

Town of Hingham



MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 27, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Remote Meeting information

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

Call in Number: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 831 2871 4992

Present Remotely: Gordon Carr, Paul Healey, Bob Hidell, 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.

Also present: Mary Savage-Dunham, and Judi Barrett from Barrett Consulting Service with Martha Lyon, and Alexis Lanzillotta, and Historical Administrator Andrea Young

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 in participating in a remotely held meeting.

The Committee Discussed Historic Preservation, noting the importance of informing new homeowners in a Historic District to ensure good stewardship. Hans von der Luft stated that as a member of the Historic Districts Commission a lot of effort is made by the Commission to protect the homes in the districts, as well as the streetscape. Paul Healey agreed stating that all available tools should be used to promote the history of the town. Committee members also discussed the importance of educating local realtors to help inform perspective buyers. Andrea Young and the Committee also discussed the demolition delay by-law at length and there was a broader discussion regarding tools for preservation and regulating changes to historic structures and what was working and what was not working. Overall there are many resources already protected however there is not one Historic Preservation Plan that catalogues and addresses a strategy for ongoing preservation of resources. Interestingly many different agencies and organizations in town have historic materials but not all have the resources or knowledge of what needs preservation and how to do that. There was a discussion of creating a

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cultural district and promoting Hingham as a tourism destination. Overall there was interest in preserving what makes Hingham special but acknowledgement that change was inevitable to some extent.

Ms. Lyon then led the discussion on Natural Resources and Open Space. The town has a great deal of open space but it is not connected in some instances, and, maintenance of the land is not always budgeted for. The MPC discussed recent acquisitions and the benefits of open space. With many competing priorities for funds the CPA is the main financing mechanism for acquisition with Town Meeting articles for larger expenditures. The MPC discussed neighborhood playgrounds, preservation of burying grounds, and the playing fields. The fields study which is in progress will provide additional information for this effort and should be completed by summer which works with our schedule.

Mr. Carr announced the next meeting was in June, and as there was no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

DRAFT