

Essex Strategic Planning Committee  
March 14, 2016  
7:00 PM  
Essex Senior Center, 17 Pickering Street

Minutes

Members present: David Gabor, Michael Burke, Charlie McNeil, Anne Cameron, Lisa O'Donnell, Keith Symmes, Julie Scofield, Peter Madsen, Westley Burnham, John Bedize

Staff Present: Brendhan Zubricki, Matt Coogan

The meeting began at 7:00 PM

1. Public Comment

Mike Dyer, resident of Essex and a member of the Manchester Essex Land Trust addressed the committee. He mentioned that MELT is working on a new strategic play for identifying critical and unprotected lands. The organization is also interested in developing closer ties to both Towns (Manchester and Essex). Mr. Dyer suggested that the Committee invite representatives from both MELT and Essex Greenbelt to a future meeting to continue the conversation.

2. Approval of meeting minutes for November 23, 2015

Meeting minutes for 11/23/2015 were approved

3. Discussion of appointment of SPC Chair and Vice Chair

David Gabor was voted in as Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Mike Burke was voted in as Vice Chair of the SPC.

4. Review of Town staff and Public feedback

The Committee reviewed the feedback received at the Board of Selectmen Quarterly Managers and Committee Chairs Meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 and the Strategic Plan Public Forum on February 10<sup>th</sup>. The Committee also reviewed the emails that were sent to the Committee covering the draft plan. The Committee agreed to incorporate the prevailing themes of the feedback into the strategic plan. The two main themes from the feedback were:

- There are not enough Town funds to pursue all of the goals outlined by the SPC, and thus the SPC should prioritize the goals of the plan based on what is most important and essential to the Town in the future (e.g. needs before wants).
- The public needs to have ample opportunities throughout the strategic planning process to vote, approve and fund any action and initiative that is generated from the strategic planning process, and the SPC should work on ways to better inform the public.

The Committee agreed to have David Gabor send responses to all the emails thanking the residents for their feedback.

5. Discussion of strategic update document for 5/2 Town Meeting

Brendhan explained that there will be a warrant article at Town Meeting that would allocate some funding for the Strategic Planning Committee to use towards additional public outreach for the strategic plan. Matt mentioned that he will draft a document for Town Meeting that summarizes the public feedback process of the SPC and plans going forward. This document would also discuss the warrant article.

6. Review of goals and actions matrix – finish prioritizing actions

The Committee discussed the need to prioritize the goals in the strategic plan since there are not enough Town funds nor means to address all at once. The Committee agreed to discuss this further at the April meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.