



## MINUTES

February 26, 2014

4:34 p.m. called to order. Chaired by David Cole.

**Present:** Jim Coyne, Gay Gillespie, Nancy Rioux, Jeff Bull, Jim Hartnett, David Cole, Sean Leach, Elaine Ostroff, Horsley Witten Group (HW) Consultant Katie Lamoureux,

**Absent:** Ann Boxler, Melissa Pacheco, Jack Baughan

### 1. Approve Minutes January 29, 2014.

Jim H moved; Nancy R 2nd. Approved with discussion 7 yes and 1 abstention.

**2. Update on Consultant – Horsley Witten Group:** Update on consultant for Public Participation. Jim H introduced Katie Lamoureux of WH, and reported on kickoff meeting held Feb 12 with Nathan Kelly and Katie L of HW, along with David Cole and Jim H. HW presented their approach to each chapter and the status. The project schedule was adjusted to a preliminary Public Forum Schedule. Katie explained the revised grouping of the chapters. The first Forum to be held on Saturday April 12 and will include Natural Resources, Open Space and Recreation, Water and Sewer.. An additional Forum for the schools was discussed and was approved by the Planning Board at Feb 25th meeting, as an amendment to the original contract. The format of the Public Forums was discussed, along with a review of examples of similar events in other communities. Kickoff meeting Handout included with these minutes.

David C brought up the comments about climate change from last night's Planning Board meeting, Discussion proposed that we might include climate change throughout the Master Plan Update. This is opportunity to frame the issues, and build in action steps.

Gay G. requested that she not participate in the vote for the Horsley Witten Group Contract. A motion was made by Elaine O. to approve the Horsley Witten Group Contract and forward to the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen. The motion was seconded by Jeff B and Jim C, Nancy R, Jeff B, Jim H, Sean L, Elaine O, and David C, voted in favor of the motion. Gay G. abstained.

### 3. Update school participation

Nancy R gave update, citing the education chapter in Greenfield MA Master Plan as a good template for new Schools chapter in MP. David C suggested now we have a timeline for the Forum to be held in October, they could focus on goals and objectives. Nancy noted that they will work with School Improvement Plan. May also do survey with 8th graders. Noted that High School not having an Open House. Discussion of fewer students not choosing Westport High. She suggested that making the Middle School curriculum more challenging might be useful approach for students. Jim C reported study that shows more affluent parents can choose other options. Another reason for attrition is that students want to stay with their friends. Suggestion that survey be done with parents at the Washington school trip,

## MASTER PLAN UPDATE SUBCOMMITTEE

Westport Planning Board



Wednesday, Feb 26, 2014  
*Town Hall Annex*

**4. April 12, 2014 Public Forum** The location was discussed, The library was the first choice with the Annex Gym as a back up. The structure was discussed and included the process of breaking into groups - combining choice and some assignment as groups reached capacity. HW will provide a facilitator for each group; handouts to include agenda and drafts of the chapters.

EO moved to accept the recommendations; Jim H 2nd and approved 7 for and 1 abstaining.

Publicity was discussed; notices to be sent to all Town committees and other groups who have participated. Try for longer stories in weekly papers. PR to the four area newspapers, Town website and scroll and posters. The opening and closing reports of the Forum groups to be videotaped - but not the small group sessions.

### **5. Update on Chapter Meetings and Assignments**

- Water & Sewer meeting set for March 3 with Jim H, David C. Sean L. The title of the chapter to be renamed to Water, Wastewater and Stormwater. Noted that the representative from the Water Resource Management has not responded to invitations. Jim will speak with chair of that committee to identify another person.
- Traffic and Circulation: Jim C met with Jim H and Safety Officer, Lt, Bell. They discussed Main Road/Adamsville Rd intersection; Rt 6 and 177 and the Head of Westport. Also dangerous curves at 5 places will be getting signage. Also noted need for anti-glare screens for Rt 88, on top of Jersey barriers. Approach to Horseneck Beach has major traffic problem that needs to be addressed. Third lane was noted.

### **6. Schedule of future meetings**

Suggestion that next meeting to be held on March 26; however March 19 had already been scheduled to avoid conflict with School Committee meetings, Next meeting will be March 19 4:30 PM.

Submitted by Elaine Ostroff, Co-chair MP Subcommittee