

MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday October 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm

On line via Zoom

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

Members Present: Bob Roemer, Panny Gerken, Stacia Downey, Mary Ciummo, Ken Troup

Others Present: Pam Harding, Olivia Knightly, Heather Gould, Aqsa Butt, Kristin DeJohn, Nicki McGachey

Minutes. On a motion by Stacia and seconded by Bob, the minutes for the September 28, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously.

October 23 Forum Planning. Bob updated the contact list with 66 correct email addresses for non-government stakeholders and community group members. These people were sent information about the upcoming Community Forum. The list is available on the MPSC Google Drive where additions can be made. Bob said that his wife Alice had done a Neighbors email posting and subsequently got hundreds of hits. In her role as community social media expert and the moderator of the Bolton Community Facebook group, Kristin DeJohn attended the meeting and suggested the kinds of explanatory material about the Master Plan and the forum that should be included as a group posting. Bob and others agreed that the draft goals document was the key one for which public input is needed, although Bob noted that the existing conditions document is detailed and informative and should be read as well. The publicity will include links to both the town website and the Konveio website. Kristin also said that if people had pictures to help illustrate the issues and goals that would be appropriate.

Olivia walked through the outline of the Forum. The school had indicated that early access could be provided, so the plan is now to have the AV set up begin at 5:30 pm. The draft goals document will be available online before the Forum as well as during the Forum. Panny emphasized that the public should understand that the goals are indeed draft, will be modified at the Forum, and have not been voted on by the MPSC. Child care will be available in the Gym, but caregivers will be needed, slightly before 7:00 and until the forum ends at 9:00. Kristin will talk with Amy Cohen about how it was handled at the town meeting. Ken will check with the Cadet EMT class to see if they might be available, but cautioned that the class is Monday night so may not be possible.

Olivia explained that there will be four random groups for the Forum, based on color sticklers provided at sign in. We will be seeking individual feedback and have MPSC and/or BSC members assigned to the groups. The forum will be on Zoom as well and there will be at least one Zoom work group with a facilitator to discuss the goals and priorities. Nicki noted that she would edit the video recording of the meeting to integrate the Zoom group discussions into the final video that will be available through Bolton Access TV.

Kristin asked about issues on the minds of the public, especially taxes. She believes some people will want to know how the Master Plan and its goals will affect their taxes. Bob noted that the

Plan will be prioritizing policies and rules that might need changing and would identify likely costs, but that everything would have to go through the normal town budgeting process before any money was spent or taxes raised. Kristin also asked about economic development, and Bob explained that the survey results showed interest in restaurants and the kinds of amenities that would support or attract other new businesses. Bob also mentioned the importance of traffic, water, and sewer issues that need careful analysis as a part of any economic development.

Meeting participants thanked Kristin for her participation in the meeting and for her assistance in publicizing the meeting via the Facebook groups. Participants also agreed that things were well in hand so that the meeting posted for October 19 can be canceled. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

The October 17, 2023 meeting minutes were approved at the November 16, 2023 meeting