

Westminster Master Plan January 15, 2014

Present: Stephen Wallace, Heather Billings, Mike Fortin, Dean Johnson, Richelle Brown, Linda Wiest, Mike Gallant, Laila Michaud, Scott Ryder

Mike took notes for first ½ hour.

7:04 called to order

DPW @ selectmen's meeting Jan 27th @6 to discuss sewer expansion proposal.

Discussion of sewer expansion expenses and tax percentages of how to pay for it. Without sewer, commercial growth can't happen.

Review edits to the Town Government Chapter

Scott- point of holding CPI to hold spending has been removed. Would like to see limits.

#3 on objectives- put it back in or not. Two Selectmen strongly object to limit to CPI. Scott will have discussion with John & Wayne about putting it back in. "Strive" to ensure the rise in property taxes to not more than the increase in Massachusetts CPI.

Josh to write Sewer expansion blurb for chapter.

Motion to update Government & Economic Development Chapters with DPW Sewer Discussion everywhere it occurs. Scott, Laila seconded, AIF

Recommendation #3: Motion to keep the department budgeting guidelines and add wording to consult the DOR website for available resources. Dean, Richelle seconded, AIF

Motion to accept new version of Town Government Chapter. Linda, Dean seconded, All except Scott in favor. Scott abstained until after talking to Selectmen.

Timing: read, review, send any questions by end of January. Show up at Feb meeting with answers to questions. Set goals & objectives and kick around recommendations. March- review & revise recommendations. April meeting look at all of the plan's recommendations and prepare time line for them (implementation plan). Short term, Medium Term (2-6 years), Long Term (10 years), or Ongoing. We will arrive at May Town Meeting with complete draft of plan, also on Town's website for residents to read, review, & digest. We'll make the rounds to meetings and hold public forums. Come back in November to special town meeting for vote to accept it.

Printed copies will be limited due to expense. Read online, or come to Steve's office to make arrangements. Monty Tech will print 25 paper copies, and the rest will be on disks.

Looking for pictures to add inside the report and for the cover too.

Committee outreach assignments- same as before. Ask your assigned group to read the plan and have your comments ready. Master Plan Committee will finalize text in October at the latest, and then have printed.

Review data/analysis portion of the Land Use Chapter

Based on 2001 figures from MRPC and on 1999 U Mass data, which is the most current available.

Update other data as it is available.

Loss of farming & forests matches one to one with increase in residential housing.

Would like to add a page of how land gets developed in Massachusetts which is important for context.

Explain the following in layman's terms; sub division, approval not required plan, by right vs. special permit, unique back land development provision.

Summarize zoning districts- what's allowed & dimensional requirements.

Feel free to add by-law flaws.

Layout is pretty sensible. Commercial/Industrial, denser population closer to center of town. Not many lines to redraw.

Map: From 2000 survey, Add recreation facility key for Golf course.

Corrections: Pan Am from Southern Railroad; State Road East as an additional retail location.

Progress report on updating the Open Space & Recreation Plan

Ag Comm & Open Space are working to finish by Monday the 27th. Final touches on Open Space Plan in order to meet deadline for sending to State.

Last editing session Monday Jan 27, 4pm. Meeting room next to Planning office.

March, final-final-final editing session with State and Board comments to incorporate.

Main Street Design Charrette:

Saturday morning, April 12 9-1, snow date April 19.

Feb meeting to discuss logistics- coffee donuts, publicity. March doing outreach

Look over town center maps- cross walks, walk beginning to end, discussion of what do you want the buildings, lighting and roadway to look like, landscape, lighting, location of parking.

Directions:

Comments by end of January. **Next meeting Feb 19th**. Goal setting

Motion to adjourn: Richelle, Dean seconded AIF 8:43

