

MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH, New Hampshire

Minutes of May 20, 2015

Members Present: Alan Zeller, Mose Olenik, Tyler Ward, Teresa Cadorette, Beth Alpaugh-Cote, Sue Chollet, and James Kelly

Staff Present: Peter Throop, Director, and Laura Norton, Administrative Assistant, Office of Community Development

Master Plan Steering Committee Co-Chair Chollet called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. and welcomed the members.

Minutes:

A motion was made/seconded (Alpaugh-Cote/Kelly) to approve the Minutes of April 8, 2015 as written with all in favor.

Review of Vision Goals:

Mr. Throop began by noting “this is a review of the vision goals and how to continue the process.” He told the members as he prepared for the meeting he was struck by the 1995 visions statements and thought they seemed to capture some of themes that still fit for Peterborough’s future. He told the members “I think it is a good base to start with” adding “there are some things that may be no longer relevant and some things that need to be modified but it is a good place to start.”

Mr. Throop went on to note the proposed vision chapter outline he had created. He viewed Chapter 1 of the Master Plan as an introduction “reflecting the structure of the Master Plan” and the purpose of the vision chapter as a guide for the Planning Board, reflecting the public input collected at the forum and survey and making a clear statement about what Peterborough wants to look, feel , and be like in the future.

Mr. Throop discussed the format of the chapter as well (prose, bullets or a combination) “as we get into the meat of the section and turn it into a draft.” He also noted the importance of the vision in guiding the ongoing maintenance and updating of the Master Plan chapters.

“I can see both sides” said Ms. Chollet but pointed out the danger of the vision being the sole driver of future updates “is kind of like having the tail wag the dog”

and added “we need to keep an open mind and in situations where it is applicable, [all the current circumstances] to change it.”

She concluded by once again delineating the vision of the Committee versus the vision of the town and the need to cross reference chapters for consistency. Mr. Throop briefly spoke about the importance of community input and about engaging the community in turning the Master Plan into a living, breathing entity.

The members then went through the proposed Vision Chapter outline discussing goals, priorities and guiding principles. During this discussion the members discussed where to put the vision statement. Ms. Olenik cautioned it not be too detailed or too long. Ms. Cadorette cited the Town of Sheffield’s vision statement about their town. Ms. Cholet asked “so the RSA thing goes in Chapter 1 and then go on to how we see the town?” Ms. Cadorette replied “yes.” Ms. Olenik interjected “it is important to explain how we came to the vision we are going to write, the process is very specific to the vision chapter.” Mr. Kelly interjected “yes, I agree the process is important.” Ms. Chollet also agreed and asked “so where do we put the vision prose we talked about?” Mr. Throop suggested one approach might be to “come up with our list of vision elements and then get the best writer among us to put it together and put it up front followed by the bullet points of priorities, goals and guiding principles.”

The members proceeded to review the language of the current chapter and made suggestions and revisions as follows:

GETTING THE TOWN WE WANT

- A Town which provides a wonderful physical setting of historical neighborhoods, buildings, and streets, set at the confluence of rivers with the backdrop of the Monadnock highlands and the Wapack Range
- compact residential settlements(close to town and)closely connected to open space; and a broad diversity of environments. (Reword)
- A Town which has the rare combination of both small town feel intimate scale and rich an abundance of cultural opportunities.
- A Town with a rural setting and a thoroughly contemporary forward thinking economy and outlook.
- *A Town with good prospects for economic growth, but not rampant character - destroying growth. Growth that is expected and wanted is much like that of the*

*past, taking place at a **moderate pace**, in small increments, building on the qualities of what is here. "No growth" is unsustainable, often leading to decline, and rapid growth would transform the nature of the Town, no matter how well it is managed. (rewrite - prosperity; Ithaca,– Sustainable built environment;*

- A Town which benefits by being ~~the~~ a center for many services which it provides to the surrounding region. That role reflects a broader diversity of services than could be supported by Peterborough alone.
- Many local jobs for working residents (reword) – Jobs for younger community members.
- Huge steps in reducing carbon footprint
- Buy Local, strong local agriculture
- ~~• A Town which, while an important part of a larger region, is itself a distinctive place, with unblurred edges, and with a character which is uniquely its own.~~
- A Town which is not only a physical place but is also a social community. ~~Residents take community seriously peril, for it is increasingly rare, even in rural settings, and is imperiled by technological and social change.~~
- ~~• A Town with a diverse population and thriving economy. The Town we want would be neither socially narrow nor dominated economically by a single industry.~~
- A Town with a collaborative community that works together to create a vital economy and culture institutions for governance and collective action which similarly are diverse, affording a variety of opportunities for resident and business participation in shaping change, without dominance by any single choice.
- Civil discourse about its policies and actions without personalization or rancor.
- A Town attractive to and with opportunities for the youth it produces. No Town the size of Peterborough can have the diversity of opportunity and interests which would keep all its youth in place, but neither should it be accepted that "young people" must be a major community export.
Sue agreed and suggested maybe rewording it.

Mr. Throop once again noted the community forum and the survey that followed. Ms. Chollet reiterated the importance of “using the people’s words, not the words

of the UNH Cooperative Extension.” The committee discussed focusing the next meeting on the results of the Survey and Forum to make sure the vision chapter captures all of the important themes from the public input. Mr. Throop indicated that he would resend the data to all members.

In closing, the members briefly discussed the importance of cross fertilization between the Boards and Committees. Mr. Zeller noted “it would be nice for the right hand to know what the left hand is doing.”

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Norton

Administrative Assistant