



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Master Plan Steering Committee

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Approved 9/6/18

August 2, 2018

Master Plan Steering Committee Minutes

Members Present: Fran Bakstran, Chairman; Rick Leif, Vice-Chairman; Mark Donahue, Ashley Davies, Jason Perreault, Norm Corbin, Jon Cogswell, Dave Putnam, George Pember, Amy Poretsky, Susan Lawrence

Others Present: Geoffrey Morrison-Logan, VHB; Donny, VHB; Kathy Joubert, Town Planner; Kerri Martinek, Lisa Maselli, Anthony Ziton, Kelly Guenette

CONTINUED REVIEW OF BASELINE CONDITIONS

- VHB will provide summary of edits for next meeting

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT DISCUSSION (draft attached)

Comments from committee members varied:

- Statement should be shorter, 2-3 paragraphs, no bulleted items
- Draft statement is too general, needs to be more specific and include “New England” in the statement
- Some members did prefer the bulleted format
- Include photos – members to suggest photo locations to VHB

GOALS DISCUSSION (draft attached)

- VHB presented examples from other communities followed by in-depth discussion of proposed Northborough goals

Land Use

- Overall members are satisfied with tenor of goals
- Should be goal for maximizing development of industrial land
- Evaluate existing zoning and what it permits
- Evaluate what we would like to see and does the zoning bylaw provide for that, if not, how does zoning bylaw need to change
- Have the existing areas developed in accordance with previous Master Plan?

Housing

- Revise H1 to read: Continue to maintain and encourage a diversity of housing options to increase housing affordability and choice for all age cohorts and to ensure that at least 10 percent of the town’s housing inventory continues to be deemed affordable under state guidelines.

Economic Development

- Regarding downtown area, Master Plan cannot solve all of the downtown issues. Master Plan needs to address downtown with actionable steps.
- Brief discussion of Marlborough rerouting of Route 20 around downtown, can this be done for Northborough? F. Bakstran explained history from Board of Selectmen project with downtown signals and choice Selectmen made at the time was not to reroute Route 20.
- Reiterated that Master Plan is not a downtown plan. Perhaps separate committee needs to address downtown area once Master Plan is completed.
- ED2: revise to add reference to redevelopment and industrial land
- Add goal to explore sewer for Route 9 and redevelopment of that area
- Should specific sites be listed in the goals?

Natural, Cultural, and Historic Resources

- NCH2 and NCH3 should be moved to Recreation goals
- NCH4 delete reference to White Cliffs, make goal more general
- Revise NCH5
- Revise NHC6 to include inventory, data, continue to expand, elaborate

Open Space and Recreation

- Add reference to natural resources such as woodlands, water systems etc.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Events/locations
 - Applefest farmer's market 9/15 10am-2pm; bbq/concert/fireworks at ARHS 4pm to dusk
 - Sports fields
 - Senior center
 - Library
 - Wegmans
 - August 5th & 19th Community Affairs concerts
 - August 22nd movie at Ellsworth-McAfee Park
- J. Cogswell will draft page of talking points for committee members to use to engage with people

SECOND SURVEY

- Results for first survey for next meeting
- Second survey questions will be ready for next meeting

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Visions Statement and Goals comments due to K. Joubert by August 17th
- September 6th next meeting
- October 4th second public forum at ARHS
- July 12, 2018 minutes approved. Motion by R. Leif, second by J. Cogswell, all in favor (J. Perreault abstained from voting)
- R. Leif is working with VHB specifically on housing goals. If anyone has specific area they would like to concentrate on, contact K. Joubert and VHB
- VHB will create a general future vision land use map (similar to Watertown MA example)

Minutes prepared by K. Joubert