



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 Fasanella, John Hasenjaeger, Jennifer Karnakis, Margaret Kundert, Glenn Maffei, Michael McGrath, Donnell Murphy, Katie Turco-Abate (Vice Chair)

MINUTES
MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Present: Dean Bebis, Ashley Clark, Philip Czachorowski, Kari Denitzio, Andrew Flowers, Janet Fasanella, John Hasenjaeger, Jennifer Karnakis, Meg Kundert, Patrick Deschenes (Director of Community Development), Stephen Natola (Permit Coordinator), Judi Barrett (Barrett Planning Group), Daphne Politis (Barrett Planning Group), Fiona Coughlan (Barrett Planning Group)

Welcome

Meeting began at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Czachorowski took attendance and welcomed Judi Barrett, Daphne Politis, and Fiona Coughlan, members of the Barrett Planning Group.

Minutes Review (1/25/22)

MOTION by Mr. Bebis to approve the 1/25/2022 meeting minutes.
The motion passed 8-0-1 (Ms. Clarke abstained).

Update: Inventory and Assessment Report

Mr. Czachorowski acknowledged Sophia Brownsword, a high school student who wrote an article about the Master Plan Steering Committee in the school's Searchlight newspaper.

Mr. Czachorowski announced that the Community Forum scheduled originally for March 16 would be postponed to April 27. March 16 can serve as a regular committee meeting.

Ms. Barrett stated that she is almost finished editing the Inventory and Assessment Report and she will send the completed document to everyone shortly. She displayed the Comments Resolution Matrix that committee members will use to share feedback on the data.

Discussion: Draft Master Plan Vision and Goals

Ms. Politis stated that the top three most appreciated features of Walpole as indicated by the responses from the community are the town's open space & natural features, its small-town feeling & sense of community, and its location & proximity to Boston/Providence. Many respondents also praised Walpole's school system and downtown area.

The top three most common improvements were revitalizing downtown, creating more affordable housing, and making streets safer & more walkable.

Mr. Bebis stated that his top priority was looking through the lens of protecting the environment and maintaining natural resources and open spaces.

Ms. Clarke remarked that many of the top goals align with those of the 2004 Master Plan.

Ms. Denitzio asked what the group should do when two goals seem to be in conflict each other, such as economic growth vs. preservation. Ms. Politis that there are certainly ways to reconcile both and come to a compromise that minimizes conflict.

Mr. Flowers discussed the different types of housing that Walpole needs more of to reach its affordability goals, including cheaper living spaces for working young adults and older retirees.

Ms. Fasanello stated the report is well put together and she foresees multiple areas where conflicting goals may create some tension within the Master Plan.

Mr. Hasenjaeger prioritized lowering Walpole's taxes and decreasing the cost of living and doing business, which would attract more people to the town. He suggested reforms to the town government, including term limits and limits on municipal workers as Town Meeting members.

Ms. Karnakis praised the report's success in capturing the different opinions of members of the community and the inevitable conflicts that certain goals may have with others.

Ms. Kundert asked about the government's role in combatting climate change. Ms. Barrett stated the government must provide leadership and resources, as well as focus on regulatory measures.

Mr. Czachorowski asked if the sequence of topics as listed implied any order of importance, and Ms. Barrett confirmed that it does not.

The Committee decided to meet on March 9th at 6:00pm.

Adjournment

MOTION by Mr. Czachorowski and seconded by Ms. Kundert to adjourn.

The motion carried all in favor 9-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitting: Kevin Sanderson

Next meeting: 3/9/22