

MINUTES

Master Plan Steering Committee

TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
Wednesday, February 13, 2013 – 5:45 p.m.
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

Members Present: Mose Olenik, Beth Alpaugh-Cote, Peter Gosline, Sue Chollet and Alan Zeller and James Kelly.

Staff Present: Carol Ogilvie, Director and Laura Norton, Administrative Assistant, Office of Community Development

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m.

Statement from the Chair

Chair Zeller called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. He introduced the members by their first names and welcomed Mr. Kelly back to the fold.

Acknowledgement of Member Rick Monahon

Noting this first item on the agenda Chair Zeller took a deep breath and said he would never forget that Monday morning when he got a call from the Town House notifying him of Rick and Duffy's passing. "I was stunned" he said, "it was like all the air had been sucked out of the room and I was having a hard time breathing." Chair Zeller went on to point out the Monahons dedication to the town and their involvement in town boards and committees over so many years. "He was my mentor, I am glad I told him that and I was looking forward to so much more advice" he said. He concluded by noting "it is not going to be the same without him. It is going to take a long time to get used to not having them here."

Ms. Chollet noted that she knew and worked with both the Monahons over the years. "To lose them both is mind boggling" she said adding "I was so excited when Rick became the Planning Board Chair." Ms. Ogilvie interjected "so were we." Ms. Chollet added "he did a phenomenal job; it is a huge loss to the town."

Ms. Olenik told the members "they were the first people to welcome me to town" adding "they were amazing, never talking about themselves, just asking about me." She noted it was a privilege to have served with both Rick (Planning Board) and Duffy (Heritage Commission) over the years.

Mr. Gosline noted he did not really get to know Rick until the play (Peterborough Verbatim) "I did not know or appreciate him until I met him on stage. We became friends after that; it was a good call for me."

Ms. Olenik agreed noting "they may have been opposed to what you were doing but that did not mean you could not be friends." With a smile Ms. Alpaugh-Cote interjected that Duffy had come

to her to discuss their recent demo and all the reasons we should not do it “but she was so very nice about it!”

Chair Zeller asked about their office space across the street. Ms. Ogilvie noted other staff in Mr. Monahan’s office (architect Dave Drasba and support staff). “We hope they will keep it going” adding “the lights have been on every morning which is a good sign.”

Discussion of Membership

Chair Zeller noted that a member of the Planning Board must sit at the Master Plan Steering Committee meetings. “That member was Rick” he said adding “but at the Planning Board meeting Ivy expressed an interest and that seat was offered to her. I believe she accepted.” Ms. Ogilvie confirmed Ms. Vann’s willingness to participate in the MPSC meetings. “Her appointment will go to the Board of Selectmen for approval and then she will join us” she said.

Review of Minutes

A motion was made/seconded (Olenik/Alpaugh-Cote) to approve the Minutes of January 9, 2013 as written with all in favor.

Chair Zeller noted that he was sorry to say he was supposed to have told the Planning Board about the Municipal Facilities Chapter and their pending review of it, but did not do so. Ms. Ogilvie assured him a review of the draft would be on the March Agenda and they would all have a copy to review prior to that meeting.

Mr. Kelly asked about the status of the bus tour with Ms. Ogilvie replying “we are still hopeful of doing that in the spring.” Chair Zeller replied “I am looking forward to that, even if we do it in a couple of good capacity SUVs.”

Discussion of Potential Master Plan Chapter Updates

The members discussed what chapters should be updated and the mechanisms to bring them into 2013. The members agreed the Population & Housing, Water Resources and Traffic & Transportation were three chapters that should be updated along with Open Space and Economic Vitality.

Ms. Ogilvie also mentioned the subcommittee work done in 2003 and told the members “you need to decide if you want to put out a call for a new subcommittee or do the work on your own.” She then reiterated “Population and Housing can be managed here” (by her) adding “it is not terribly complicated compared to Land Use and the large amount of public input that chapter will need.” Ms. Ogilvie also recommended the members update the chapters they had just discussed *before* taking on the comprehensive Land Use Chapter.

Mr. Gosline suggested making sure the Population & Housing Chapter be updated to the 2010 Census. Ms. Ogilvie agreed noting she would also be looking at the goals and objectives to determine if they are still relevant. Looking to Ms. Ogilvie Chair Zeller interjected “you are used to doing all the hard lifting.” Ms. Ogilvie “I will do that and get you a draft to review.”

Ms. Olenik asked about the status of Land Use and Zoning. Ms. Ogilvie explained “well we started with a fairly lengthy list; I still have the Matrix from the Master Plan that is updated after each Town Meeting with things that come along.” She briefly reviewed the hiring of a Consulting Firm for the *Infill* Ordinance and touched on the work they had done so far. She reminded the members “the Planning Board has been working on this ordinance for 4 or 5 years and has never gotten it to ballot.” She briefly reviewed the “stalls” the Consultant/Planning Board workshops have experienced due to weather, a long joint meeting process for another project in town and the tragedy of Mr. Monahon’s death. She concluded by noting “it is just not realistic to put anything on the ballot this year.” She also noted that now there would be time to meet with the Consultant on *Infill* as well as two internal subcommittees that have been working on *Open Space* and *Home-based Businesses* and start conducting Public Hearings for input. She concluded by noting “a lot has been done since 2003. We are making progress and still trying to get things resolved.”

