

MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH, New Hampshire

Minutes of February 12, 2018

Members Present: Beth Alpaugh-Cote, James Kelly, Ivy Vann, Bob Holt, Cathy Lanigan, Becky Sakellariou, Tyler Ward and Sarah Heller Stenberg

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

Ms. Vann volunteered to call the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and began with introductions.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman:

After a brief discussion as to whether or not Mr. Ward (as the Board of Selectmen Liaison to the Committee) could act as Chairman. Mr. Throop interjected “the role of the Chairman is to set the agenda and run the meeting.” A motion was made/seconded (Vann/Alpaugh-Cote) to elect Tyler Ward as Chairman with all in favor.

When Ms. Lanigan was asked if she would serve as Vice Chairman she replied “if Tyler is Chairman, yes.” A motion was made/seconded (Vann/Kelly) to elect Ms. Lanigan as Vice Chairman. Prior to the vote Ms. Heller Stenberg interjected “I’ll do it, Cathy does a lot, I will do it.” Consequently, a motion was made/seconded (Alpaugh-Cote/Lanigan) to elect Ms. Heller Stenberg Vice Chairmen with all in favor.

Minutes:

A motion was made/seconded (Ward/Kelly) to approve the Minutes of November October 13, 2017 with all in favor.

Request to Prepare an Energy Chapter of the Master Plan:

Mr. Throop briefly explained the creation of an Ad hoc Energy Committee “that has been blessed by the Board of Selectmen.” He added “a group of concerned and interested individuals had formed an Ad hoc Committee to explore smart energy

ideas and want a chapter in the Master Plan.” Ms. Lanigan asked “will they write it?” with Mr. Throop replying “yes, but it would be important to have a member on the committee.”

Mr. Throop also explained the group was headed by Joel and Anne Huberman. A proposed solar ordinance had been created and was going to public workshop on February 19, 2018 (next Monday) on for consideration and a motion to move it to public hearing in March. “It pretty much addresses what we permit today but includes off-site or non-accessory solar implementation not to exceed one megawatt” said Mr. Throop adding “it is a pretty limited scale and includes a minimum level of site selection criteria.” As for the scope he noted the current draft does it not exceed 1 megawatt. The plan will be to conduct more research and gather public input before determining how to handle systems greater than 1 MW. “It remains to be seen how large the Town will want to go, but that is for next year” he concluded.

Mr. Kelly asked if hydro power would be included in the chapter. Mr. Throop replied “hydro power is not addressed in this ordinance” and a brief discussion about hydro power, dams, state and federal requirements and the scope of the energy chapter followed. He noted the potential of a 100-acre solar field in town (originating from an RFP award for the state of Massachusetts, now a moot point) had initiated the request to develop an ordinance to address those uses.

With regards to the Master Plan Steering Committee’s representation on the Ad hoc Committee Ms. Heller Stenberg volunteered her participation if the schedule permitted. Mr. Kelly also offered to participate. “I would like to be involved as well” he said adding “energy sustainability in the community is very important to me.” Mr. Ward mentioned *Citizens Climate Control* (a non-profit, non-partisan grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change) and Ms. Vann noted *Mothers Out Front* (mother, grandmothers and other caregivers mobilizing together for a livable climate).

Facilities Management Chapter Update:

Mr. Throop gave the members a brief review of the most recent plan to move the Highway Department to the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) location and relocate the Fire Department to the old Highway site (with its own driveway and further back from the Community Center than originally planned). Mr. Throop noted the previous Weller & Michael and the Evan’s Flat Steering Committee studies. “Those and the fact that the Police are happy where they are and have a

good location vis-a-vis the Downtown it is not necessary to update the Facilities Chapter at this time” he said. Mr. Ward suggested a cookie-cutter design for the new fire station versus “spending another \$500,000 on another study.” Mr. Throop noted an effort to re-evaluate all outstanding debt to try to reduce it. “We are looking at the expenditures down the road and a comprehensive and competent approach to this” he said.

Economic Vitality Chapter Update:

Mr. Throop began by telling the members “there is no progress other than implementing it.” He went on to say “retention of the businesses we have is tied to workforce development (and) with a low unemployment rate, jobs remain unfilled.”

