

## **MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday April 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

**On line via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**Members Present:** Bob Roemer, Brian Boyle, Panny Gerken, Stacia Downey, Mary Ciummo, Ken Troup, Ed Sterling

**Others Present:** Todd Miller, Heather Gould, Olivia Knightly

**Minutes.** On a motion by Panny and seconded by Brian, the minutes for the March 29, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously as amended to delete a sentence about MPSC assistance on population projections. Prior to the vote, there was an interesting discussion about the uncertainties of projecting residential population growth, the fact that town officials and owners of affordable housing projects are not permitted to provide others with school population impacts of their projects, and the fact that the population data used in the state determination of funding for the high school project did not take into account recent large scale housing projects in any of the three Nashoba towns.

**Update on Rollout Process.** Although the website is operational and has been advertised with QR codes on Facebook, Instagram, and other places, there still have been few survey responses. Some felt the lack of survey responses reflected an apparent lack of public interest in general in what is going on in town. Some attendees referenced the current library survey which also hasn't had many responses. Others pointed out that there is no reference to the new survey or the Konveo website on the town website. Attendees then discussed upcoming events where the Master Plan and its survey could be promoted. Bob will be attending the COA Health Fair on May 17. BSC and MPSC members will have a table at the Backyard Bolton event at the Town Common on May 13. Paper copies of the survey as well as the QR code will be available at these gatherings. It was also suggested that information about the survey including the QR code be available at the Annual Town Meeting on May 1. Bob agreed to coordinate the Committee's presence at the Town Meeting with Pam Powell.

Bob informed the MPSC participants he had turned over his personal Google Drive for the MPSC Dropbox contents. Mary and Ken tested the access the previous week and now everyone on the committee can access all of the documents with editing and upload privileges.

**Update on Master Plan document.** Olivia provided an update on BSC's work on the various chapters and graphics for the Master Plan. She showed a set of slides with status and examples (the slides will be made available to MPSC members on Google Drive). BSC is currently drafting the following chapters for the Master Plan: Background and Current Context; Transportation; Natural, Cultural, and Historic Resources; and Open Space and Recreation. BSC is continuing to create maps to assist with the planning and is synthesizing population and demographic data from various sources to support the analysis. Olivia showed several interesting graphs and tables to illustrate both the trends in Bolton and comparisons with other towns.

Attendees were impressed with the examples, finding particularly interesting the graph that stacked the three Nashoba towns' births for the years since 1990. Olivia showed several maps of Bolton with color coding for land use in one and time period of housing construction in another. These types of maps will be on display at Backyard Bolton to stimulate public interest.

In discussing housing growth, attendees noted the need to look at development that accommodates housing needs while still preserving open space and rural character. Stacia suggested that assumptions about the types of development be included in any build out analysis included in the Master Plan.

As she had discussed at the previous meeting, Olivia said BSC is continuing its efforts to refine and prioritize the town's goals and objectives as part of the public engagement effort. She is interested in MPSC recommendations related to issues and opportunities for planning for growth. This prompted a discussion of a strong desire for an inter-generational community center in Bolton. Panny and Mary noted wryly that the current senior center is one room in the senior housing building. Bob noted that there is also a need for more and better office space for town employees, and he mentioned that the Camp Resolute facilities would be perfect for such municipal functions if the facilities ever came on the market.

Without additional business, the meeting attendees discussed a date for the next meeting, and agreed on Tuesday May 30, 2023. Then on a motion by Panny with a second by Ed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.