



Town of Walpole
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Master Plan Steering Committee



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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
Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Present: Philip Czachorowski, Kari Denitzio, Andrew Flowers, Janet Fasanello, Mike McGrath, Jennifer Karnakis, Donnell Murphy, Ashley Clark, John Hasenjaeger, Dean Bebis

Absent: Glenn Maffei, Katie Turco-Abate

Also Present: Patrick Deschenes (Director of Community Development), Daphne Politis (Community Circle), Judi Barrett (Barrett Planning Group)

Meeting stated at 7:05 P.M.

Review of April Community Forum (April 27th and May 1st)

Ms. Barrett stated that some of action items identified by those that attended had actually already been done which was not unusually with a Master Plan project. Ms. Barrett stated that while attendance was low it was not bad, and a lot had been learned from the experience. Ms. Barrett stated that a second community survey will be utilized for facilitating public feedback data.

Ms. Denitzio stated that in regards to the community forum, having a clearly hook for why community members should show up could be really useful and that up until a few days before the forum she wasn't entirely sure what was going to be discussed or what the format was so it was hard to promote without those details. In the future it should be made clear what is to be discussed and what areas we are looking for specific feedback on.

Ms. Barrett stated that was fair feedback. Ms. Czachorowski stated that he also agreed with Ms. Denitzio.

Ms. Karnakis stated that she felt there was a lot of overlap in the outreach from committee members given the similar municipal groups they represented.

Ms. Barrett and Ms. Politis engaged the Committee in outreach recommendations. Ms. Fasanello recommended reaching out to the large rental development in town, Ms. Karnakis recommended having information available at the farmers market, Ms. Clark recommended posting a flyer within local businesses, and Ms. Denitzio recommended improving the flyer content for clarity

and to signify that the purpose was moving the process forward and progressing from the previous meeting.

Ms. Barrett agreed and stated that this feedback will be important for promoting the follow-up survey's flyer.

Plans for the Second Community Survey

Ms. Barrett stated that the reason for the date to release the survey was to give the committee an opportunity to provide feedback on the survey questions.

Ms. Clark asked about the use of the wording of "could" over "should" regarding some of the potential actions. Ms. Barrett stated that they went with the word "could" because that was most closely related to the specific questions asked at the community forum.

Ms. Murphy asked how the survey will be distributed. Ms. Barrett stated that it would be accessible online similar to the survey conducted in the fall.

Mr. Murphy stated that he preferred the use of "should" over "could" in regards to the survey questions. Mr. Hasenjaeger disagreed and offered additional comments on the current list of survey questions.

Ms. Barrett led a discussion through the draft survey which addressed each community goal and associated action questions.

The Committee discussed and debated potential action questions.

Ms. Denitzio stated that the whole idea of having the master plan is for the Town to make decisions and take actions and that they as a steering committee want to ask people what decisions do they want the town to make and what actions they want the town to take to reach those goals. Ms. Denitzio stated that they don't want to steer anyone in one direction or another.

Ms. Politis stated that there was a strong response to the first survey and that the goals were developed based on that input and from the input at the first public meeting. Now that the public has weighed in on what they wanted the committee should now want the public to weigh in on how they think the town should accomplish these goals that they have determined they wanted. Ms. Politis further stated that it is not for the steering committee to decide here one way or another on an action but to decide on what is the best way of asking the residents for their opinion.

Mr. Hasenjaeger stated that a "no action is needed here" option for each question should be added.

Ms. Karnakis stated that having an option at the end of the survey for residents to provide additional thoughts or choices to let the committee know so that a potential public forum could be added to a future meeting in order to discuss these concerns.

Ms. Barrett stated that if the committee could provide additional comments by the start of next week in order to get the survey out to the public by the end of next week.

Mr. McGrath stated that adding an option to each questions regarding no action is needed may help to prevent excessive “other” open ended responses. Ms. Barrett agreed to add this option or a “none of the above” option to each question.

Ms. Barrett continued to go through the individual questions and addressed comments and concerns as they were brought up.

Mr. Murphy discussed prioritizing actions listed in each question in an order based on how many comments were received during the public forum process. Ms. Barrett stated that there was no prioritizing exercise used during the forum so the order listed is based on the comment being brought up multiple times at the forum, but not the specific amount of times it was brought up.

Ms. Barrett further stated that data from this survey will be used to create specific prioritized recommendations, but that some actions might be high priorities that can’t be done right away due to other factors that need to get accomplished first.

Upcoming Community Event

Mr. Deschenes addressed some potential days for public outreach such as Walpole Day, Juneteenth, and the Farmer’s Market.

Mr. Czachorowski stated that he would be available to present the information at Walpole Day.

Ms. Fasanello recommended using the School’s email list to help get the word out about the survey.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from 3/9/22 with edits by Mr. McGrath, seconded by Ms. Fasanello. The motion carried 8-0-2 (Ms. Karnakis and Mr. Murphy abstained)

Motion to approve minutes from 4/26/22 with edits by Murphy, seconded by Ms. Fasanello. The motion carried 8-0-2 (Ms. Clark Mr. Hasenjaeger abstained)

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Ms. Clark to adjourn
The motion carried 10-0-0

Meeting concluded at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitting: Patrick Deschenes