

Town of Hingham



MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM
Hingham Town Hall, 210 Central Street
South Hearing Room, 3rd floor

Present: Gordon Carr, Paul Healey, Bob Hidell, Nancy Kerber, Adrienne Ramsey, Deirdre Anderson, Liz Klein, Michael Kranzley, Susan Sarni, Jerry Seelen, Donna Smallwood, Bryce Blair, Vcevy Strekalovsky, Hans von der Luft. Also present: Mary Savage-Dunham. Absent: Liza O'Reilly

Master Plan Committee (MPC) Chairman, Gordon Carr called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and welcomed the Committee. Judi Barrett, Jeff Davis and Jeff Maxultitus were in attendance from the consulting team.

Judi Barrett then explained the process for the discussion. The goal is to spend time as a group to discuss some questions with the consultants, and then ultimately prioritize wants versus needs using dots.

Jeff Maxultitus then explained that he had compiled the information received at the visioning sessions and his research and has some further discussion questions about safety, transit, shuttles, pedestrian networks and traffic. The committee discussed speeding in town and different strategies that can be used to address speeding concerns in town. The Committee discussed complete streets and the option of establishing localized lower speed limit zones. The committee expressed support for addressing issues on a case by case basis but felt that it wasn't their role to opine on a specific tool for a specific location. In general there was support for traffic calming and creating safer pedestrian environments however additional discussion and analysis was needed to ensure that the DPW and Police departments were in agreement. The Master Plan Committee discussed enforcement of the existing speed limits and also if having a lower speed limit would make sense in the downtown area. They also reminded the group that a speed hump was tried on Beal Street and it was ultimately removed after two years. The MPC discussed parking supply and demand in the downtown area, creating safer pedestrian crossing throughout town, making space for bikes on the roadway, and how to create a framework for making decisions about traffic calming measures on a case by case basis. The MPC noted there is the Traffic Committee already so perhaps we already have the framework in place. The MPC then discussed the potential need for an in town shuttle or intra-town or destination based shuttle. This could help residents become more mobile in town and also help visitors get to town without a vehicle.

Town of Hingham



Jeff Davis then led the discussion on sustainability with the MPC. The first discussion was about the compressor station and the local concerns about the short and long term impacts related to that. The MPC felt that it should be referenced in the Plan somewhere, Mr. Davis then said the sustainability chapter focuses on the Harbor but that water will also come up in the natural resources section. The intent is to weave sustainability into each element of the plan and identify what sustainability means in the context of that element. Coastal and inland flooding are the top hazards in town and that will continue to increase over town. The Town has a good amount of data on what needs to be done in the short, mid and long term for mitigation. The MPC then discussed flood mitigation and the impacts of flooding on the residents of the town as well as critical services and infrastructure. The MPC noted that there are so many priorities it can be challenging. The MPC discussed the green communities program and the climate action committee which is a citizen group pushing for carbon neutrality. Mr. Davis noted that the town had already taken several affirmative steps towards implementing environmentally responsible policies. The intent to have sustainability incorporated throughout the entire plan was well received by the committee as an approach. The MPC also discussed that changes to the zoning bylaw would benefit from revisions related to sustainability and solar power. The MPC felt there needs to be some statement or goal related to climate action planning in the final plan.

Gordon Carr then noted the draft chapters would be coming out soon, February 26 is the public session at Town Hall, the Online Survey will be released soon to collect the final piece of the visioning section. Judi Barrett noted that Hingham collected a wealth of feedback during the initial sessions and it is taking a bit of time to organize.

The Committee voted to approve the minutes of December 2019 with changes as proposed and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.