

MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH, New Hampshire

Minutes of November 19, 2018

Members Present: James Kelly, Beth Alpaugh-Cote, and Valerie Jenkins

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

Minutes: Deferred

Review Updated Chapter Summaries:

With no quorum Mr. Throop noted no voting could take place but suggested they proceed with the review of the updated Master Plan Chapters and get any input the Members present might have.

Ms. Bixby reviewed a Power Point presentation on the 2018 Chapter Summaries and Updates:

Vision Statement: The Members reviewed the Goals of the Vision Statement, including: maintaining the Town's small-town atmosphere open and welcoming to residents and visitors; sustaining an attractive and vibrant Downtown while nurturing the dynamic and diverse cultural scene; developing quality housing opportunities; protecting natural habitats and water resources; engaging in community participation in governance and decision making; and working in collaboration with other towns for mutually beneficial regional endeavors.

The Members agreed the update was succinct and informative. The Members also discussed and agreed to keep the 1954 quote from the history of Peterborough, New Hampshire.

Economic Vitality: Progress Highlights included strategies to business retention during the Main Street Bridge construction, incentives and benefits for retaining current and new potential employees (workforce development) and branding and imaging for the town through social media and outreach to current and new residents. The Members reviewed the Goals section without any changes.

Open Space: Progress Highlights included the addition of Open Space Residential Development (added in 2004) to encourage the maximization of protected open space by

allowing reduced lot sizes, frontages, and setbacks. It also noted that 8,388 of the Town's 24,000 acres are protected space.

The Members identified font changes with Ms. Bixby noting the fonts were altered during the conversion of the document into a PDF format and that she would correct them. The Members also had a brief discussion about owning land and easement responsibilities (which are two different things). Mr. Throop clarified that easements can be both town-owned and town monitored (such as a conservation easement where the town monitors the easement but does not own the land).

Housing: Progress Highlights included regional spearheading efforts to explore and develop viable workforce housing alternatives and the work done on creating a form-based code redesigning the residential and some commercial districts.

Mr. Kelly questioned the comparison of housing and employment capacities graphic, noting it was misleading. He asked what the data source was (2015 US Census – American Community Survey) adding “it sends the message that we are employing fewer people over time.” Mr. Throop explained the graphic actually depicts the number of *unfilled* jobs. Mr. Kelly replied, “to me it says jobs are shrinking.” Mr. Throop noted, “it is actually the number of people employed.” Mr. Kelly disagreed, noting, “to me it is the capacity, not the number of people employed” and looking to Mr. Throop asked, “so what the heck does it mean?” Mr. Throop agreed to review the data and change the label with Mr. Kelly replying, “please, this is all about the message being sent.”

Transportation: Progress Highlights included a team approach by the merchants to create signage to increase through-traffic in the Downtown during the Main Street Bridge construction, a new Downtown public parking lot, and a new roadway surface management system for inventory and analysis of road management priorities. The Members reviewed a graphic that depicted the best road management programs, including ongoing and routine maintenance rather than deferred maintenance where the road *under* the surface significantly deteriorates. Mr. Throop qualified the axes as quality of road surface (vertical) versus progression of time (horizontal). Mr. Kelly suggested the axes be labeled.

Water Resources: Progress Highlights included the Water Resources Advisory Committee becoming a part of the Conservation Commission, the 2008 Department of Public Work's upgrade in the Downtown stormwater management, the sequenced batch reactor at the Waste Water Treatment Facility and exploring new sources of water and water storage. Mr. Kelly questioned what NHDES stood for (New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services) and Ms. Jenkins asked about the definition of “overflow elevation” on the graphic. Ms. Bixby noted the graphic was placed as a filler and if the Members did not find value in it could be removed. The members agreed the information was important but a bit more information on it would make it more relevant.

Land Use: Progress Highlights included land use statistics, Groundwater Protection Overlay Zone (2011), the adoption of the Traditional Neighborhood Overlay Zones I and II (2014 and 2017) and the Solar Ordinance adopted in 2018.

The Members spoke briefly about the enhancement of connectivity of the villages and the protection of natural resources.

Historic Resources: Progress Highlights included the Heritage Commission's involvement in many activities that focus on the strength of the community, the creation of the Peterborough Mobile App in celebration of the Towns 275th anniversary in 2014, and the rehabilitation of the GAR Hall now serving as a brewery. The Members spent some time discussing the goals of this chapter, particularly the protection of historic resources (including cellar holes and stone walls) from the impact of other land use decisions. The Members suggested a definition of historic resources be included in the summary.

Regional Concerns: Progress Highlights included public safety, public works, water resources and workforce housing. The Members briefly discussed collaboration in regional awareness and facilitation of joint responses to regional problems.

Cultural Resources: Progress Highlights included maintaining/improving the quality of gathering spaces (Town Library, Community Center, and the Town House Upper Hall) and marketing and public relation efforts promoting many artistic and cultural events throughout the year.

Municipal Facilities: Progress Highlights included restoration of the Town House, the Town's new Library of the Future, a new Public Works Facility and Highway Garage and a new Fire and Rescue Facility.

Mr. Kelly noted the wording about the proposed library should read "an appropriation of 3,000,000 was approved at Town Meeting 2018" (not the total cost of the project at \$8,500,000).

The Members thanked Ms. Bixby for her work on putting the summaries together.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Norton

Administrative Assistant