

Westminster Master Plan Committee

Westminster Master Plan/Open Space Joint Meeting Minutes 9/18/13

Committee Members Present: Steve Wallace, Mike Fortin, Heather Billings, Bud Taylor, Mike Gallant, Dean Johnson, Laila Michaud, Linda Wiest, Scott Ryder, Donna Brownell, Josh Schonborg, Richard Vaillette, Richelle Brown, Joe Flanagan.

Meeting called to order at 7:00, Laila, Dean seconded, AIF

Minutes from 8/21/13 approved with corrections. Laila motion, Dean seconded AIF

Comments from Planning Board Chairman:

Chair Bud Taylor addressed the joint meeting to thank Steve W and the committee for their work to date on the Master Plan. The Planning Board appreciates that the Town Planner took on the Master Plan in house and believes it will be a guiding document for the Town. It does not have to be voted on at Town Meeting in order to be "our document", however, the Planning Board would like to have the Town majority, department heads and Town board support it.

Discussion about how often to ask for input and to continue to make revisions before creating a deadline, making best use of volunteer time. Consensus was that comments would continue to be solicited and incorporated to make the most inclusive plan possible. Printed documents or digital word documents have been distributed to those who have indicated that they would like to make comments including Selectmen John Fairbanks and Wayne Walker, Chief Sam Albert, Advisory Board. DPW and Fire Department comments on the Town Government chapter have been received.

Outreach assignment review:

Laila spoke with Chief MacAloney about his concerns on the chapter. Difficult to measure quality of life in numerical statistics. FD has quick response & is knowledgeable. Concerns about email chain received, originally written by Mike Fortin & forwarded several times. Requested that Mike Fortin resign as Chair & from committee.

Mike Fortin requested that the email be read to the group. Laila started to read, but the email string was pages long. Mike resigned as chair of the committee. No volunteers to take his place.

Steve has meeting with John Fairbanks for editing/comment session.

Heather's assignment was members of Board of Selectmen. Requested that they read and comment on plan to be informed & involved.

Richelle- met with Con Com requested that they make sure to read everything, ask if they have questions and be supportive at Town Meeting.

Linda- on agenda for next Parks & Rec meeting.

Scott- provided update to DPW. Word version can be provided for any additional comments.

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Mike F- met with Advisory Board, provided paper copies. Board started to read and make comments. Requested that they put comments in writing and submit to the MP committee.

Scheduling for finishing Master Plan.

Open Space section should be done by the end of December. Next step is to send it off to the State and expect a few comments for revision. Westminster will maintain eligibility for grants once the plan is approved.

Full draft ready by the end of March. Need to spend considerable time going around to all Boards and Committees going over the plan and receiving comments. Plan to bring to Fall 2014 Town Meeting.

Options for hosting Main Street Design Charrette:

U Mass Amherst landscape department may be able to help us for a Saturday forum if we hold it in the Spring. SW to call back at the end of the month to see if faculty agrees.

Next meeting is Open Space/Master Plan joint meeting on October 7th at 5pm.

Go over the action plan of the 2007 Open Space plan. Translate action plan onto the map.

Plan for BOS agenda item on October 21.

Motion to adjourn Laila, Dean seconded AIF 8:05

Respectfully submitted:

Heather Billings