

Town of Hingham



MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 18, 2019 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, Liza O'Reilly, Susan Sarni, Jerry Seelen, Donna Smallwood, Bryce Blair, Vcevy Strekalovsky, Hans von der Luft. Also present: Mary Savage-Dunham.

Master Plan Committee (MPC) Chairman, Gordon Carr called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and welcomed the Committee. Mr. Carr acknowledged that many meetings and a great deal of outreach has taken place since the October MPC meeting. He stated that the efforts of the MPC have been extensive and that momentum is building and there is a broad community awareness of the Master Plan update effort. The community engagement has been great and there were school sessions at the elementary, middle and high school levels also. The Committee then shared their feedback and observations on the sessions that they were involved in. One byproduct of the extensive outreach is that the MPC heard the various perspectives of participants firsthand which is very informative. The Ralph's meeting in a box session had more newcomers and a different constituency which was fabulous. The Committee felt that the sessions resulted in good discussions and positive information. The school events had good comments too, including some on lighting levels in residential areas and what some desired retail uses are from their perspective. The kids were very observant as a whole and the teachers were glad that the schools were involved and that the students received a "civics lesson" from participating. The Committee noted that as a whole the participants were glad to be included and happy to participate in the process and be heard. There was a love for the waterfront and a desire to see the harbor activated and integrated into the downtown. There is a geographic separation in town (north/south) which was interesting. There was a call for no more development, historic preservation, as well as more affordable housing (little affordable housing).

The Committee then discussed the December 17th memo from Barrett Consulting. Mr. Carr noted that there would be a standard approach to the survey questions with the same questions being asked in a multiple choice/open answer format. The MPC felt that the survey should include a check box (Y/N) asking if they attended a visioning session. The MPC felt that the survey should be prefaced with an explanation of the purpose of the survey, and wondered how the effort would be insulated from the risk of "ballot

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stuffing”. The MPC felt that the survey results should be kept separate from the visioning session data in order to be digested separately.

Ms. Savage-Dunham advised the group that a meeting would need to be added in March and the date could be set in January or considered now. The MPC checked the calendars and the consensus was that March 25th was the best date for an additional MPC meeting. The MPC asked if the material for the future meetings would be provided in advance of the meetings and staff said it would be.

The Committee voted to approve the minutes of October 2019 with changes as proposed and then adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

DRAFT