

MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH, New Hampshire

Minutes of April 26, 2017

Members Present: Sue Chollet, Ivy Vann, Bob Holt, Tyler Ward and James Kelly

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

Master Plan Steering Committee Co-Chair Sue Chollet (Ms. Chollet) called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes:

A motion was made/seconded (Chollet/Vann) to approve the Minutes of March 22, 2017 as written with all in favor.

Membership:

Ms. Chollet noted there were three candidates in the audience who were interested in joining the Committee. They were:

Eric Gagne who had been a resident for 15 years. He has been the President of the Glass Museum, a non-profit art organization involved with *Broke Art* and *The Thing in the Spring* events in Peterborough. Mr. Gagne also runs the music department out of the Toadstool Bookshop in Depot Square. "I am just a guy in Peterborough interested in joining, I think I would be a good fit" he said.

Sarah Steinberg Heller noted she lives in town and got the message that the Committee was in need of members. She noted her work with many nonprofit groups including Creating Positive Change which ran the Teen Center in town for many years. She concluded by noting "I have also been involved with *The Thing in the Spring* and I am also a founding Board Member of MONIFF (Monadnock International Film Festival)."

Cathy Lanigan told the members she had been in town 10+ years. She noted she has served on several nonprofit Boards including Monadnock Chorus (President), Music on Norway Pond and Choral Arts New England. "Ivy encouraged me to apply" she concluded.

Becky Sakellarion A fourth candidate (interested in an alternate position) was unable to attend the meeting.

Ms. Chollet thanked the candidates for their interest and gave them a brief review of the charge of the Master Plan Steering Committee and why it is so important. She noted the Committee works with the Office of Community Development, Board of Selectmen and Planning Board as well as other resources and townspeople to develop and maintain the Master Plan. “This involves a review process for updating Master Plan Chapters as needed” she said adding “and responding to requests from the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen to perform additional duties such as writing new chapters.”

She noted Peterborough’s Master Plan was adopted by the Planning Board in November of 2003. Part of the charge include the formulation of an ongoing process to assure that the Master Plan is continuously reviewed, updated, or modified as appropriate. The Master Plan Steering Committee may sponsor planning assistance in the form of subcommittees to engage is the open public process as part of any work it undertakes.

Ms. Chollet went on to explain a Master Plan (and certain chapters within it) is required by the State. “A Master Plan is required for any town that has zoning regulations” she said adding “being on the Committee gives us the opportunity to work for the town, to give input, where we are *not* working for us, *not* working for any special interest but for the interest of the town. What do the people want? What are the townspeople looking for? That is why we are here.”

Ms. Chollet noted the Committee’s attempt to update the Economic Vitality Chapter two years ago. “Coming out of a recession we realized we needed to see what the vision of the town was, how it may have changed.” She said. She noted the tremendous outreach to the citizens of the town included a public forum, surveys and public hearings. “It is a very deliberate process to listen to what the town people want” she said with a smile. Mr. Throop agreed noting “it is seen as a guiding document and is used by the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board and other committees looking for guidance in what they are doing.” Chair Vann concluded “updating the Master Plan allows us to use the innovative land use controls we are moving toward because standard zoning does not always work well.” Ms. Chollet added “it is an important piece of work to make people accountable for their plans.”

Economic Vitality Chapter Update:

Mr. Throop gave a brief update of the nearly finished chapter.

Housing Chapter Update:

Mr. Throop reported the Subcommittee had their kickoff meeting and had scheduled their first working meeting for May 10, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. He noted it had not been terribly long since the chapter (formally *Population and Housing Chapter*) was updated but the Vision and Economic Vitality Chapters had shed significant light on housing availability and affordability. He also noted like the Economic Vitality Chapter, “This is not going to be a data-laden chapter” with the data being available in an separate chapter. “More of an appendices” said Mr. Holt adding “that is where we will park the hard data.” “Makes sense” replied Ms. Chollet and added a brief history of and the potential of possibly looking into the Municipal Facilities Chapter as well.

Before adjourning Mr. Kelly welcomed the candidates to the Committee. A motion was made/seconded (Holt/Vann) to recommend the Board of Selectmen appoint Mr. Gagne, Ms. Steinberg Heller, and Ms. Lanigan to the Master Plan Steering Committee as full members with all in favor.

Mr. Throop noted that while Co-Chair Beth Alpaugh-Cote had not been able to make the meeting she certainly wanted wish Ms. Chollet the best and thank her for her years of service and guidance to the Committee. “We are going to miss you” interjected Mr. Kelly with Mr. Throop noting former OCD Director Carol Ogilvie had also expressed her best wishes. With a smile Ms. Chollet replied “thank you, it has been a labor of love - totally.”

Next Meeting:

Wednesday May 24, 2017 at 5:45 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Norton

Administrative Assistant