

## **MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday August 26, 2021 at 7:00 pm**

**On line via Zoom**

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

**Members Present:** Bob Roemer, Brian Boyle, Panny Gerken, Sharon Shepela, Stacia Downey, Cia Boynton, Ken Troup

**Others Present:** Valerie Oothuys

On a motion by Panny and a second by Brian, the minutes of the July 22, 2021 meeting were approved 7-0-0.

**Participation in Backyard Bolton 8/21/2021:** Brian, Panny, Bob, and Valerie staffed the Master Plan booth at the Backyard Bolton event at the Common. They sought input from public members attending the event as well as some of the vendors in other booths. They had slips of paper on which visitors would write something they Love about Bolton and separately what they would Want More of in Bolton. Brian provided a spreadsheet with the interesting responses. While the inputs still wait to be analyzed, two of the main Loves that were provided were “small town” and “community activities.” People wanted More “community activities and spaces.” Ken asked if a word count analysis could be done to portray the main words included. Bob noted the interesting responses show how important it is to keep in mind people’s points of view. The group will have a booth this coming Saturday as well. Several meeting members suggested asking how long people had lived in town to understand the differences in perspective. Others wondered when people said they wanted more small businesses what sort of businesses they had in mind and where they would want those businesses located. Follow up discussions would be great.

**Public Forum.** Most of the remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the proposed public forum on October 17 at Florence Sawyer School cafeteria from 2:00-4:00 pm. Valerie walked through the draft slides she had and participants made suggestions and comments. As usual, there was particular interest in the housing slides. This led to a brief discussion of Russell Ahearn’s book “Rural by Design” which could be a blueprint for the type of housing concepts Bolton probably needs. A map showing workers from and in the town generated interest. Suggestions were made to move the vision statement earlier in the presentation. Sharon noted that the climate slides included in the draft presentation had not been prepared by the Climate task group.

The meeting attendees then discussed the anticipated length of the presentation, the visits to the 9 stations, and the debriefing session that follows. The consensus of the group was for a 30 minute presentation without discussion, 30-45 minutes for station visits with stickers there for people to express their opinions and priorities, and about 25 minutes for the debriefing portion. Consensus also was that Valerie make the presentation with introductory remarks by Don Lowe. Cia, Ken, and Brian agreed to help Valerie in the coming week to further revise the presentation.

**Additional Business.** The MPSC members attending agreed there should be 1-2 additional, somewhat more focused public forums plus a final output forum presenting results. Bob said that he and Panny and Brian were working on streamlining the outreach and communications process. They are seeking 1 to 2 new interns to help with communications, especially social media. Bob said he was working on getting the Economic Development Committee involved in the Economic Development task group activities for the Master Plan. Brian suggested the group begin discussion of the aspirations spreadsheet once the forum has been completed. The next MPSC meeting will be Thursday September 23 which will include approval of the final presentation and other details of the October 17 forum. Without additional business, and based on a motion by Panny and second by Brian, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm