

# TOWN OF WINCHENDON



Master Plan Committee

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109 Front Street  
Winchendon, Massachusetts 01475-1758  
Robinson Broadhurst Conference Room  
Master Plan Committee  
Meeting Minutes June 23, 2014



**PRESENT:** James Halloran, Jane LaPointe, Corey Bohan, Penny Maliska, Doneen Durling, Tracy Murphy  
John Hume of MRPC

**ABSENT:** Lionel Cloutier, Brian Dickens

**Materials:** Power point presentation/economics MRPC

**CALL TO ORDER:** 3:05 by Tracy Murphy

Introduce new members; James Halloran was present and spoke of his interest in the Master Plan. He has served in Lunenburg on the Planning Board and is also knowledgeable concerning the MRPC.

Brian Dickens is also a new member but was not present. His seat on Parks and Recreation will provide insight.

Ms. Murphy said the board is comprised of people with a diversity of perspective, especially as it relates to the separate chapters.

Ms. Murphy asked members to decide on the number of seats on the committee because it needed to be determined for a quorum.

Ms. Maliska said she knew of a student, Miranda Bishop that wanted to become part of the committee.

There was discussion on whether she would have a vote since she was not of the age to cast a vote in town elections.

Ms. Murphy said that Diane Sevigny was also seeking a seat on the board and was looking forward to an appointment by the Planning Board. Ms. Murphy offered to obtain the information on a student's right to vote if she was not of legal age for a civic vote.

The board discussed seven seats and three alternates.

*Ms. Durling moved that the Master Plan Committee would be comprised of 7 members and 3 alternate members/second by Ms. LaPointe.*

*Halloran (Y) LaPointe (Y) Bohan (Y) Maliska (Y) Durling (Y) 5 - 0  
Approved*

## ORGANIZATION

The committee discussed the position of chairman, vice chairman, and secretary

It was decided to rotate the duty of secretary,  
Ms. Murphy offered to take a turn with minutes  
The question came up concerning co chairs.  
Mr. Bohan said he believed co chairs would be confusing  
Mr. Bohan said he already expressed interest in the chair.  
Ms. Maliska said she also expressed interest in the chair.  
Ms. LaPointe said her schedule was too full to consider chair or vice chair.  
Ms. Durling said she had come prepared to nominate Ms. Maliska but wasn't sure she would run.

*Ms. Durling moved to appoint Ms. Maliska as Chairman and Mr. Bohan as vice chairman.*

*Halloran (Y) LaPointe (Y) Bohan (Y) Maliska (Y) Durling (Y) 5 - 0  
Approved*

Mr. Halloran asked if there would be more than 2 meetings per month.  
Ms. Murphy said there would be meetings 2 times per month and possibly more as information is gathered and the committee is needed.

The board welcomed John Hume of MRPC

Mr. Hume presented the Drat Inventory Analysis of the Economic Development Element of the Master Plan. He explained that the work was funded under the District Local Technical Assistance Program (DLTA) provided at no cost to Winchendon.

DLTA is funded through the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. (DHCD)

Mr. Hume explained that the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission serves 22 towns, and are currently involved in 14 different projects throughout the region. Winchendon BOS signs a contract with MRPC.

Ms. LaPointe asked where the data came from that was gathered for the economic report. Mr. Hume said he would look into getting more details. He said preparing the Master Plan chapter includes three steps: data collection and analysis, goal setting for the future, and recommendations and policies to achieve the goals.

Mr. Hume pointed to the unemployment rate in Winchendon that went from a low of 3.7% in 2001 to a high of 11.1% in 2010. In 2013 it had declined to 9.3%. He was unsure whether the drop was due to people just not seeking employment. According to data retrieved, Winchendon's unemployment rate has been consistently higher than the state.

Per capita income for Winchendon is \$27,688. Per capita income for the state is \$35,485.

The town's per capita income was lower than that of Hubbardston and Royalston, but higher than that of Gardner, Phillipston, or Templeton.

Mr. Hume explained that there is a difference between household and family median income.

Median Winchendon household \$61,937/Median Family, \$79,343  
State Household/\$66,658/ State family \$84,380

There is less poverty in Winchendon (7.9%) than Gardner (13%), Royalston (9.5%), Templeton (12.9%), and the state (11%), although more poverty than in Hubbardston (7%) and Phillipston (3.7%).

Mr. Hume spoke of jobs in Winchendon. He said between 2008 and 2012, the number of establishments in Winchendon increased by 19 (10.2%), but there was a loss of 84 workers (4.9%) The largest loss occurred during the economic recession. The average weekly wage increased by 10.2% outpacing inflation. The largest number of jobs was in health care and education.

Other strengths include trade, transportation, and utilities (290 jobs in 2012), leisure and hospitality (196 jobs), manufacturing (131), and construction (119)

There are more establishments in Winchendon than in other surrounding towns except Gardner.

Over \$55 million was earned in wages...more than surrounding towns except Gardner and Templeton.

In education: the largest segment of population has a high school diploma but no higher education. (25.9%)

State numbers ... (39%) has bachelors or higher. (Winchendon 20.4%)

Contribution to tax base.

Homeowners contribute 90.11%. Business contributes 9%. The rest (2%) is derived from personal property.

Brownfield

There are 5 tier-classified brownfields contaminated by oil or hazardous waste.

The next steps would include developmental potential of commercial/industrial land.

The board talked of strategies. They asked about trend data.

Mr. Hume said the GIS data is almost complete.

A presentation will be made at the end of July.

Mr. Bohan said he would like to see a chart. He used a web as a metaphor to explain the interrelationships in the community that the Master Plan will help weave together.

Where one is touched...how it will affect another.

Ms. Murphy said the committee should come up with a synopsis of what was said in describing the web and ripple effect to further the Master Plan marketing strategy.

She told members to think about where their interests lie for the different sections of the plan.

The next meeting was set for Monday, 7-14-14 at 3 p.m.

John Hume will return July 28.

*Ms. Durling moved to adjourn/second by Mr. Halloran*

Halloran (Y) LaPointe (Y) Bohan (Y) Maliska (Y) Durling (Y) 5 - 0  
Approved

Adjourned 4:05



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Chairman Penny Maliska



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Vice Chair Corey Bohan

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Jane LaPointe



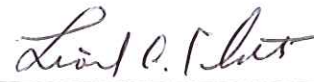
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James Halloran



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Doneen Durling



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Lionel Cloutier



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Brian Dickens