Mr. Throop touched on the Employer/Educator Forums that had taken place as well as ongoing collaborative efforts with Franklin Pierce University. When asked about the status of Nashua Community College coming to town Mr. Throop replied while he did not know the final status of the effort “I believe the Chancellor of the State System cited financial reasons and decreased enrollment for not coming.” Ms. Sakellariou asked if Mr. Throop if he could be more specific about Franklin Pierce University. Mr. Throop briefly reviewed the employer/educator forums and the focus on a regional layer across the school districts for vocational/technical skills training to take advantage of and work in the area. He spoke briefly about branding the greater Peterborough area and the initiative to market the area to people with young families that may decide to relocate here. Ms. Lanigan asked about obtaining demographics on newcomers with Mr. Throop noting information being collected from the Welcome Team, the Chamber of Commerce, local Realtors and even word of mouth from those renting in the area. He also cited the EDA’s strategic marketing and branding efforts as well. “Most people are going to get their information online” he said as he went on to describe another initiative (an RFQ) for a social media and online promotion coordinator to increase the town’s visibility and reinforce its image as an outstanding destination for young professionals and their families to relocate. He told the members a focus would be daily online postings that would encourage viewers to click on linked videos as well as quarterly 60-90 second videos on the Town’s You Tube channel.

Mr. Kelly noted an effort arising out of a Community Conversation to bring people from Puerto Rico to the area. A brief discussion about the Knowledge Network for Opportunity (KNOW) and a meeting with Coordinator Limary Lorenzo for those relief efforts followed. The members also briefly discussed the role of a

municipality as a catalyst in work force development. Mr. Throop told the members ultimately the schools have to bring the stakeholders together. “The work has to come from them” he said adding “there is only so much *the Town* can do in solving this problem.”

Housing Chapter Update:

Ms. Vann gave a brief update of the chapter. She told the members not a lot had been done as most of her time has been dedicated to the new form based code zoning amendment. “Like the Economic Vitality Chapter though, we are doing what we have learned” she said adding “but the chapter has not been written I am sorry to say.”

Ms. Vann then noted the zoning amendment’s final public hearing was February 19th at 6:30 p.m. “We don’t anticipate any changes, we have done a lot of front loading on public engagement and have noted and addressed the concerns of the Conservation Commission.” When Mr. Kelly asked about public engagement Ms. Vann noted the posted meetings in town buildings and the local newspaper, ongoing information on the website and six public workshops. When Mr. Ward asked about drive-thrus Ms. Vann noted “there are no changes to the drive-thru ordinance *period.*” She went on to tell the members the zoning amendment eliminates the minimum parking requirements as they make it hard to create new business and rehabilitate older buildings (and) eliminated the requirement for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) to be owner occupied and registered with the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds. “Our cause is committed to creating more housing choices. We do not require that for two-family homes which are permitted in every district ADUs are. That is a *huge* conflict” she said. Ms. Vann also noted the amendment would be “locked and loaded until May” if voted to ballot on the 19th and the Planning Board would continue their education on the amendment through April.

Other Business:

Mr. Throop noted two items of other business, the first being a strategic plan for Recreation and ultimately a move in the direction of a Recreation Chapter of the Master Plan. The other item of business was a reiteration of the Knowledge Network for Opportunity and their meeting March 9, 2018 at 2:45 p.m. at the Peterborough Town Library. A brief discussion about the promotion of the entrepreneurial community, an Angel Network Unit (Our Town Capital) an anonymous group of investors who want to help create an environment of

entrepreneurial spirit through start-up funding like *Hyndsight Vision Systems* (wireless camera applications) and *Nuttin Ordinary* (plant-based products) followed. Mr. Ward also announced MAt had recently signed a seven-year lease for 7000 square feet at Vose Farm Business Center. “So keep an eye out” he said with a smile.

In conclusion Mr. Holt announced he was resigning from the Committee due to time restraints. Mr. Throop noted this left a vacancy in the membership that the members may or may not fill before the May town meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. with Mr. Ward thanking Mr. Holt for his service. “It is understandable, but you are welcome back anytime” he said.

Next Meeting: March 12, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Norton

Administrative Assistant