

## MINUTES

### Master Plan Steering Committee

#### TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 – 5:45 p.m.  
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

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

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

**Planning Committee Present:** Dan Reidy, Audrey White, Tyler Ward, and Roland Patton

#### Introductions:

Chair Chollet called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. noting “I like to start and end on time, which will be 7:30.” She went onto note “I don’t think we need any introduction, I think we all know each other.”

#### Minutes:

Approval of the Minutes was tabled.

#### Forum Program Update:

Chair Chollet began with “most of our time tonight will be a review of the forum topics and the questions that need to be asked. We will also be looking at the data presentation.” Mr. Throop noted that would also be tabled due to a death in Mr. MacLean’s family. “We will address that on the 26<sup>th</sup>” he said.

**Preliminary presentations:** It was noted that the group would be getting together with Jim Grant to see about modifying his historic presentation.

**Review of Small Group Questions:** “First” said Chair Chollet “we need to look at the small groups and decide on what small groups make sense.” She continued by noting “Downtown vitality, economic vitality, natural environment, open space and working landscapes, public facilities and infrastructure, land use and development and the look and feel of our town are the groups we decided on.” She continued “we want the best possible questions we can up with. It is critical to the outcome.”

A first iteration of questions for the small group discussion with facilitator prompts for each category was distributed. Those categories included **Downtown Vitality** (ways of energizing the Downtown including activities that may *not* be wanted as well as incentives to bring business to town), **Your Third Space** (where/how we spend out free time depending on the weather and seasons), **Economic Vitality** (strengths of the area as well as challenges or barriers to economic vitality), **The Natural Environment and Open Space** (outdoor activities and places for recreation and views) **Community Facilities and Infrastructure** (discussion of the emergency services, public works garage, hospital, library road ways and sidewalks identifying what the strengths and challenges are), **Land Use and Development Patterns** (color coded maps for participants with an exercise of drawing in a specific number of new homes, stores and businesses) and **The Look and Feel of Our Town** (identifying how important the look and feel of the town and maintaining community vitality is to the residents). The members tweaked the questions and prompts until they were satisfied with the end product.

Chair Chollet spoke briefly about a presentation about a tribute to some of the people (past and present but mostly past) that have been instrumental in the history and vitality of the town. “We would name them and what they have done” she said adding “it is a civic pride thing.” She noted the late Rick and Duffy Monahan as an example. With most members in agreement Ms. White cautioned “it will be tricky not to leave anyone out.” Others offered suggestion such as Edward and Marian MacDowell, Mary Cheney Schofield, Robert Parmelee, Erland and Hazel Goyette, Forrest Mercer, Louis Teixeira and Ken Brighton, all of whom left legacies and were visionaries for the future of Peterborough.

Ms. White again mentioned a speech by John Morison Sr. She noted the Monadnock Center for History and Culture did not have a copy “but John (Jr.) is trying to find a copy of it, it could be a really valuable part of the night” she said.

Mr. Reidy noted the post event survey and capturing more information with that tool. Ms. White suggested that as part of the wrap-up “we remind people if they have things they feel strongly about that they need to be at meetings to be informed voters.” Mr. Ward agreed noting “I have attended *many* meetings over the last year and there is hardly anyone there.” Mr. Throop agreed adding “a high percentage of the population is uninformed.” Mr. Reidy interjected “maybe we should open with asking *how do you get your news?*”

Promotion, Marketing, Public Relations and Participant Recruiting:

Mr. Throop briefly reviewed the next steps of promotion. He handed out postcards and posters to the members for distribution and a brief discussion about door prizes followed.

Logistics Update:

An update on the food for the event was given and a brief discussion about what the child care needs might be followed. Several of the members thought the food should be put out to bid by all the local restaurants.

Next Steps:

Chair Chollet noted a meeting with Jim Grant on March 19<sup>th</sup> for further review of his historic presentation adding “all are welcome.” She also reminded the members of the next meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 p.m.

Mr. Reidy asked about a site visit to the school. It was noted one was scheduled for Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. and that they should ask for Rick Tracy on arrival.

Other Business:

Chair Chollet adjourned by reminding the members about the Community Conversations Series being sponsored by the Monadnock Center for History & Culture. She noted the March 18<sup>th</sup> topic on economic vitality as being “very germane to what we are doing here” and urged the members to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Norton  
Administrative Assistant