

Master Plan Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2025

Meeting called to order at 5:03pm.

1. Attendance: Rich Preston, Linda Brown, Carol Gogolinski, Bob Moran, Ross Smith, Gordon Larrivee, Rebecca Lavallee, Dan Mascroft, Rob Leonardi and Margaret Bacon. Meg Schlesman was present but left at 6:18pm. Bob Minarik arrived at 7:20pm. Mike Zwicker excused.
2. Minutes of March 19, 2025 are read. Carol motions to approve as amended. Dan seconds. The motion passes.
3. CMRPC attendance: Emily is present and Sam is on Zoom. Emily distributes, to the Committee, a written summary from the High School Mobile Workshop that took place at the High School. This was requested at the last meeting.
4. Vision Statement Development: Emily distributes a Vision Statement Development handout. This information was obtained from the results of our town wide survey pertaining to question #17 - What would an ideal Douglas 20 years from now look like to you? We had decided at the last meeting that the 1998 Master Plan Vision Statement was too long and we wanted to condense it. We discuss housing and Rich will find out what the state criteria is for 40B's and bring the information to the next meeting. Sam states that this Housing discussion could be part of the Master Plan Housing chapter. We discuss Emily's handout Vision Statement Development. This handout includes words used by residents to describe the ideal town, key themes, and potential phrases that were all found in the town wide survey. After much discussion we give Emily the following paragraphs to be our draft Vision Statement:

“Douglas is an inviting town with quaint neighborhoods, distinct villages, a dynamic downtown, treasured natural resources and abundant outdoor recreational opportunities. We strive to preserve the town’s heritage while embracing both the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

The town aims to maintain a balanced supply of housing for residents of all ages, abilities and financial means. Residents and visitors will be safely connected by well-maintained roads, sidewalks, and trails.

Civic transparency and public participation are the heart of the town encouraging active local voices, responsible fiscal management and exceptional provision of public services and infrastructure.

(We could also add a paragraph referring to a ‘balance of all generations’.)

Rich would like Emily to email this draft Vision Statement to him prior to the next meeting and he will send it to the Committee to review for our next meeting.

5. Margaret Bacon will bring to our next meeting a draft Mumford River Walk along the downtown area from Soldiers Field to Hayward Landing.
6. Quarterly Reporting: The quarterly reporting deadline for our grant, with the state, was due yesterday April 15, 2025. We need to complete this and submit it to our state in order to receive the grant funding awarded to us and enable the state to pay CMRPC for their work completed so far. Matt Benoit, Douglas Community Development Director, was working on this and is no longer with the town. Bob Minarik has stepped in to complete and submit this quarterly reporting to the state. Bob has contacted the state and they will not give us an extension on the deadline. Bob needs the last three months reports/invoice from CMRPC tonight. Bob will submit this to the state and the state will send the payments directly to CMRPC. Bob plans on submitting the last three months reporting to the state tonight after the meeting. Going forward we request CMRPC to submit to Bob monthly reporting instead of quarterly reporting. That would be easier for Bob to keep track of.
7. Carol motions to adjourn at 7:00pm. Ross seconds. The motion passes.

Linda Brown

Master Plan Committee

Secretary