

## **MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday November 5, 2020 at 7:00 pm**

**On line via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

**Members Present:** Cia Boynton, Ken Troup, Brian Boyle, Abby Ayotte, Megan Irvin, Mark Sprague, Chris Rogers, Stacia Downey, Ed Sterling, Panny Gerken

**Others Present:** Erica Uriarte, Sharon Shepela, John Ahearn,

After a motion by Panny and a second by Mark, the minutes of the September 24, 2020 meeting, as edited by Stacia were approved without comments 10-0-0.

**Climate Change Task Group:** Cia introduced Sharon Shepela as a new task group member and announced that Lynn Dischler and Ray Pfau will also be supporting the Climate Change group. Sharon suggested that the group make efforts in the near term to attract additional town residents to get involved in helping with the climate change effort. Cia and Brian then suggested that the MPSC recommend that the Planning Board appoint Sharon Shepela as a full member of the MPSC. Panny moved and Mark seconded and the recommendation was approved 10-0-0.

**Draft Vision and Public Engagement:** Brian noted that he and Bob Roemer have been in touch with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to meet with them about setting up public engagement in the master planning process. Cia was hopeful that MAPC could help us with interactive Zoom meetings with the public. Erica noted that often times Zoom webinars with question and answer sessions are effective. Ken suggested, and the other participants agreed, having the initial Zoom meeting be about the results of the survey and later get into the core values in the Vision. Cia thought the graphic at the end of the Vision was particularly good and could be an important way to demonstrate what the priorities are.

In discussing some of the specifics in the draft Vision, Panny suggested rewording the Nature core value to “Environment.” Everyone agreed. The attendees discussed turning the Vision into a PR tool, starting with a PowerPoint including graphics, photos that could potentially become videos for websites and Facebook pages.

**Tax FAQ document:** Brian led a discussion of the near-final draft of the tax FAQ. There was general praise for the document and the good information included in it. Attendees recommended that the comparisons with other towns be restricted to the average tax bill rather than the tax rate. As a relatively affluent town, the list of comparable towns for the average tax bill demonstrates that affluence. Since the tax rate is based on annual expenditures and valuations, it could change from year to year and the list of comparable towns is much different and not really significant information for the public. Cia will assist Brian in formatting the FAQ’s for final publication.

**Master Plan Template:** Ken showed a template that he and Brian are working on which can be used as an outline for each task group's section of the report. Ken noted that he had extracted information from the Transportation TED talk to fill in some of the sections of the outline. Although it is early to complete the latter parts of the outline (e.g. recommended actions), Ken agreed that he and Mary could have appropriate sections filled in if that would be useful to other task groups.

**Next Meeting:** After discussion, the MSPC agreed to meet again on Thursday December 10, 2020. Hopefully a task group will be able to present a TED talk at that meeting. With no other business before the MPSC, Panny moved and Mark seconded that the meeting be adjourned. It was approved 10-0-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.