

Westminster Master Plan March 19, 2014

Present: Steve Wallace, Laila Michaud, Linda Wiest, Mike Gallant, Mike Fortin, Richelle Brown, Ted Fiffy, Dean Johnson.

Guests: U Mass Amherst students

Call to order 7:00pm.

Last minute logistics for April 12 workshop: begin at 9:15 after time to say good morning.

Dry run of walk around town-45 minutes last week.

Set up of Eloranta room, snacks outside, full house is 60. Break into 4 groups. U Mass Students split between group, MP committee members split 2 to a group too. Go around town in different directions. Help facilitate discussion. Topics to discuss are on the flyer. What do you want to see, where do you want to see, point out what's there and what's missing.

SWAT exercise. 1-2-3-4 Label the tables, break up accordingly. Make two appointments from the tables, a scribe for notes on the flip chart and a spokesman to go over notes at the end. U Mass students will be the facilitators, but if see point to contribute- go ahead. Keep it positive. Make sure everybody at the table plays. 45 minutes for exercises, present, dot exercise.

Committee members won't be the scribe or spokespeople.

Guests: Dr John Mullen, Alex Mellow (Somerville) foreman, Alison Manuel (Wilbraham), Mark Berube (Hampden CT),((Industrial Land Crisis-thesis topic)), Russell Pantras (Charlotte, NC) Planning & Public Policy – Impact of e-commerce on local commercial development.

Coffee-Juice-Pastry donations. Linda (Dunkin Donuts) be there at 8:15am.

Publicity Tree- Meeting notices in Gardner News and Sentinel and Enterprise. S&E just did story GN in the next week or so. Notices to civic organizations. Links on websites. Community event & facebook page.

Your voice host will be there- not filming.

BOS announce.

MP members will deliver flyers.

Presentation to BOS in April 4/28.

Provide small maps of town center to make notes on.

Grant from DHCD. Notified by paper to receive \$10,000, however Dr Mullen & students not on state approved vendor list. Town will use the \$10,000 grant to the next step. Have one of the approved vendors prepare an implementation plan. Steve Cecil (from Boston) will be coming on 4/28, meet at the library. Sending a staff member to the April charrette. Between the interested town people, surrounding community planners, expect a packed room.

Long range planning- town center is not going to be overhauled soon.

Review full draft of Land Use Chapter

Typos & thoughts shared for final edits.

Map- we can't change for April 12. Crop & pasture land same color as residential. Based on statewide land use mapping effort from 1999.

50 foot height- based on 4 story building? Chimney exempt if necessary.

Impervious surface- bonus of using pervious pavement. Lot percentage is not consistent. Might have been to exclude.

Move to accept the existing & future land use chapter Laila, Dean, AIF.

Upcoming meeting schedule April 16th.

Put together the implementation plan. (except Open Space Plan). Is this long term recommendation (above 6), medium (2-6 years), or immediate. What can we get accomplished in first year = immediate. Look over all of the recommendations and see what would make sense.

SW will put all of the recommendations on one document.

SW wants to put village center zoning in place.

Presentation for town meeting sent out today. Announcing who we are, what we did, why we did it. Here's where you can find it to read it. Have from May through the end of September to get us their comments. One last editing session in October. Full draft then ready for acceptance.

Highlight our bond rating goes up, get grants for projects. Every recommendation is ammunition for future grant applications. We the committee saved the town \$100,000 by doing it in house. What level of involvement with 2000 master plan, what with this one, survey, meetings, forums,

Come to November meeting- most important vote that you make. Town wide inclusive. Guides the town in the next 10 years, rallying behind it. It's a living document, don't want it to sit on the shelf. For May go on webpage. Drafts of each section listed in order. Pulling all together with maps & pictures, have to do that over the summer with table of contents. Final document will be tabbed in sections.

May- select pictures to include. Need a total of 25. 3-4 for each chapter. Try to get them out to group before the meeting for review. Pull together in June & July.

May- make committee outreach assignments. Laila-meet with Kevin in April for informal talk.

June-July off

August- reconvene and discuss outreach

September- final comment session.

Approve minutes from January 15th. Laila, Mike AIF

Mike to do February minutes.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, AIF