|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | TOWN OF WESTPORT856 Main RoadWestport, Massachusetts 02790 **PLANNING BOARD** | **Tel. (508) 636-1037**  **Fax (508) 636-1031** |

March 17, 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, Jim Whitin, 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 fourth meeting of the Master Plan Review/Update committee. The Capital Facilities and Education chapters will be discussed.

**Chapter Reviews**

**1. Chapter 1 - Capital Facilities and Human Services (Mark)**

Schmid presented an updated version of the Capital Facilities and Human Services Chapter. He noted that there are several items relating to this chapter that cross over into other chapters. The goals and objectives were reviewed to see if they were still appropriate. Many of the goals had been completed or acted upon. He showed images of the new police station, which was constructed for $9.8 million.

The middle/high school is currently being constructed for $97 million and this was another objective of the plan. The Town has completed or is working on several other projects including the installation of an E.V. charging station, LED street light replacement, new energy-efficient lighting in the Town buildings, and a new efficient boiler at the COA.

Fiber optic cables are being installed in town buildings as part of the town's technology upgrade. The town has made no progress in terms of cemetery improvements, and this is something that needs to be looked into. The cemetery buildings need renovation; there are no restrooms inside. Schmid also displayed pictures of the Highway Department building and the salt shed, which also need to be repaired.

The plan stated the need for a 20-year capital plan that has not been completed and this should be a priority for the Town. This should include an analysis of the facilities to determine the future needs of the community. Southcoast Rail will also have an impact on town facilities. Schmid stated that one of the challenges for the town in the near future will be to determine what will be done with the old high school. Zoning changes may be required and septic and wells will have to be addressed. The Town must find the means to finance capital improvement projects and stated that David Cole is looking at different financing options to fund upcoming projects.

Lanier stated that Noquochoke Village should be included in the Chapter.

**2. Chapter 4 – Education (David)**

Cole stated that based on the initial chapter reviews, the updates have been very positive with the School Building Committee and they have addressed many of the needs outlined in the chapter. A new modern school is being built, teacher salaries have been increased and there is a new superintendent. The new school will also provide the opportunity for some vocational studies. Many of the items listed in the original plan have been addressed and will need to see how it plays out with the new school and policies. Cole stated that overall he is very optimistic with the direction the schools are moving in. Whitin asked about the trailers at the Macomber School and the need for school business office space. Cole stated that these are more facilities-related items.

**Discussions**

**3. Rt. 6 Economic Development/Infrastructure – Dartmouth (Manny)**

Soares gave an overview of the development along Route 6 since the sewer was installed in Dartmouth. The western section of Route 6 in Dartmouth is similar to Route 6 in Westport. Sewer in Dartmouth was installed about 20 years ago and there have been several success stories. Cask and Pig, small Kiosks, and Dartmouth Woods are all good developments. He noted that Dartmouth has some very restrictive zoning that regulates development in this area. He described a project he is involved in and some of the issues with tying in the development into Dartmouth sewer. Soares stated that Westport needs to consider market-rate housing to minimize 40B projects.

Daylor stated that the Board is proposing a warrant article this year to fund the design of the Route 6 sewer, a portion would also look at grant opportunities, permitting, and a planning study for the area. He anticipates going before Town meeting in 2022 for some zoning changes along the Route 6 corridor and the STOD district.

Whitin stated that several studies have been completed along the Route 6 corridor and these should be reviewed and used before new studies are done.

**4. General check-in on M.P. Review process, format, schedule. (Mark)**

Schmid encouraged the committee to provide an executive summary of their chapters.

Whitin will work with Daylor on the land use chapter and present it at the next meeting. Ann Boxler will work on the Open Space and Recreation chapter. Kathy Lanier and Sue Daylor may also be at the next meeting.

The committee agreed to hold the next meeting at 4:00 p.m.

**Other Business**

None

**Minutes**

February 17, 2021 – The minutes were not distributed and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting**

1. April 14, 2021 - 4:00 p.m.
2. **Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

James Hartnett, Town Planner