

MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH, New Hampshire

Minutes of January 14, 2019

Members Present: James Kelly, Beth Alpaugh-Cote, Valerie Jenkins, Cathy Lanigan, Sarah Heller Steinberg and Ivy Vann

Also Present: Peter Throop, Laura Norton, and Kristin Bixby, Office of Community Development

Co-Chair Lanigan (Ms. Lanigan) called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. “hello and happy new year” she said.

Minutes: A motion was made/seconded (Kelly/Alpaugh-Cote) to approve the Minutes of December 10, 2018 with all in favor except Ms. Heller who abstained.

Economic Vitality Chapter:

Mr. Throop gave the members a brief review of the scheduling of the draft for the Master Plan. Noting the work on the Housing Chapter and the advent of the zoning season “we hope to have it done by the end of March” he said.

Regarding the zoning amendments Mr. Throop noted “it is not a big lift this year” as he noted a potential amendment to the Wetland Protection Overlay Zone and the Zoning Board’s discretion for criteria for granting Special Exceptions. He noted the Zoning Board is often driven into Planning Board design territory (site plan, lighting etc.) “when they should only be looking at uses only.”

Mr. Throop concluded by noting the potential for a solar ordinance amendment. A brief discussion about the lack of outreach for the

ordinance followed with Mr. Throop noting the goal is protect the character of the town by protecting the streetscapes on the ground. Noting the interest for larger arrays Mr. Throop also noted there were limits on the size of arrays (currently 1 MegaWatt) due to the lack of outreach and research on them. He noted the Ad Hoc group that had brought the solar warrant article to Town Meeting last year was also working on an Energy Chapter for the Master Plan. “Other than that, we have some housekeeping items and a potpourri of fairly minor amendments” he said.

Housing Chapter and RFQ Process:

Mr. Throop began by noting the public feedback had reflected a lack of understanding “and that needs to be addressed” he said. He noted the scope and scale of the amendment left neighborhoods feeling threatened and that their concerns had gone unanswered. “The conclusion is more outreach, getting int the neighborhoods” he said adding “and we will do that as part of the Housing Chapter of the Master Plan.” He cited robust public engagement, determining and vetting future housing goals and creating a new amendment for 2020. He told the Members he was attending the Board of Selectmen’s meeting the next day to request \$9500 for a consultant to manage the amendment adding “and I want to talk to you about forming a Housing Steering Committee to detail the process.” Mr. Throop specifically asked Ms. Alpaugh-Cote and Ms. Jenkins, both of whom accepted. He noted they would be engaging the Planning Board, employers and housing advocates in the process.

Mr. Kelly asked for clarification noting there was a Housing Committee “that meets every week.” Mr. Throop noted this group would be separate and act as a steering committee in assisting the consultant. “Their primary role is to help design the outreach for the amendment” he said.

Review of Updated Chapter Summaries:

Ms. Bixby picked up the Power Point presentation of updates where they'd left off.

Transportation: Progress Highlights included creating signage to increase through-traffic in the Downtown during the pending Main Street Bridge and US Route 101 Bridge constructions. The Members reviewed the Goals agreeing they seemed fine. Ms. Heller asked about specifically noting the importance of pedestrian traffic with Ms. Vann adding “there should be something in there about being more bicycle and pedestrian friendly.” Increased pedestrian safety and providing for a more walkable community was added and alternative modes of transportation (walking bicycling) was called out in the Themes.

Water Resources: Ms. Bixby thanked Ms. Alpaugh-Cote for her important contribution to this summary. Progress Highlights included the work of the Water Resources Advisor Committee (now a part of the Conservation Commission); stormwater management, the Waste Water Treatment Facility, water sources and water storage. The Members reviewed the Goals and agreed they were fine.

Land Use: Progress Highlights reviewed land use statistics, the Groundwater Protection Overlay Zone (GPOZ), the Traditional Neighborhood Overlay Zones (TNOZ I and II) and the recently adopted Solar Ordinance. The Members reviewed the Goals and agreed they were fine.

Historic Resources: Ms. Bixby noted the addition of a definition for Historic Resources (a district, site, building, structure or object that is significant in the history, architecture, engineering, archaeology or culture of the town).

Progress Highlights included the role of the Heritage Commission, a review of the “Explore Our Town” mobile app and the example of the GAR Hall repurposed while maintaining its historic and aesthetic charm.

The Members reviewed the Goals and Themes and agreed to add the Demolition Permit process to the summary. Mr. Kelly asked for clarification on “early roads” in Themes and a brief discussion of the lack of connectivity of town roads (Four Winds Farm Road, Windy Row, Clubby Scott Road, General Miller Road, Cornish Road and many others) followed. When Mr. Kelly asked, “why are they noted in the Themes?” Mr. Throop interjected “to document them and the history of many now Class VI Roads that do not connect not anything.”

Regional Concerns: Progress Highlights included public safety (including emergency medical responses), public works, water resources (with the negotiation of a joint purchase of three new well in Jaffrey and Sharon) and workforce housing.

Ms. Bixby pointed out a SWAT Analysis (strengths, weaknesses opportunities and threats) of regional issues in economic vitality as defined by the Southwest Region Planning Commission. Ms. Vann noted the availability of bussing in the area adding it may be more appropriate to add the Goal section of the Transportation Chapter.

Cultural Resources: Progress Highlights included gathering spaces for public events ((Peterborough Town House and the anticipated new public space for small concerts and exhibits at the Peterborough Town Library). The Members reviewed the Goals citing the improved marketing expertise of a consultant and the use of social media and a new website for event promotion. “The intent is to attract young people, young families, entrepreneurs, and a diverse workforce to town” said Mr. Throop.

Municipal Facilities: Progress Highlights included the approval of funds for a new Library, the preliminary cost estimates for the design and construction of a new Public Works Garage and Fire Station. It was noted the passes for Cunningham Pond was opened to non-residents in 2018 and the Recreation Department brought back the ice-skating rink

this year. The members briefly reviewed the Goals and list of town facilities (public administration, public safety, public works, public library and recreation).

Ms. Lanigan concluded “so these summaries are to inform those who live here and attract those who do not.”

Other Business:

Ms. Heller inquired about an alternative meeting time, “Hopefully 5:00 p.m.” she said adding the 1:00 p.m. time is very difficult for her. Mr. Lanigan agreed, and the Members agreed to pursue a time change with Mr. Throop.

Next Meeting:

February 11, 2019 at a time to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Norton

Administrative Assistant