Chair Zeller agreed and noted “even though several of these chapters are woefully out of date we have time and no deadline, so no pressure.” Mr. Kelly noted the significant shortfalls of some of the projections (for instance the population in 2000 was approximately 6000 with a projection population of 7400 by 2020). He asked “what is our current population?” Ms. Ogilvie replied “about 6200.” Mr. Kelly noted “so this is totally obsolete” with Ms. Ogilvie replying “yes it is.” Ms. Ogilvie went on to note that the data source was from the Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) “and they are not even doing projections anymore” she said. She added that it was too bad as the OEP had been the agency that put all the census information into something useable for the towns.

Mr. Kelly noted a speaker at a recent meeting made a presentation on growth. He felt the content may be useful to the Committee and asked Ms. Ogilvie to secure a copy of the Powerpoint. Mr. Kelly relied “it contained good data for our region, we ought to get a hold of that data, it had a fundamental vision of what we should be thinking about.” Ms. Alpaugh-Cote noted she would be happy to ask Jack Burnett, the Chamber Director about the presentation. Mr. Kelly replied “we ought to have that vision.”

Mr. Gosline reiterated that the 2010 Census statistics be incorporated into the Population & Housing Chapter. He briefly reviewed demographics and the regional perspective. He noted similarities in how they are used for strategic planning for the Hospital. He asked “how do we define our region?” adding “and are we planning for Peterborough or regional perspectives?” Ms. Chollet replied “certainly regional for Population & Housing.” She went on note “it is interesting, the first time around our focus was just on Peterborough, now we seem to be taking a different view of it. We can keep Peterborough and add the regional aspects.” She cited the Monadnock Community Hospital and the Arts community (including the Sharon Art Center and the MacDowell Colony) as examples and added “this may be relevant to a lot of our chapters.”

Chair Zeller agreed noting he had lived in Hollis (NH) a long time. “Hollis is 30 miles east of here but it’s a world away” he said. He went on to describe the town as being full of farms that have stayed farms and the projections that did not come to fruition.

Ms. Chollet asked “so where do we go from here?” Ms. Ogilvie replied the members should decide to work on either Economic Vitality or Traffic & Transportation, advising they should not try to take on both. Ms. Chollet asked “which one do you think is more important (pressing)?” Ms. Ogilvie replied “I think Economic Vitality, a lot has changed since 2003 regarding the economy.” Ms. Ogilvie also recommended the members create a subcommittee to work with them on the chapter. She told the members “I am of the opinion that the more you use subcommittees the more things bind to the Master Plan and the more incentive exists to follow it.” She noted “people who work on these subcommittees are dedicated and care very much about it.” She went on to suggest the Water Resources and Open Space were probably OK in that “not a lot has changed in that regard, many of the recommendations would not be different.” Ms. Chollet interjected “the same could be said for Cultural Resources.” After further discussion (including Traffic & Transport) the members agreed to work on Economic Viability and Population & Housing. The members once again discussed a subcommittee. Ms. Alpaugh-Cote asked if the members themselves would make up the subcommittee with Ms. Chollet replying “I think of outside (people) when I think of a subcommittee.” Ms. Olenik noted the subcommittee members for the Cultural Resources Chapter “they did a great job” she said.

Ms. Ogilvie noted a new subcommittee for the Economic Vitality Chapter would have to be recruited. She told the members she would put an advertisement in the newspaper calling for volunteers. She also encouraged the members to think about people that might make a good subcommittee member and give them a call.

Ms. Olenik asked if there was a certain “type” person they should be looking for with Ms. Ogilvie replying “with the Population & Housing Chapter I would say there was no particular interest that would be more or less suited to sit, “it is a data driven chapter.” Ms. Chollet asked “even the regional part of it?” with Ms. Ogilvie replying “yes, it is a fairly dry chapter.” Ms. Chollet asked “you will do the Regional Chapter too?” with Ms. Ogilvie replying “absolutely.”

Ms. Chollet noted “with the Economic Vitality and the Traffic Chapters I can see people getting really excited about those things.” Ms. Ogilvie agreed adding “that is why a subcommittee will work really well” adding “each chapter has its own personality and the fingerprints of the people who worked on it.” She also noted that sometime leads to an inconsistency between the chapters and for that reason she has suggested a template be used to write and update chapters. “Not a formal template” she said, “that is my thought, it is your decision” she said. Ms. Chollet replied “that is a great idea, and critical for consistency.”

Chair Zeller asked what other chapters needed immediate attention. Ms. Ogilvie replied “Traffic and Transportation” adding “but that is quite an undertaking, maybe we should stick with one (large) chapter for now.” Mr. Gosline added “and we need to keep our staff resources in mind.” Ms. Ogilvie noted “a lot has changed in transportation since 2003.” She noted the Main Street Bridge project that looms in the future.

Chair Zeller summarized the Committee’s plans with Mr. Gosline reiterating the importance of a template for the chapters. Ms. Ogilvie also noted the Municipal Facilities Chapter will be sent to the Planning Board for their review. She also noted the updated Vision Statements would be e-mailed out to the committee for review a swell.

Mr. Kelly reiterated his request to acquire the speaker information he talked about earlier. Ms. Ogilvie noted she would follow up with that. A member noted “New Hampshire is getting older, with retired people moving in all the time.” “That effects what we are planning for” replied Ms.

Ogilvie. Ms. Olenik advocated for a way to change the dynamics of the direction the town is headed. “I hate to lose the younger population” she said. She also very pleased about and commented on a new, younger Heritage Commission member noting “we need more people like him.”

Other Business

None

Next Meeting Date

March 13, 2013 at 5:45 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Norton
Administrative Assistant

Approved March 13, 2013