



Town of Sudbury

Master Plan Steering Committee

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MINUTES

FEBRUARY 7, 2020 AT 8:45 AM

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

Members Present: Chair John Sugrue, At-Large; Vice-Chair Susan Asbedian-Ciaffi, At-Large; Dan Carty, Board of Selectmen; Nathalie Forssell, At-Large; Patricia Guthy, Commission on Disability; Jan Hardenbergh, At-Large; Dave Henkels, Conservation Commission; Ellen Joachim, Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School Committee; Lisa Kouchakdjian, Sudbury Public School Committee; Amy Lepak, Sudbury Housing Authority; Robert May, Council on Aging; John Riordan, Zoning Board of Appeals; Lee Swanson, Historic Districts Commission; and Dick Williamson, Park and Recreation Commission

Members Absent: Janie Dretler, Board of Selectmen and Fred Taylor, Historic Districts Commission

Others Present: Fabiola Alikpokou, Staff Planner, Horsley Witten Group; Adam Duchesneau, Director of Planning and Community Development; Rory Fitzgerald, Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.; John Hincks, Planning Board; Nate Kelly, Principal, Horsley Witten Group; Krista Moravec, Senior Planner, Horsley Witten Group; Parker Sorenson, Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.; and Beth Suedmeyer, Environmental Planner

Welcome

Mr. Sugrue opened the meeting at 8:50 AM.

Regular Meeting Business

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Duchesneau indicated there were no meeting minutes for approval.

Review of Packet Materials

Ms. Moravec stated the focus of the meeting would be regarding transportation/circulation but discussion regarding wastewater management would be covered at the next Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC) meeting on February 28, 2020.

Mr. Swanson explained he had been the Town Historian for several years and noted there was little transportation in town for many years. He spoke about transportation from a historical perspective and explained a train line had gone through Union Avenue. He indicated remorse about losing the train line.

Ms. Fitzgerald commented about improved transportation in Sudbury. She noted the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) was used but it was not meeting commuter needs. She also spoke of other associated formative issues with the Sudbury roadways, etc. These other issues included:

- Completion of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, which will be an asset to transportation and recreation in town.
- Traffic congestion caused by student pick-up and drop off at schools; noting that sidewalks and pathways might help decrease the congestion.
- Corner extensions and bulb-outs (extensions of sidewalks into the street).
- Median Barriers
- Median Islands
- Mini Roundabouts
- On-Street Parking
- Raised Intersections

At this time Mr. May arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Duchesneau noted the Town had received a Community Compact Grant for \$80,000 last year to initiate a regional microtransit pilot program. He indicated this pilot program would be for on-demand ride-share services for seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and financially vulnerable individuals. He stated negotiations were underway with Uber and taxi companies to provide these services. Mr. Duchesneau noted rider fares would be \$1.00 for rides within Sudbury, \$2.00 for rides to an adjacent community, and \$10.00 for other trips within a 25-mile radius of Sudbury. Every ride would be subsidized by the grant money to keep these rider fares low. He indicated \$45,000 of the grant would be allocated to a Program Manager and \$15,000 would be used for public outreach. Separate transportation mitigation money from Sudbury would be used by the Town to subsidize their rides.

Ms. Suedmeyer spoke regarding the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and the current status of the project which would stretch from the Concord town line to the Chiswick Park entrance roadway off Union Avenue. She provided information regarding current progress, the proposed timeline for completion, and related details.

Ms. Suedmeyer also provided information regarding the Town's proposed acquisition of a portion of the CSX Rail Line near Framingham, which was currently a Warrant Article for the May 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Duchesneau explained the Town's involvement with the Complete Streets Program run by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), which provided construction funding to communities to complete roadway projects. He detailed the requirements and the different tiers/stages of the program.

Small Groups

Ms. Moravec stated the discussion focus would include modes of transportation and connectivity, with continued consideration of highlighting the issue in the Master Plan and what the level of commitment might be.

Ms. Moravec presented discussion questions to be addressed by the MPSC members including consideration of the growing needs of older residents, investment in new technology, and tools for communication. She also asked the groups to discuss capital investments regarding the upkeep and maintenance of Town facilities and infrastructure, accessibility, the roles of volunteers in Town services, and providing utilities and investment in new facilities.

Ms. Kochakdjian mentioned the increase of people doing their work at Peet's Coffee, Starbucks, and Whole Foods, and inquired about various towns implementing related work hubs. Ms. Moravec confirmed that communities were investing in such work hubs, and questioned if such hubs were near transportation or commuter lines. Ms. Moravec suggested MPSC members include notes about such centers in relation to transportation.

Mr. May commented about Boston Post Road/Route 20, Maynard Road/Route 27, and North Road/Route 117 being at full capacity. Ms. Moravec agreed that all those roadways should be included in the discussion. Mr. Hardenbergh reiterated that Boston Post Road/Route 20 would be the topic of discussion at another meeting. Ms. Moravec confirmed a focus on Boston Post Road/Route 20 would be addressed at the February 28, 2020 MPSC meeting.

Report Out and Discussion

Mr. Kelly reviewed the small group discussion results and noted the groups agreed about varying levels of detail. Mr. Kelly discussed group agreement regarding the traffic problem being a paramount issue which Sudbury could not control without significant help. He detailed the importance of policies which might be worth pursuing to improve safety, quality of life, and provide added amenities.

At this time Mr. Carty left the meeting.

Mr. Kelly spoke of group consensus regarding the necessity of professional staff to address the issue/s. He detailed the global/national culture indicators regarding improved pedestrian travel, which are influenced by local leadership as well as regional and state leadership.

At this time Ms. Lepak left the meeting.

Ms. Moravec stressed the necessity of a holistic, comprehensive approach, and the consideration of land use allocation and possible employment centers.

Mr. Hincks expressed his reluctance regarding additional studies and advocated for a complete traffic assessment (actual vehicle count) to provide options for improving the situation. He stressed that a 5% improvement could be easily implemented. Mr. Hardenbergh agreed that all roadways, especially feeder streets, must be examined. Related discussion took place.

Ms. Kouchakdjian emphasized the need for professional Town guidance to find the additional funding needed to address these issues.

Next Steps

Ms. Moravec reiterated the focus of the next MPSC meeting would be regarding Boston Post Road/Route 20. Mr. Hardenbergh inquired about the Draft Baseline Report and Ms. Moravec stated it would be presented to the MPSC by the end of the month.

Mr. May emphasized Maynard Road/Route 27 and North Road/Route 117 could not be ignored by the MPSC. Ms. Moravec assured Mr. May the Master Plan would cover and discuss those roadways. Mr. Hincks hoped the Boston Post Road/Route 20 discussion at the next MPSC meeting would not rehash the traffic aspects that had been discussed at this meeting. Ms. Moravec agreed and indicated the Boston Post

Road/Route 20 economic development piece, and infrastructure/traffic implications would be the focus points at the next MPSC meeting.

Mr. Henkels noted North Road/Route 117 was not a state road and asked if the existing Master Plan addressed any achievements regarding this roadway. Mr. Kelly indicated a review of this matter had been performed at the beginning of the MPSC process. Ms. Moravec offered to revisit this matter again.

Adjourn

Mr. Hardenbergh motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:55 AM. Mr. Riordan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 12-0, with Mr. Carty and Ms. Lepak absent from the vote.