

# MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday March 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm

On line via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

**Members Present:** Bob Roemer, Cia Boynton, Ken Troup, Abby Ayotte, Mary Ciummo, Mark Sprague, Panny Gerken, Sharon Shepela, Ed Sterling

**Others Present:** Valerie Oothuys

After identifying several additions and corrections which Ken agreed to insert in the minutes, on a motion by Panny and a second by Sharon, the minutes of the February 25, 2021 meeting were approved 8-0-0. Amendments were: Corrected next meeting date. Addition of zoning change to developer presentation. Addition of historical records preservation at end of Cultural Historical TED paragraph.

### Task Group Status Updates:

**Climate** has had several meetings and identified data that is available or to be collected. They have lots of data on solar implementations. Installers have been helpful. There are more than 178 KW of installations in town.

**Cultural** is looking at other towns' vaults, digitizing, or other preservation methods. Bob will provide a contact at Sturbridge Village about what they did. The new **Housing** production plan is now public. **Land Use** is looking at town maps and what will need to be included in the Master Plan.

**Municipal Services and Facilities** is looking at emergency services during pandemics including under-used town land and open abutting properties. The last emergency plan was developed in 2005 and is being reviewed by Chief Nelson. It may be appropriate for the Master Plan to recommend revising or updating that plan. DPW would like a new site and they are investigating whether it could be located at the transfer station property. They are also looking at land abutting Florence Sawyer School and the town-owned Flatley land. They are also looking at some land on Forbush Mill as a good public water supply site. Bob noted that DEP said that because of COVID many towns are reducing their municipal space needs.

**Open Space.** Ed surveyed the athletic organizations for their future playing field needs; information has been received but not yet compiled. Parks and Rec is revisiting its vegetation management practices. Rebecca Longvall wants to redo townland wetlands filings. P&R would like to improve parking at the Forbush Mill soccer fields by acquiring land or permission from the state-owned property on the border with Lancaster. The state says that any lands on Bolton Flats are intended to return to wild, so cannot be considered for fields.

**Population.** Ken will work with Brian to communicate information about the newly-announced availability of the 2020 US Census data. **Outreach** is looking to have a public forum similar to what Dedham has done. MAPC would help using some of their hours allocated to Bolton. There is nothing new with the **Schools** until the year ends in June. Brian worked it out with the School Building Committee that they will coordinate on any projections they come up with for Bolton and the other Nashoba towns' anticipated student populations.

**Transportation.** Bolton is participating in a sub-regional COA dispatch pilot along with Stow, Lancaster, and Harvard. MAPC has a new report on the impacts of the growth of e-commerce. The transportation group is looking in more detail at Complete Streets programs and grant opportunities with the state. Mary obtained data on residential Electric Vehicle ownership from the state. She agreed to ask for information about hybrids as well.

**Water and Sewer TED Talk:** Bob presented interesting slides and information about well and septic status in the town as well as potential public water and sewer and the anticipated impacts. This relates to most task groups, especially municipal facilities and the needs for an emergency water supply. It also relates to commercial needs identified by the EDC. The group has done work to address the effort, cost, and zoning implications of a central water supply in Bolton. Ed wondered if there were any limitations on aquifers that would affect new development. Bob said this was difficult to answer, especially when it involves hard rock wells. The two issues are minerals in the water and short term demand. The latter issue is the reason that recent wells have been deeper to create a larger reserve of water in the pipes.

Water and Sewer has also done interesting work on the negative impacts of lawn irrigation. Mark noted that irrigation on a ¼ parcel is equivalent to supplying an additional house. In other words, it is not good to irrigate lawns. Cia wondered whether the town could ban irrigation? Mark doubts we could restrict or mandate private well restrictions. It is an important opportunity for publicity from both Water and Sewer and Climate Change. Water and Sewer has done a very useful write up on care and feeding of septic systems and it is on the Board of Health website. Irrigation information could supplement that. All agreed it was important to include this kind of information in newcomer packets so that homeowners will understand the impacts.

Water and Sewer has also been updating the background and operation of the municipal sewage treatment plant on the Sheep Show field. The current capacity is about 38,000 gallons and the design volume of Florence Sawyer plus the design volumes for the 3 municipal buildings (public safety, library, Houghton) is 17,100 gallons. However, the system has been in operation for 15 years and DEP considers that to be an old system. DEP wants to study the system and its operation to see what upgrades might be needed.

MPSC participants were pleased with Bob's presentation and all the work that Water and Sewer has accomplished.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Thursday April 22, 2021. With no other business before the MPSC, Panny moved and Mark seconded that the meeting be adjourned. It was approved 9-0-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.