



**Town of Walpole
Commonwealth of
Massachusetts Master Plan
Steering Committee**



Master Plan Steering Committee

Dean Bebis, Ashley Clark, Philip Czachorowski (Chair), Kari Denitzio, Andrew Flowers, Janet Fasanello, John Hasenjaeger, Jennifer Karnakis, Glenn Maffei, Michael McGrath, Donnell Murphy, Katie Turco-Abate (Vice Chair)

**MINUTES
MASTER PLAN STEERING
COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Present: Philip Czachorowski, Ashley Clark (Zoom), Kari Denitzio, John Hasenjaeger (Zoom) Andrew Flowers, Janet Fasanello, Jennifer Karnakis, Glenn Maffei, Mike McGrath, Katie Turco-Abate

Absent: Dean Bebis, Donnell Murphy

Also Present: Patrick Deschenes

Meeting stated at 6:08 P.M.

Mr. Czachorowski conducted meeting attendance and addressed the remaining section recommendations to discuss.

Continued Discussion: Initial Draft Recommendations

Mr. Czachorowski explained to the group that a consent vote would be taken on the sections and members can call out a certain recommendation if they would like to discuss the specific item further.

Mr. Flowers suggested holding off on taking votes until a future meeting when more of the group is present. Mr. Czachorowski disagreed and stated that they can always re-vote any motions at a later time if the group so chooses.

Ms. Turco-Abate pointed out that some goal items use strong verbs like “adopt” or “implement” while others use weaker words like “consider” or “explore” and suggested that the group be aware of the difference in meaning.

Mr. Czachorowski stated that one notable change is that the “Land Use” topic is now no longer its own standalone subject, but rather it is being incorporated into some of the other nine topics.

Goal 3: Natural Resources

Motion to approve items 3.3, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, and 3.8 by Mr. Czachorowski, seconded by Mr. Maffei. The motion carried 9-0-1 via roll call vote (Hasenjaeger abstained).

Mr. Maffei took issue with item 3.1 because reducing groundwater extraction does not seem like a realistic expectation given the town’s steady growth. He suggested changing the wording to instead include “discouraging excessive water use,” a more attainable goal.

Motion to accept the item with the revision in language by Mr. Czachorowski, seconded by Mr. Maffei. The motion carried 10-0-0 via roll call vote.

Mr. McGrath suggested adding to the elements column for item 3.2 to reflect the fact that it affects more than just water.

Mr. Maffei suggested adding a section about investing in infrastructure by upgrading old pipes with an annual pipe replacement program.

Ms. Turco-Abate suggested that the ponds should be listed alphabetically for item 3.9 so that it does not imply any preference.

Motion to amend item 3.9 to alphabetize the ponds by Ms. Turco-Abate, seconded by Ms. Denitzio. The motion carried 10-0-0 via roll call vote.

Mr. Maffei expressed concerns with item 3.10 because he would like pursue municipal capital funding in addition to pursuing grants.

Mr. Hasenjaeger expressed concerns with including too much municipal funding in the Master.

Goal 7: Transportation

Ms. Karnakis expressed disappointment that some of the town’s ADA-accessible ramps are damaged and need to be better maintained to continue serving those who need them most.

Mr. Maffei suggested shuffling around the order of Goal 7’s items to show priority and a better flow of ideas.

Mr. Hasenjaeger stated that some of the bike trails along the side of the street are unsafe and suggested highlighting other places in town where people can more safely ride their bikes.

Mr. Maffei suggested changing item 7.3 to read exactly the same as 7.2, but replacing ‘sidewalks’ with ‘bicycle lanes’.

Mr. Maffei suggested altering item 7.5 to replace “register” with “participate” in order to make sure schools comply with the safe routes program.

Mr. Czachorowski suggested improving the way the town marks pedestrian crosswalks so that they are more clear and visible. He proposed the exploration of bolder solutions to traffic and pedestrian challenges.

Mr. McGrath suggested moving item 7.10 to the Economic Development section because it concerns parking.

No vote was taken on any of the items in Goal 7.

Goal 8: Facilities

Mr. Hasenjaeger stated that the text of item 8.2 is misleading because it provides nonviable solutions to the problem of a water shortage or well failure.

Ms. Karnakis considered expanding 8.3 to include more than just Blackburn Hall and the Old Town Hall by including the phrase “at least”.

Ms. Turco-Abate questioned whether the Master Plan should include projects that are already in the works, such as the Johnson Middle School study and the Elm Street Traffic Study.

Ms. Denitzio suggested replacing item 8.4 with an item about assessing present and future space needs, with a focus on utilizing town-owned buildings that become vacant or unused.

Ms. Karnakis suggested moving item 8.6 to the Climate Change section and expanding the terms so that it applies to more than just the schools.

Ms. Turco-Abate suggested rewording the Town Planner’s job description in item 8.7 so that it is clear that the position’s functions would support the Planning Board.

Mr. Czachorowski asked whether the prison should be included in the Facilities section.

No vote was taken on any of the items in Goal 8.

Goal 9: Historic and Cultural Resources

Ms. Karnakis stated that many historic and cultural buildings are privately-owned, so there is not much control that the Town will have over them. She also pointed out that simply being on the National Register of Historic Places does not prevent a building from being torn down.

Mr. Czachorowski suggested completely revising Goal 9 to make it more reasonable and feasible while still addressing the community's concerns.

The Committee discussed whether the items should be consistent in the strength of their language, or whether some items should begin with "consider" while others begin with "adopt".

No vote was taken on any of the items in Goal 9.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Maffei and seconded by Ms. Denitzio to adjourn. The motion carried 8-0-1 via roll call vote (Hasenjaeger abstained).

Meeting concluded at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitting: Patrick Deschenes