MASTER PLAN UPDATE SUBCOMMITEE

Westport Planning Board



Wednesday, Oct 23, 2013
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MINUTES

October 23, 2013

4:35 p.m. A quorum was not present, attached are notes from items discussed.

Present:

Jack Baughan, Elaine Ostroff, David Cole, Jim Coyne, and Jim Hartnett. Absent: Ann Boxler, Jeff Bull, Gay Gillespie, Sean Leach, Melissa Pacheco, Nancy Rioux.

- 1. Approve Minutes September 25, 2013. No Action Taken
- 2. Committee Organization (5 min) No Action Taken

3. Review final draft RFP for Facilitation for Public Meetings (15 min)

Members present reviewed the wording of the RFP and edits made by Ostroff. Hartnett stated that the RFP was sent to Steve Lombard for review and should go out in November.

4. Update school participation. (10 min)

Members present had a general discussion regarding the schools. Ostroff stated that she would be meeting with members of the Westport Education Foundation and would seek their input on the schools. This was part of the original subcommittee planning for getting more input from the community. Ostroff noted that a survey with families whose children choose to go to another high school was completed by the school within the last year and it would be helpful if the committee could get the results. Members discussed in general terms how the school could be improved. Baughan noted that low expectations was part of the problem. Hartnett stated that the schools are functioning well but there is a perception that the school system is worse than it actually is. This perception not only affects the students but it affects the Real Estate values. Baughan noted the lack of sports and discussed ways to encourage students to continue their education. Some discussion on the Diman's growing success, along with their ability to be selective in students that they accept. Coyne noted that there are a lot of positive programs and results from the schools but they need to be promoted. He will make calls to two area newspapers. Cole suggested that Hartnett note some of the school objectives that may pertain to the master plan.

5. Mission Statement and Question Responses (10 min)

Members received copies of the responses from the various committees, these responses have been assembled into one document and are being reviewed as part of the chapter meetings.

6. Chapter Meetings and Assignments (15 min)

Land Use – Sean Leach

*Natural Resources – David Cole, Gay Gillespie

*Open Space and Recreation - Gay Gillespie, Ann Boxler, Jeff Bull

Historical and Cultural Resources -

Water and Sewerage – Sean Leach

Traffic and Circulation – *Jim Coyne*

Economic Development – Jack Baughan, Jim Coyne

Housing - Elaine Ostroff

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Capital Facilities and Human Services – Jack Baughan

Cole was added to the Water and Sewerage chapter and Ostroff was added to the Housing chapter. Harnett scheduled <u>a meetings</u> on <u>other chapters</u>; <u>Traffic and Circulation</u>; Economic Development <u>and stated that he will try to schedule two other chapters before the November meeting</u>. <u>Capital Facilities and Human Services</u>.

Next meeting: Discussion on rewrites on Natural Resources, other updates. Look at survey questions and how to integrate into the MP update.

The Group discussion ended at 6:00 p.m.

Confirmed next meetings: Nov 25 - Monday Dec 18.