



Town of Sudbury

Master Plan Steering Committee

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MINUTES

AUGUST 16, 2019 AT 8:45 AM

POLICE STATION MEETING ROOM, 75 HUDSON ROAD, SUDBURY, MA

Members Present: Chair John Sugrue, At-Large; Jan Hardenbergh, At-Large; Pat Guthy, Commission on Disability; Dave Henkels, Conservation Commission; Lisa Kouchakdjian, Sudbury Public School Committee; Robert May, Council on Aging; John Riordan, Zoning Board of Appeals; Lee Swanson, Historic Districts Commission; and Dick Williamson, Parks and Recreation Commission

Members Absent: Vice-Chair Susan Asbedian-Ciaffi, At-Large; Nathalie Forssell, At-Large; Dan Carty, Board of Selectmen; Janie Dretler, Board of Selectmen; Ellen Joachim, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Committee; Amy Lepak, Sudbury Housing Authority; and Fred Taylor, Historic Districts Commission.

Others Present: Fabiola Alikpokou, Staff Planner, Horsley Witten Group; Adam Duchesneau, Director of Planning and Community Development; Nate Kelly, Principal, Horsley Witten Group; Krista Moravec, Senior Planner, Horsley Witten Group; Beth Suedmeyer, Environmental Planner; and Taryn Trexler, Historical Commission.

Welcome

Mr. Sugrue opened the meeting at 8:58 a.m.

Regular Meeting Business

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hardenbergh motioned to approve the minutes of July 19, 2019 as amended. Mr. May seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous with Mr. Swanson absent from the vote.

Baseline Report: Natural Resources

Ms. Moravec noted there were comments from the working group included in the draft of the baseline report. Mr. May called out mercury contamination as an interesting point. Ms. Suedmeyer stated mercury was very prevalent but not unique, and spoke to how it is being addressed, which is a long term initiative being driven by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Mr. Williamson noted the Sudbury River is a different pollution situation which did not come as a result of stormwater issues. Mr. Sugrue suggested some text could be added to highlight and clarify the mercury contamination issue. Ms. Suedmeyer asked that references to the Stormwater Management Bylaw be added to the baseline report.

Mr. May stated he felt the Town did not have enough resources.

At this time Mr. Swanson arrived at the meeting.

There was then discussion regarding how to handle enforcement of bylaws, rules, and regulations. Proactive and reactive enforcement strategies were discussed. The conversation then shifted to how action items in the Master Plan would be undertaken and how implementation of the Master Plan would be handled.

Mr. Henkels stated he felt communities do not have the resources to address larger scale issues of compliance or to conduct risk management analyses. Ms. Kouchakdjian stated risk management needs to factor into priorities and liabilities.

Baseline Report: Open Space and Recreation

Mr. Williamson wanted to ensure the Park and Recreation Commission had reviewed the baseline report and stated he could push a request for them to review the baseline report further along.

Ms. Guthy noted handicap accessibility at all park and recreation areas was something which the Town needed to address. Ms. Suedmeyer stated more information regarding handicap accessibility would be examined and included in the Open Space and Recreation Plan. She went on to indicate a handicap accessibility assessment is required as part of the Open Space and Recreation Plan update.

Mr. Riordan stated it would be useful if the Master Plan summary included a reference point, such as the size of the town, to allow for a greater understanding of how much land is actually protected. Mr. Sugrue added it would be good to know what type of protection is on each piece of land.

Ms. Guthy asked for a statement to be included that the Commission on Disability looks at accessibility in park and recreation areas.

Baseline Report: Historic and Cultural Resources

Ms. Moravec noted a significant amount of information and comments were received from members and the working group on this baseline report. A discussion occurred regarding the following questions:

- Does the baseline report for this topic need to be condensed?
- There are many historic resources in town and how detailed should the discussion be as the stage is set for the rest of the Master Plan?

Comments on these questions included the table which was presented being too much information and the maps being helpful.

