

Master Plan 2023
Sustainability Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2023, 7:22 PM
Room 205
355 East Central Street

This meeting was available to be attended in person by all citizens and citizens were able to participate remotely via phone and Zoom.

Committee Members in Attendance: Chair Gino Carlucci, Member Melanie Hamblen, Member Eric Steltzer

Committee Members Absent:

Others in Attendance:

Meeting called to order by Chair Gino Carlucci at 7:22 pm

Review and approval of minutes.

Chair wanted to clarify accessibility areas to mean access to open space versus handicap accessibility. Motion to move minutes was approved.

Continue review of sustainability-related items- Goals and Policy

Chair Carlucci initiated discussion concerning the connection between sustainability goals and the master plan. Chair Carlucci commented that sustainability objectives may be in multiple places within the master plan as well as in the Sustainability section of the master plan. Member Steltzer and Member Hamblen also affirmed there would be a separate element on sustainability within the master plan instead of just being integrated in other elements.

Chair Carlucci initiated a conversation concerning density and how it relates to sustainability. Member Steltzer discussed a survey and what topics and questions and commented that somewhere in the survey there should be a question about density. Member Hamblen discussed density and the public's negative perception of density. Member Steltzer discussed the importance of a diverse housing stock in Franklin and commented that a lot of people are downsizing and may want that active downtown feel. Chair Carlucci added that people want Bakeries and markets and such within walking distances and if there isn't enough density businesses don't survive. The committee discussed a booth at the upcoming harvest festival to inform the public on sustainability issues such as zoning, transportation and energy and getting input back from the public.

Review of sustainable goals progress since 2013 with 2020 update.

Member Hamblen reviewed progress of goals in the 2013 2020 updated Master Plan as it relates to sustainability. Goals and objectives were item number six of each subsection. Members reviewed which goals were completed and which are ongoing. Some goals which repeat on the plan are sustainable development, renewable energy and recycling.

Member Steltzer discussed a possible survey question regarding supporting Massachusetts clean renewable energy and whether people would be willing to pay the extra cost. Member Hamblen discussed how a question will be worded.

Chair Carlucci spoke about reducing grass cover, replacing it with other plants. Strategically planting trees for sun and wind protection. Member Hamblen discussed the importance of maintaining the town forest and increasing the carbon capture potential. Member Steltzer asked if forest management plans have been updated. Member Hamblen will find out and suggest that there should be a survey question related to the town forests. Member Hamblen discussed what can the town do to support use of alternate transportation. An example would be to keep sidewalks clear so residents can walk around instead of driving. Member Steltzer proposed a survey question of what can the town do to support your use of other transportation needs. Member Hamblen initiated a conversation concerning building environmentally efficient net zero buildings. The Chair noted that we are on the verge of building a new Police Station and renovating the Davis Thayer building, which would be an opportune time to look at net-zero building ideas. Member Hamblen stated that any new or renovated buildings should be "state of the art". Chair Carlucci noted that they should look at the life cycle cost and not just the construction cost and that it may seem more costly in year one but now in year ten it will be cheaper. The members discussed solar power and the need to redirect savings to affordable housing electric costs thus making the affordable housing truly affordable to the residents.

Members discussed e-mailing Amy some of the discussion points from the meeting to create survey questions

Next Meetings: Sustainability subcommittee scheduled for October 16, 2023

Additional Comments

Adjourn Meeting

Chair Gino Carlucci motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Member Eric Steltzer

Vote 3-0 Meeting adjourned at 8.

--Sustainability Subcommittee approved minutes at October 23, 2023 meeting