



Town of Walpole
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Master Plan Steering Committee

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Dean Bebis John Hasenjaeger
Ashley Clark Jennifer Karnakis
Philip Czachorowski Margaret Kundert
Kari Denitzio Glenn Maffei
Andrew Flowers Michael McGrath
Janet Fasanello Donnell Murphy
 Katie Turco-Abate

MINUTES
MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
Monday, December 28, 2021

Present: Philip Czachorowski, Dean Bebis, Ashley Clark, Kari Denitzio, Janet Fasanello, John Hasenjaeger, Jennifer Karnakis, Margaret Kundert, Glenn Maffei, Michael McGrath, Donnell Murphy, Katie Turco-Abate, Patrick Deschenes (Director of Community Development), Judi Barrett (Barrett Planning Group), Fiona Coughlan (Barrett Planning Group), Daphne Politis (Barrett Planning Group), and Martha Lyon (Barrett Planning Group).

Introductions

Judi Barrett introduced her colleagues from the Barrett Planning Group (Fiona Coughlin, Daphne Politis, and Martha Lyon) to the rest of the Committee.

Meeting Minutes 10/5/2021 & 11/8/2021

Mr. Czachorowski moved to defer voting on the meeting minutes until the next meeting on January 4th, 2022.

Master Plan Logo

Ms. Turco-Abate stated that a winner of the high school's logo design contest has been selected, and they will announce the winner to the public at the meeting on January 4th.

Mr. Czachorowski commended the level of talent that was displayed in all the submissions and proposed writing a letter to the class to thank them. Ms. Turco-Abate suggested inviting the students to a future Planning Board meeting to recognize and honor them. Mr. McGrath suggested putting all the designs in the school's digital memo.

Community Engagement

Judi Barrett and her colleagues provided an update on the community survey and Miro participation. Over 700 people participated in the survey, and the next task is to tabulate the data.

Ms. Barrett stated that members of the Committee should host Kitchen Table Conversation Meetings to discuss the plan more intimately with different members of the community. She encouraged them to reach out to parts of the population that are typically underrepresented, such as renters, newcomers, and people who speak languages other than English.

Mr. Czachorowski stated that in light of COVID resurgence, people may feel more comfortable holding these Kitchen Table Conversations virtually. He suggested coming up with a list of organizations to reach out to and assigning different ones to different members to contact. Ms. Clarke volunteered to set up a Google Sheets document which the Committee members can easily share and edit.

Daphne Politis stated that in order to reach residents who speak languages other than English, they may need to allocate some of their budget into translation and interpretation services.

Mr. Hasenjaeger stated that he didn't believe non-English-speakers were a large enough segment of Walpole's population to require the Committee to spend extra effort and funds on them. Ms. Clarke and Ms. Denitzio strongly disagreed with him and cited the number of children enrolled in Walpole Public Schools who speak a language other than English at home.

Mr. Deschenes stated that he has access to a list of renters in the town that he can share with the Committee to reach out to that portion of the community. Ms. Clarke stated that she is in contact with a group of renter mothers of children in the school system that she can connect with.

Ms. Lyons proposed getting in touch with the cultural council, because their different arts and music programs may attract a diverse group of people. Ms. Karnakis suggested reaching out through the Home Town Weekly paper to reach people who aren't part of any particular groups.

Ms. Barrett reminded the group that there is a time limit at the end of January when they need to move to the next phase, so they don't have a lot of time to finish this one. She also stated that she will make a standardized presentation and script that Committee members may use when contacting members of the community to make sure everyone is spreading the same message.

Committee Organization: Options

Mr. Czachorowski announced that he wanted to form small subcommittees based around each element of the Master Plan so members can specialize in a few areas. The 10 elements of the plan are Natural Resources, Open Space & Recreation, Climate Change & Resiliency, Land Use & Zoning, Economic Development, Public Facilities & Services & Energy, Transportation, Housing, Community Health, and Cultural & Historic Resource Areas.

Each member of the Committee was appointed by a Town Board or Committee, and many can use their expertise to guide one of the 10 elements. Mr. Czachorowski assigned each member to send him and Mr. Deschenes two or three elements that they are particularly interested in so they can start to form working groups around each subject.

Mr. Hasenjaeger stated that he disliked the idea of limiting the number of members responsible for each element. Mr. Czachorowski stated that this setup is designed so that each element

receives an equal amount of attention and the number of meetings each member will need to attend is reduced. Ms. Barrett clarified that this step is just for data compilation, and the groups will not be structuring the plan or making any biased value judgements.

MOTION by Mr. Czachorowski and seconded by Mr. Maffei to create working groups of two to three people centered around each element of the Master Plan to review the collected data and share their findings with the Barrett Planning Group and the rest of the Committee.

The motion carried 11-1-0 (Mr. Hasenjaeger no)

Ms. Turco-Abate stated that an upcoming meeting on February 22 falls during a school vacation week and suggested that they send out a poll to see how many members of the Committee will be available for the meeting. Mr. McGrath and Ms. Fasanello indicated that they would not be able to meet on February 22.

Master Plan Schedule

Mr. Czachorowski stated that they were looking to schedule an additional meeting on January 4. Ms. Turco-Abate and Ms. Denitzio indicated that they would not be able to meet on that date. Seeing that a majority of members were available, Mr. Czachorowski scheduled an additional meeting for January 4, 2022 and will send out a poll to determine the start time.

Ms. Turco-Abate requested that before the next survey, the committee be given the questions and topics further in advance so they have more time to prepare and familiarize themselves with it.

Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. McGrath, all in favor 12-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Next meeting: 1/4/21

Respectfully submitting: Kevin Sanderson