



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Master Plan Steering Committee

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Approved 2.13.19

**Master Plan Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2019
Northborough Free Library**

Members Present: Fran Bakstran, Chairman; Rick Leif, Vice-Chairman; Norm Corbin, Susan Lawrence, Tom Reardon, Jonathan Cogswell, Amy Poretsky, Jason Perreault, Michelle Gillespie, Alexandra Molnar, George Pember

Others Present: Kathy Joubert, Town Planner; Geoffrey Morrison-Logan, VHB; Donny Goris-Kolb, VHB; Kerri Martinek, 16 Hemlock Drive

Chairman Bakstran opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

Mr. Goris-Kolb stated the recommendations for the Land Use goals have been revised based on the January 10th meeting and the intent for tonight is to complete the review of the draft recommendations for the other chapters of the Master Plan and have them ready for the Public Forum on February 13th.

Mr. Goris-Kolb stated he received comments from 10 members. He explained they will be focusing tonight on the comments that are highlighted in green, as these comments were the most prevalent.

Ms. Bakstran and Mr. Goris-Kolb thanked the members who submitted their comments.

The committee continued reviewing and revising the draft recommendations from where they let off at the last meeting, as follows:

Economic Development

The members discussed the need to define the downtown. Undertaking a study to explore the potential of designating the downtown as a Business Improvement District was also discussed. The committee talked about encouraging mixed-use development for appropriately positioned private land assets; and a strategy for provisions of public utilities.

Natural, Cultural and Historic Resources

The members talked about exploring adding permanent protections to all town-own open spaces, mainly near the Assabet River. Floodplain management and the 500-year storm were discussed regarding how to protect homes from flooding and the cost of flood insurance.

The members talked about identifying and supporting reuse efforts for town-owned historic property, such as the old Fire Station; and also discussed investigating opportunities to hire interns who have an interest in history to support the town's local preservation projects which will include seeking possible funding sources.

Public Facilities and Services

The members discussed the need and potential funding for expanding water and sewer; and conducting a citizen satisfaction survey to better understand the quality of municipal services and identify opportunities for improvement. In addition, participation in the State's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program (MVP) was discussed, and included beginning to plan to improve the Town's key infrastructure for climate change resiliency. Regarding climate change, the members discussed the Massachusetts Green Communities program, and thought the Planning Board may want to propose another solar bylaw in the future. Items regarding the schools were removed, as that is the School Committee responsibility.

Transportation

The members discussed the development of bike routes throughout Town, using a combination of existing bike facilities and roadways.

Housing

H1 – The members noted White Cliffs needs to be added to the suggested evaluation of the Westborough State Hospital property and Boundary Street property as potential sites for housing development.

February 13th Public Forum

The Public Forum will be located at the Zeh School at 7:00pm and the Steering Committee will meet at 6:45pm. Ms. Joubert noted she will post the agenda and have name tags for the members. Tables will be set up by subject matter and/or goals; and there will be two facilitators at each table. The dot system will be used to assign priorities.

There will be a fifteen-minute introduction, and four table rotations that will be approximately one and a half hours long. Afterwards, there will be a fifteen-minute summary from each facilitator.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Debbie Grampietro
Planning Department
Administrative Assistant