

# **MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday December 17, 2020 at 7:00 pm**

**On line via Zoom**

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

**Members Present:** Bob Roemer, Cia Boynton, Ken Troup, Brian Boyle, Abby Ayotte, Mary Ciummo, Megan Irvin, Mark Sprague, Stacia Downey, Ed Sterling, Panny Gerken, Molly Myers

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

After a motion by Panny and a second by Abby, the minutes of the November 5, 2020 meeting, were approved without comments 10-0-0. Sharon will be appointed officially to the MPSC by the Planning Board at its January 13, 2021 meeting.

- **Meeting with MAPC:** Panny discussed a Zoom meeting with several Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) representatives, including the new MAGIC coordinator Julie Curti. They provided information about guidelines for remove meetings and data available from MAPC. Erica mentioned an MAPC website with information and data useful for outreach to community members. MAPC told us about or will provide further information as follows:
  - MAPC is revising its regional plan (2050 time horizon) and will keep us posted about new/refreshed data sources.
  - MAPC will also send us a list of all helpful data sources that currently exist.
  - MAPC will let us know about regional efforts to predict post-pandemic trends.
  - MAPC will see whether the 2000 build out analysis is still helpful if our zoning hasn't really changed.
  - MAPC will follow up on our technical assistance grant application and let us know if we should tailor it.
- Erica agreed to request the scope of services that Dedham used for help with their Master Plan. MAPC indicated that website support was available for approximately \$20-30K. Bob suggested that instead we pursue in-house website support. MAPC had suggested we formulate goals for the types and numbers of groups and individuals we wanted to engagement with in outreach. The Outreach Task Group will come to the January 28 meeting with requirements. One discussion for later will be the pros and cons of having a website outside the town website which is used now.

**Future TED Talks:** The MPSC discussed the schedule and scope of approximately monthly TED talks with the idea of the talks becoming newspaper articles or other written material to educate and involve the public. The tentative schedule agreed upon is:

- The survey – late January
- Cultural/historical – February
- Water and Sewer – March

Any committee volunteers to help compile short presentations for the Zoom TED Talk related to aspects of the survey should contact Molly. The plan is to have an open Q&A period after the Talk. The committee thanked Nicki McGachey for converting Stacia's TED talk about housing to a video available on Bolton Access TV's website.

**Tax FAQ TED Talk:** Brian and Ken presented the Tax information in a series of slides. The slides briefly covered the content of the FAQ document reviewed at the last meeting. In order, they discussed the types of taxes (including property, vehicle excise, personal property, meals/hotel), the different classifications of property and the fact that we have a single tax rate because of farms and small businesses, and where the money goes in the budget (way more than half to the schools). Next they explained Proposition 2 ½ and how it defines the amount of taxes the town is allowed to levy; they then explained the setting of the tax rate and the tax bill on the average house in Bolton. Committee members wondered what the likely tax revenue from the proposed marijuana facility would be. We'll be sure to include that in future discussion of taxes. The committee hopes we can turn the Tax information into a publishable document within a month. In response to a question, Erica noted that both the housing and transportation presentations are available to the public on the town website.

**Water and Sewer Update:** Mark provided the update. The scope of the group includes potential impacts of climate change. The group has looked at the feasibility of both onsite and offsite public water supplies, the offsite being for potential emergency use during an extended power outage. They have been investigating the current private well inventory and the associated aquifer depths. They have used a computer model to determine the likely cost of a public water system and also public sewers both town-wide and in special areas such as the center of town (fees could be in the range of \$35K per subscriber). Mark also noted there are zoning impacts related to town sewers, since current residential zoning is based on the setback requirements for individual septic systems and private wells. Bob noted that there is a lack of understanding in town of septic system operation and maintenance. Mark said the group is doing a write up for the public on "care and feeding" of private septic systems. He noted they are also documenting the impact on the aquifers of lawn irrigation systems. They are also going to provide information on septic options when replacement becomes necessary.

**Other Updates:** Economic Development task group activities are stopped at least until after the pandemic ends. With a new DPW chief on board, the Municipal Services task group is starting up again. There is nothing new from the Open Space task group, nor the schools which are wrestling with their own hybrid versus remote learning issues during the pandemic. The Transportation task group will also be meeting soon with the new DPW chief. If groups are not currently working on their reports, they were all reminded that writing up what they can is appropriate.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Thursday January 28, 2021. With no other business before the MPSC, Panny moved and Mark seconded that the meeting be adjourned. It was approved 12-0-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.