

Great Barrington Master Plan Committee (MPC)

Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2013
Great Barrington Fire Station

Members present: Barbara Bailly, Charles Bouteiller, Ryan Caruso, Ethan Culleton, Shep Evans, Jonathan Hankin, Bill Meier, Deborah Phillips, David Rutstein (alternate, voting), David Shanahan, and Michael Wise. Also present was Chris Rembold, Town Planner.

Members absent: Andrew Blechman, Richard Dohoney, Suzanne Fowle, Michele Gilligan, Paul Ivory, Vivian Orłowski.

Co-Chairperson Michael Wise began the meeting at 7:36 PM.

Minutes of April 11, 2013

Hankin moved to approve and the minutes were approved without objection.

Draft Implementation chapter

Rembold began the meeting with a quick overview of the implementation chart, reviewing it for Committee members not present on April 11. He noted the chart handed out tonight is a revised format based on comments at the April 11 meeting. Columns have been combined and color coded to help group information and guide readers. A color-code or acronym code will represent which of the Four Key Issues are addressed by a particular strategy. The content from the “measure of success” column will be included in the appropriate block for each strategy.

Bouteiller thought the middle columns (no regrets, building blocks, priority projects, and vision projects) were a step in the right direction but did not actually prioritize the strategies. Wise suggested a narrative might help with this problem. He suggested the Committee revisit prioritization at an upcoming meeting.

Rutstein referred to line no. 45 and said the historic brochure and tours strategy is already being implemented. The Committee rewrote the strategy to read “continue and expand” the oral history programs.

The Committee worked through the draft and identified strategies that overlapped, could be combined or reworded. Revisions were made to the “lead and responsibility” in some instances, including adding supporting actors or boards in parentheses.

Discussing Homes and Housing the Committee noted there is not a clear goal for appropriate housing for seniors. Rembold said he would look into that in conjunction with the Planning Board’s recent discussions about cottage housing, clustered infill housing, and age 55-plus housing. The Committee generally agreed that age-restricted neighborhoods are not desired—integration is the guiding principal—but an assisted living facility is needed. He would make sure the strategies added by the Committee tonight would be built into the text of each chapter.

Several goals were revised or added to the chart. Hankin asked that the chart include a goal regarding rural road walking routes. It has been mentioned in the drafting but there does not seem to be a strategy for it. Hankin also noted there was a need to work with the Chamber or a Business Improvement District to manage the commercial/retail mix downtown to guard against, for example, too many realty offices.

Discussing Education and Commerce items, the Committee noted there is a lack of clear workforce development strategies. Rembold said he would revisit the draft chapter and develop strategies.

Rembold said his next step is to revise the implementation chart and ensure it is consistent with the draft chapters. New drafts will be available for the May meeting.

Other Issues and Concerns

None

Adjournment

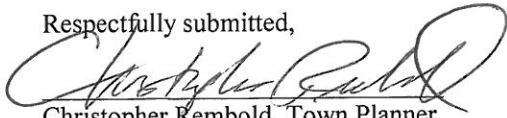
Wise said the next meeting will be May 23 at 7:30 PM.

Hearing no further business, Wise adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Materials distributed or presented at this meeting:

- Draft Minutes of April 11, 2013
- Draft Implementation Chart, revised format

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Rembold, Town Planner