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PLANNING BOARD

April 14, 2021

MASTER PLAN REVIEW/UPDATE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Co-Chairman Mark L. Schmid called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. with members, Co-Chair David Cole, Robert Daylor, Manny Soares, Henry Lanier, Ann Boxler, and Town Planner Jim Hartnett were in attendance.

Schmid read the virtual meeting notice into the record. This is the fifth meeting of the Master Plan Review/Update committee. The Land Use Chapter and Open Space and Recreation Chapter are on the agenda to be discussed.

Chapter Reviews

1. Land Use

Schmid stated that Jim Whitin could not make this meeting and the Land Use Chapter discussion will be rescheduled.

2. Open Space and Recreation

Ann Boxler presented the updated version of the Open Space and Recreation Chapter. Boxler stated that the Goals and Objectives will always be appropriate, but the action items will change overtime. The document is only the first draft and she is still waiting for information from Ross Moran. Boxler outlined some of the accomplishments and needs. The Landing Commission has made improvements to the Town Landings providing better access for the public. The youth athletic leagues have made progress on creating soccer and baseball fields. Overall the Town has made great strides in the recreational facilities. She noted that the new school has limited playing fields and they are looking at the campground site for additional fields. There is an active Bike Path Committee that has made progress and recently were approved for complete streets funding.

Schmid stated that depending on the future use of the existing high school, the existing fields may be an option. Cole noted that the potential construction costs of new fields should be reviewed and compared with existing field use and bussing options. Boxler also noted the work that has been done over the last couple of years with the Farmers Market and that should be noted in the plan. Hartnett stated that the community has done an exceptional job with land preservation and acquisition for open space and suggested that acquiring open space and land along the water for public access and beach use should be a focus moving forward.

Cole noted that there are funding mechanisms such as the Ag/Open Space Fund and CPC funds that have been used for land acquisition. He also stated that Westport has a very good trail system and the Handy House trail should be referenced in the plan.

Discussions

Schmid stated the next meeting will be held on May 12th and will include the discussion on the Land Use Chapter. Cole suggested that Cathy Lanier and Sue Daylor present some of the information they have been working on related to communication and Covid changes to the work environment. Lanier stated that she would not be available at the next meeting but Sue Daylor could present.

Minutes

February 17, 2021

Cole moved to approve the minutes of February 17, 2021, seconded by Ann Boxler. Upon a roll call vote being taken, members Schmid, Soares, Cole, Daylor, Boxler and Lanier voted aye and the motion carried.

March 17, 2021

Schmid requested changes to the second paragraph, of the minutes - the March 17th meeting was the fourth meeting of the committee and the Chapters discussed were Capital Facilities and Education.

Lanier moved to approve the minutes of March 17, 2021 as amended, seconded by David Cole. Upon a roll call vote being taken, members Schmid, Soares, Cole, Daylor, Boxler and Lanier voted aye and the motion carried.

Other Business

None

Next Meeting

May 12, 2021 - 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Boxler motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Cole. The motion was approved with all members in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

James Hartnett, Town Planner