

## MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH, New Hampshire

Minutes of December 10, 2018

**Members Present:** James Kelly, Beth Alpaugh-Cote, Valerie Jenkins, Cathy Lanigan, Karen Hatcher and Becky Sakellariou

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

Co-Chair Lanigan (Ms. Lanigan) called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed the members and staff.

**Minutes:** A motion was made/seconded (Kelly/Alpaugh-Cote) to approve the Minutes of October 15, 2018 and November 19, 2018 with all in favor.

Ms. Lanigan noted the purpose of the meeting today was to continue to review and update the Executive Summaries of the Master Plan Chapters. Ms. Bixby noted that while they did not have quorum in November several of the members had reviewed a Power Point presentation of the summaries and had offered several suggestions.

The members began with the *Vision Statement*. The members reviewed the order of bulleted items, repetition, grammar, verb tenses, hyphens and the use of symbols versus actual words (for example &/and).

Ms. Lanigan asked if the summary statement had to match the big book exactly with Mr. Throop interjecting “this is the process to make changes to the big book... at the end of the day you will make change recommendations to the Planning Board who in turn will have a public hearing and a vote on whether or not to approve your recommendations.” He concluded by noting, “it is important to

remember any changes capture the spirit of what is in the big book.” A bit more in-depth discussion on identifying the values projected and how they should be cross-checked and integrated into the summaries followed. This included the role of the Economic Development Authority (EDA) and their work as well. Ms. Hatcher asked about the relationship between the Master Plan Steering Committee and the EDA with Mr. Throop noting the two work together. “The Master Plan is the guiding document for the town” he said, adding, “so the narrative is a way to represent yourselves as coherent and consistent with it.” Mr. Throop also spoke briefly about the work the EDA was doing with Firebrand International and the creation of an Ecosystem.

Mr. Kelly noted concern that, “the one thing missing from the slide was attracting young people and new businesses to town.” It was pointed out that one of the goals in the vision statement was “maintaining our small-town atmosphere while providing a professional level of support, information, and services for the growth of both existing and new business.”

It was also noted that the Economic Vitality summary listed business retention and workforce development which encourages both recruitment and retainment. Moving on with the *Economic Vitality* page, the members wordsmithed the summary with all agreeing the sentence that referred to the anticipation of the Main Street Bridge closing for construction should be changed to “the anticipation for major infrastructure improvements.” Mr. Throop added that another important infrastructure improvement was the creation of a new parking lot with a pedestrian bridge to Depot Square.

There were several ideas and suggestions to change the format of the slides with the Members agreeing in the end to maintain them as presented.

The Members moved on to the *Open Space* page, where the main discussion revolved around the Open Space Residential Development

(OSRD) amendment in 2004. While some thought mentioning the amendment date was a bit archaic others thought it showed foresight to be thinking about the conservation of rural areas so long ago. “It is worth bragging about,” said Ms. Lanigan.

The Members briefly reviewed both *Housing* (where Ms. Lanigan asked if the summary reflected the Master Plan or was forward thinking with form-based code. To which Ms. Bixby relied “all the goals in the summary are currently in the Master Plan.”) and *Transportation* Chapters before (for time sake) skipping to the *Cultural Resources* summary for a brief review.

Ms. Lanigan asked about the reference to Arts Alive! noting, “I would rather talk about local art organizations.” The members agreed the photograph of the Community Center (where the Good of the Hive Mural is painted) needed to be swapped out with another photograph. “It is not an attractive building” said one member adding, “culture is people, so I’d like to see a photograph of Children and the Arts at the top and not bees on an ugly building.” A brief discussion about the various performing arts sectors in town followed.

**Next Meeting:**

After discussion the Members agreed to continue to hold their meetings on the second Monday of the month at 1:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, January 14, 2019

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Norton

Administrative Assistant