

MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Thursday July 23, 2020 at 7:00 pm

On line via Zoom

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

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

Others Present: Erica Uriarte,

After a motion by Panny and a second by Brian, the minutes of the June 25, 2020 meeting were approved without comments 10-0-0. Bob complimented Megan for the article about the Master Plan she did for the Council on Aging, and complimented Brian and Cia on the demographics article in the Bolton Independent.

Master Plan Teach In's or TED Talks: Bob suggested and the group agreed that in the coming months each task group should make a 15 minute presentation with discussion to inform other members as well as the public about the status quo and issues related to each task group's area of interest. This would allow us to be better able to address the public's questions and will be useful in helping put together content for the Master Plan. The first teach in will be on transportation at the August meeting. Housing will be discussed in September and Water/Sewer in October.

Master Plan Vision: Brian presented an overview of inputs to the Master Plan vision including core values of community, opportunity, mobility, and nature. The group agreed that core values are things that are near and dear to our hearts as members of the community. Brian's table included for each core value a list of topics that reflect goals or aspects of the value area (for example, under Nature would be open space, agriculture, climate change, recycling). These are all areas that will be addressed in the plan and that we need to find out more about what the public thinks in each topic area. It was noted that cost of achieving a goal will need to be considered and will essentially weigh in as part of the town meeting process that approves future actions.

The group briefly discussed priorities and the process for establishing those. The 2006 master plan had a priorities matrix which the group will review and try to determine the process used back then to come up with the priorities. The MPSC agreed that information about ease of implementation and cost will need to be addressed before decisions are made. Part of the master planning process and the subsequent analysis process in decision making is to resolve inherent contention between objectives, for example between open space and housing needs. The group observed that the purpose of the master plan is to inspire people to take up recommendations and work on them. The next step in the vision process is to look at the survey results, make any changes to the vision statement that seem to be needed, and then go public.

Master Plan Survey Status: The survey has been completed and all data entered. Panny and Cia are reviewing data and Leigh Shanney has agreed to help with analysis and display of the survey results. A pdf output was prepared for internal review, but it was discovered that about 20% of the entries are not in that document. The group working on the survey results will share with the rest of the MPSC as soon as the discrepancy has been resolved.

Quarterly Report and Task Process: Bob Roemer complimented the members on the task group inputs. He pulled those together into a quarterly report that he is submitting to the Planning Board. Bob said he is impressed with what has been accomplished to date.

There was a brief discussion of the Taggart property and a question about how much of the land could be used for land banking for municipal purposes. Bob noted that some research of maps he did indicated that a substantial aquifer is under the Taggart property, but there are questions as to whether a water supply could be located on conservation land. Erica agreed that she would follow up with Rebecca Longvall and Don Lowe about the time table for grant applications and purchase details.

With no other business before the MPSC, Brian moved and Panny seconded that the meeting be adjourned. It was approved 10-0-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.