

Town of Hingham



MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Remote Meeting information

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/join>

Call in Number: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 870 9841 2549

Present Remotely: Gordon Carr, Paul Healey, Bob Hidell, Adrienne Ramsey, Nancy Kerber, Liza O'Reilly, Deirdre Anderson, Liz Klein, Michael Kranzley, Jerry Seelen, Donna Smallwood, Bryce Blair, Vcevy Strekalovsky, Hans von der Luft.

Also present: Mary Savage-Dunham, and Judi Barrett and Alexis Lanzillotta from Barrett Consulting Group.

Master Plan Committee (MPC) Chairman, Gordon Carr called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and welcomed the Committee. Mr. Carr reviewed the procedures for the remote meeting. Upon completing roll call attendance Mr. Carr explained that the focus of the meeting was on discussion of the Vision and Goals and finalizing them as possible. It is important for the MPC to reach a consensus on the Vision and Goals so that the consultant team can then work on recommendations. Mr. Carr explained ways for the public to provide comments and stated that no public comment will be taken tonight. Mr. Carr noted that the MPC provided thoughtful and insightful comments on the draft document which have been incorporated for the most part. Mr. Carr then turned the meeting over to Judi Barrett to set the stage and review slides with the Committee.

Ms. Barrett stated that consultant team member Daphne Politis wanted everyone to understand that the first draft was derived from the initial information collection process. It has now been edited to incorporate committee comments where there was consensus, and they set aside comments where there was not consensus or further discussion was needed. Ms. Barrett started by reviewing the visions and asked the MPC if they felt the draft was moving in the right direction or still not saying what they want it to say. The MPC discussed if a statement should be in the forward or introduction mentioning that

Town of Hingham



the planning effort bridged the time of pre-Covid to during Covid because the current priorities (public health and safety) might not have been as pressing or urgent in the same way as they would be now that the town is experiencing the pandemic. Ms. Barrett then began to work through the bullets one by one and invited feedback from the Committee. The Committee noted that additional wordsmithing might be needed because some of the specific words are either unclear or statements are so broad they should be broken down more. After additional discussion Mr. Carr noted that it was 8:20 pm and the group had just finished goal number 1, so we may need to rethink how we continue to process the visions and goals. Goal 1 is a big overarching goal. The MPC continued to review the visions and goals and discussed the big picture approach to affordable housing creation and how the town might be able to be more proactive in the development of affordable housing and remain in a position to control Hingham's housing development and stay above 10% on the SHI. The Committee discussed teardowns, FAR, lot coverage, and zoning regulations, all of which impact the type of housing that is or is not being built and/or preserve existing stock and not pricing people out of town. The MPC agreed there is a need to strike a balance of all these items. The MPC continued to work through the vision and goals and had productive and robust conversations and decided to pause with two vision and goals to cover another day.

Mr. Carr announced the next meeting was in June, and as there was no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.