see it as the Community's Work Plan so that we can start to work together to nurture and grow what we have here and perhaps even learn to get along better in the process. Our very special community deserves as much. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Scott Brown, Paonia resident

PS In the spirit of full disclosure I was a part of the Comp. Plan consultant team for the first several months and contributed mostly to public engagement. At this point I have no vested interest or ulterior motives other than being a caring member of the community.