

# **Master Plan Implementation Committee**

## **Minutes of August 17, 2010**

Meeting called to order by Chairman/Planning Board Member, Ed Forsberg at 6:00 PM, in Room 116, Town Hall.

**Members Present:** Ed Forsberg, Michael Gallahue, Roger Turner, Al Goetz, Dick Nottebart, Dick Power, John Desmond.

**Staff Present:** Josh Cole (briefly), Don Johnson, Stephanie Mercandetti, Maura Therrien

**Visitor Present:** Alan French of the Bay Circuit Trail Alliance

**Approval of Minutes:** Ed made a motion to approve the minutes of 7/27/2010. Michael G. noted a needed correction: Spring Brook, not Stone Brook. Dick P. seconded the motion, with the correction as noted, voted 6-0-0 (John was being sworn in as our new member and was not present for this vote).

Notes are available on discussion from 7/27, but as the meeting had no quorum there are no official minutes.

### **Ongoing Business and Implementation Activities:**

Welcome to our new member, John Desmond, School Committee Member. Presently we have nine active voting members. There are two appointments waiting for new members.

#### **Downtown Municipal Park:**

Welcome to our visitor, Alan French of the Bay Circuit Trail Alliance.

Ed summarized the MPIC's desire to clean up Spring Brook, make the area a destination point for hikers and townspeople, and build a bridge linking Stone Field to a play, rest, picnic area. Talk with Landis about weeds and plants. Hope to have some help from town engineers about the plan. The DPW might help with some of the construction. Jon Lee from the Aggie has offered to enlist his students in building benches and picnic tables, design, and build the bridge. Bob O'Brien, DPW Director, has spoken with Ed about help from the DPW and from Tri-County Vocational School with clean up and construction. Several flyers from kit construction companies are available from Don. The walkway may be \$28 per linear foot for wood, \$38 per linear foot for pavers, and \$8 per linear foot for blacktop. The bridge and walkway need to meet ADA approved standards. The bridge will be about sixty feet long and six feet wide. If it is more than three feet above the brook it needs rails. The trusses may be log, aluminum, or fiberglass. Concrete piers may be poured and placed. First we will have the area surveyed. Next we will work on design and a site plan. Later we can make the trail and walkway nicer. Lights, benches, picnic tables will follow.

**Master Plan Implementation Committee  
Minutes of 8-17-10**

Mr. French brings his expertise with funding, to our project. He has organized and found grant money for nearly two hundred miles of hiking trails from Plum Island to Kingston. These trails go through more than thirty communities. His organization has almost no bank account. He does have sources in terms of small foundation grants to help us move forward. He will write letters of support for the project. A small amount of start up money often moves a project forward; in this case a small grant for a survey may be available. We will channel our survey estimate and specs to Al French within the next several days. A one or two page letter covering what we want to do, and what the funder can do, is a beginning. Our project is broader than others he has aided. We are not simply a hiking trail. Ours is a destination point for resting, picnicking, and play within the downtown area. The state has a Recreational Trails Program. Their grant application is due 11/1/2010 for announcement 7/2011. Our four reps and our senator might enjoy helping a great idea along. Walpole's Board of Selectmen might be able to help with funds. Denny Nackoney is our information contact person for the Bay Circuit Trail. Gary Riggott is a tremendous energetic organizer and worker on Walpole's part of the Bay Circuit Trail.

**Updates to the MPIC Webpage and the MPIC Charter and Bylaws:**

Don will update and simplify (shorten) the existing intro on the MPIC webpage to about three paragraphs concerning the structure of the committee, and a reference to and a link to the Five Year Update Report will be included. The MPIC Charter and Bylaws as updated in July 2010 will be linked to the MPIC webpage as well.

**Meeting adjourned 7:10 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,