Ms. Trexler stated she was willing to work with the Historical Commission to help develop the inventory table. Mr. Hardenbergh felt the table could be reduced to the top 10 or 20 most important historical sites, and there could be an appendix which listed more sites. Ms. Moravec noted the Master Plan was not the home for a large inventory and the baseline reports were just setting the stage for the blueprint to be presented in the next part of the plan. The decision was made for the table presented in the plan to display historical sites owned and maintained by the Town.

The Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC) felt the baseline report appropriately identified the value the Town places on its historic and cultural resources. The MPSC thought the chapter length and detail was appropriate, and addressed regulations in place to protect these resources.

There was then a discussion regarding the question as to whether there was a need for permanent protection of the Wayside Inn property should be included. The MPSC determined this question would be saved for the planning section of the document.

A recommendation was made to add the list of properties which are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. Swanson recommended a change to the date of the Wayside Inn construction, and felt the dates in the baseline report should be reviewed and clarified.

It was noted the map with properties and historic districts helped identify clusters that may warrant consideration as new historic districts. It was mentioned significant properties could be designated as a historic district in isolation, as other towns have done this.

Ms. Moravec stated the working group would review the modifications to the inventory and new lists would be compiled. She also indicated her team would clarify the dates associated with the Wayside Inn.

Public Outreach: Topic Meetings

Ms. Moravec stated the Master Plan update process was moving into the phase of developing the specific goals and plans, and Horsley Witten would kick off a series of topic related meetings in the fall. Five topical meetings were being planned regarding Historic and Cultural Resources; Transportation, Mobility, and Connectivity; Health, Housing, and Equity; Economic Resiliency, Town Services, and Infrastructure; and Natural Resources, Open Space, and Recreation. Ms. Moravec indicated specific stakeholders and the public would be invited to these meetings. The draft agenda and plan for the topical meetings were then discussed. It was noted the meetings would be conducted in late September and October.

At this time Ms. Kouchakdjian left the meeting.

A question was posed about the timing of the topic meetings. Would it be better to hold these topic meetings after the MPSC had developed some goals for the topics? Ms. Moravec indicated it was better to allow the public to generate ideas rather than reacting to the recommendations from the MPSC. She indicated these meetings were the opportunity to drill down into topics that came up in the public forum and survey.

Ms. Moravec stated the materials at the topic meetings may include a summary of the topics from the baseline information and definitions of terms. She also noted the draft baseline chapters may be available on the website for participants to review prior to the meeting.

There was then a discussion about the life of the Master Plan and who it would really be impacting. Was it possible to discuss the plan development with the youth in town? Could the MPSC consider special workshops or engagement with civics classes? These items would be pursued as another avenue for outreach.

Public Outreach: Other Efforts

Ms. Moravec provided a report on the Master Plan outreach meeting conducted at the Senior Center on August 8, 2019. She indicated transportation and social isolation were key topics. Ms. Moravec noted a summary was prepared and would be posted on Town website.

Ms. Moravec noted the Town's Community Info Fair would be held on September 21, 2019, and there would be a Master Plan booth and promotion of the topical meetings which would be occurring later in the fall.

Ms. Moravec indicated Mr. Carty had recently submitted an Op-Ed for the Sudbury Town Crier. She asked if anyone wanted to work on an Op-Ed for October. Mr. Hardenbergh stated he could work on a piece related to the Town's past Master Plans.

Ms. Moravec requested MPSC members report back on input from various community groups and committees. She noted the data collection on these questions and for this phase would end on September 6, 2019.

Ms. Moravec noted the final baseline report chapter was on land use and she indicated the MPSC may do something more fun at the next meeting in addition to the discussion on land use. She also indicated the Horsley Witten Group will be meeting with the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board to update them on the Master Plan process.

Ms. Moravec indicated there was an October meeting conflict with the Southern New England American Planning Association (SNEAPA) conference. As such, Ms. Moravec asked if it would be possible to change the meeting date to October 25, 2019. The MPSC agreed with this adjustment and the October meeting was officially rescheduled to October 25, 2019.

Adjourn

Ms. Moravec announced the next MSPC meeting would be September 20, 2019.

Mr. Sugrue motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Mr. Riordan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous with Ms. Kouchakdjian absent from the vote.