

**TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
PLANNING BOARD & SELECTBOARD  
JOINT MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2014 6:30 PM  
TOWN HALL  
334 MAIN STREET GREAT BARRINGTON  
LARGE MEETING ROOM**

**MASTER PLAN SPECIAL JOINT MEETING  
MINUTES**

**PLANNING BOARD**

Jonathan Hankin – Chairman  
Suzanne Fowle Schroeder  
Malcolm Fick  
Jack Musgrove (via telephone)  
Brandee Nelson – not present

**SELECTBOARD**

Ed Abrahams  
Dan Bailly  
Stephen Bannon  
Deb Phillips  
Sean Stanton

JENNIFER TABAKIN, TOWN MANAGER

**1. CALL TO ORDER :**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

**2. INTRODUCTION (Planning Board Chairman)**

Planning Board Chairman, Jonathan Hankin welcomed all to the first annual Master Plan Joint Meeting. He said that he would like to see the Master Plan become more integrated in everything that is done.

Selectboard Chair, Deb Phillips agreed that the Master Plan should be a 'living' document.

**1. 2013 MASTER PLAN PROGRESS REPORT (Town Planner)**

Town Planner, Chris Rembold, gave a presentation with a review of the content and major initiatives in the Master Plan and progress to date.

Chris stated that the Master Plan helps to focus ideas and develop fiscally realistic strategies to achieve a consensus vision. Agriculture, Energy and Climate change are included in the Plan and are highlighted as key issues for our future.

Chris Rembold pointed out core initiatives and highlights of progress to date. He said that progress is just a snapshot and expressed that this is a collaborative effort. Chris said that many items are underway due to the help of community members.

Chris Rembold broke down the progress in sections entitled: Character, Community, Connections, Commerce, Coordination and Collaboration.

Character: Redevelopment projects such as the Log Homes Site, the Fairgrounds and old schools have moved forward via private initiative with town support.

Community: This includes energy initiatives in town buildings, the Solarize Mass. Program for residents, the signed lease agreement at the courthouse, CDBG grant for housing rehab and senior center multigenerational/multicultural events.

Connections: This progress includes bike and walking paths being explored with new partners, Lake Mansfield recreation area planning, the Railroad purchase by DOT and completed bus ridership surveys.

Commerce: The Broadband middle mile is 'lit up' and Wired West is working with State Representatives, as well as, coming to more towns for participation. Great Barrington has also 'won' a grant to help businesses and the Chamber to explore a downtown-focused organization.

Coordination and Collaboration: This includes information sharing such as the South County Resource list that was created by volunteers.

Chris spoke about the implementation of the Plan over a 5 year timeline.

#### **a. Allocation of Funds for Formatting and Printing (Discussion)**

Town Manager, Jennifer Tabakin, said that this document should be bound by a graphic designer.

Suzie Fowle Schroeder said that this is an award winning document and a printed and bound version would be appropriate.

Sharon Gregory said that one copy for each committee would be helpful.

Deb Phillips asked the Town Manager to find out the cost of having the Master Plan printed and bound.

#### **4. DISCUSSION / REVIEW OF PLAN PRIORITIES, AND NEEDED UPDATES**

Malcolm Fick asked if there are any areas that we are 'falling down' on.

Chris Rembold replied that this is the first year and we are 'just getting the ball rolling.' Chris said that it is important to do what makes sense with the resource that we have.

Malcolm Fick asked at what point does the plan need to be revised?

Chris replied that the 2 Boards present should meet yearly and then in a few years there should be a multi-board meeting to make decisions about possible revisions.

Finance Committee Chair, Sharon Gregory, asked if there could be a process that the Master Plan be integrated into the work of the School Committee.

Deb Phillips responded that this is what the School Committee is for; the representatives are familiar with the Master Plan and use this knowledge as they make plans and decisions.

#### **5. SET DATE FOR NEXT ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING (Discussion)**

No date was set

#### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The Planning Board adjourned its meeting at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Cara Becker

Recording Secretary