

Master Plan Committee

March 20, 2024

7:00pm

1. Attendance: Matthew Benoit Director of Community Development, Richard Preston Planning Board, Linda Brown Building and Facilities Construction Committee, Michael Zwicker Planning Board, Maxwell Postma Board of Selectmen, Gordon Larrivee Open Space Committee, Katiegrace Dudley Conservation Commission, Carol Gogolinski Finance Committee, Robert Minarik Economic Development Commission.
2. Organization: Matthew Benoit accepts nominations for Chairperson: Mike Zwicker nominates Richard Preston as Chairperson. Carol Gogolinski Seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously. Linda Brown nominates Carol Gogolinski as Vice Chairperson. Mike Zwicker seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously. Carol Gogolinski nominates Linda Brown as Secretary. Mike Zwicker seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
3. Staff Updates: Matthew Benoit presents:
Funding Sources and Grant Opportunities: Community One Stop for Growth grant and a Planning Assistance grant from (EEA) Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.
Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) involvement. CMRPC will be able to help us apply for these grants. Matt Benoit will send us PDF files for these.

4. Discussion: (SWOT) **Strengths - Weaknesses - Opportunities - Threats**

Strengths: Community, Open Space / State Forest, Recreational Resources, Transportation Access to Highways, Highway Department Town Maintenance, Trail System (SNETT part of State Forest), Flexible Development Bylaw, Natural Gas Available, EMS Services, Transfer Station for Public Trash Disposal, Downtown Infrastructure, Public Schools K-12

Weaknesses: Water Based Resources, Bridge Crossings, Wetland Crossings / Culverts, Route 16 Traffic Flow, Bicycle Pedestrian Walkability, Parking for Trail Access, Under Utilized Municipal Properties, No Grocery Store, <10% Affordable Housing, National Grid Capacity for Electrification, Fiber Optics Unavailable, Moderate Housing Inventory, Downtown Building Uses, No Recreational Opportunities Downtown

Opportunities: Open Space Preservation, Natural Gas Extension, Economic Development-to lower tax base and fund municipal projects, Substation Installation, Undeveloped Land in Industrial, 55+ Bylaw, Assisted Living Facility, Complete Streets Study, Outside Dining, Soldier Field Utilization

Threats: Drinking Water Quality, Development Along Mumford River, National Grid Electrification, Increase in Traffic with Insufficient Roadways, Dead Trees Along Roadways, Stretch Energy Code

Katiegrace Dudley leaves at 8:05.

5. Next meeting discussion: We all agree to meet next on Thursday April 4, 2024 at 7:00. We may need to meet twice a month to start.

6. Adjournment: Mike Zwicker motions to adjourn at 8:30pm. Gordon Larrivee seconds the motion. The motion passes.

Respectfully,
Linda Brown
Master Plan Committee
Secretary