

MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Thursday April 30, 2020 at 7:00 pm

On line via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Members Present: Cia Boynton, Mary Ciummo, Panny Gerken, Molly Myers, Bob Roemer, Mark Sprague, Ken Troup, Chris Rogers, Brian Boyle, Paul Tessini (near the end of the meeting)

Others Present: Erica Uriarte, Abby Ayotte, Megan Irvin

After a motion by Panny Gerken and a second by Mark Sprague, the minutes of the March 26, 2020 meeting were approved without comment 9-0-0.

Introductions and Publicity: Bob introduced our two new interns who are assisting with publicity and outreach. They and each other member present introduced themselves and told a little about themselves recorded by Erica Uriarte for future use by Bolton Access TV to promote the Master Plan. Those absent will be contacted by Erica Uriarte to hold a follow up Zoom meeting to record their own introductions.

Approval of task plans: Bob Roemer went down the list of task groups with each task group noting any recent changes to their plans. At the end of each task group discussion, Panny Gerken moved and Brian Boyle seconded a motion to approve the various task plan noted below. All were approved unanimously 9-0-0:

“Climate Change”, Economic Development, Land Use and GIS, Municipal Facilities, Municipal Services, Open Space and Recreation, Population, Outreach, Schools, the Survey task plan, Town Finances, Transportation Improvement, Water and Sewer, and Cultural and Historical.

The approval of the Housing task plan was deferred until after a scheduled meeting of the Housing Production group that will be making a presentation to the Housing task group.

Timeframe of Master Plan. The group agreed that the time period to be addressed in the Master Plan will be through 2035. That is approximately the timeframe between the previous Master Plan and this current update, although Erica observed that the logo for the 2006 plan showed it was through 2025.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Feedback. . Several MPSC members participated in an April 15 on line workshop. All noted that it was a useful workshop. There will be a public listening session on May 19 and during Q&A will be an opportunity to mention the Master Plan and to the inclusion of vulnerability goals in the Master Plan. Bob noted that the New England Landscape work that was mentioned at the workshop has useful data and studies of our region. He has reach out to try to determine the sources and assumptions used in the scenarios they test. Their efforts apparently are continuing and could be very helpful to the Master Plan effort.

Potential MAPC Assistance. Brian drafted and he, Bob, and Erica will finalize a letter to MAPC requesting \$10,000 of occasional technical assistance with the Master Plan effort. The MAPC contact, Lizzie Grobbel is leading a regional study in the Bolton area which could also be helpful to us. They expect a contract can be awarded within about a month.

Sending Out the Survey. The town warrant is being sent out as an insert in the Stow/Bolton Independent. The town got permission to include the survey as an additional insert in the paper, which will go to each household the week of June 3. This will help get the survey to seniors and others who are not adept at on line surveys. Meanwhile, our two interns who participated in the meeting, Abby and Megan, will advertise the survey on social media, including a new Master Plan Facebook page. The steering committee agreed that asking for responses by the end of June was a good idea.

More Outreach. Bob and Erica are meeting with Nicki McGachey of Bolton Access TV about ideas for promoting interest in the Master Plan.

Taggart Land Update. The proposed purchase of the Taggart land on Forbush Mill Road will be on the warrant. At the landowner's request, small groups can arrange to walk the property with Rebecca Longvall. Several meeting participants urges committee members to arrange to walk the property.

Task Group Presentations. Brian suggested that future agendas include an item for brief task group presentations so that steering committee members will have a better understanding of the work underway. Members agreed and suggested a 5-10 minute presentation with Q&A to follow. Interested task groups should contact Bob in advance of a meeting if they wish to present.

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 8:18 pm.