

Master Plan Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2025

Begin at 5:00pm

1. Attendance: Richard Preston, Linda Brown, Bob Minarik, Bob Moran, Mike Zwicker, Ross Smith, Carol Gogolinski, Gordon Larrivee, Margaret Bacon and John Charbonneau Community Development Director. Excused absences are Rebecca Lavallee and Rob Leonardi. Excused is Meg Schlesman and not excused Dan Mascroft.
2. Minutes of April 16, 2025. Bob Moran motion to approve. Ross Smith seconds the motion. Mike Zwicker abstains. The motion passes.
3. Quarterly and monthly Reporting: Bob Minarik submitted the quarterly reporting on time in order to continue receiving our grant. Bob Minarik will be in charge of submitting the quarterly going forward and said it will be easier in the future.
4. Preliminary plan for Mumford River Walk presented by Margaret Bacon. Called the Mumford Riverway Park this was a coordinated effort from members Margaret Bacon, Carol Gogolinski and Bob Minarik. Based on a previous CMRPC and Master Plan survey results citizens would like to see a Mumford River walk created between Mechanic Street and Cook Street linking with Soldiers Field Ball Park. This could be phase one. The parcel runs along B Street and is owned by resident Gerald Jackman. This parcel was previously developed over 100 years ago and was part of the Douglas Axe Mfg. Co. Parking could be closer to the Mechanic Street side where it is not as steep and include a pedestrian bridge on the existing stone arch bridge abutments. The river walk would encourage more activity in the downtown area. Margaret hands out paperwork that includes the B Street proposed Mumford Riverway Park area downtown and examples of other river walkways in the towns of Webster, Northbridge and Putnam, CT.
Bob, Margaret and Carol are willing to give this presentation to the Selectmen to get their approval going forward if the Master Plan Committee agrees. Bob Moran motions to pursue this idea and allow our members to present this to the Selectmen as stated. Mike Zwicker seconds the motion. The motion passes.
5. Emily Glaubitz from CMRPC arrived at 5:25. We discuss drone photography be inserted into all of our final Master Plan chapters. CMRPC needs a list of areas to be photographed. The footage would be completed sometime in June 2025 by CMRPC. Rich Preston and Bob Moran volunteer to be guides and assist the day of the photography. Citizen Aaron Socrat mentions one of the locations could be the Douglas Common area. List of footage can be waterslides, state park, Douglas Orchard and Farm, the big fill section of the old

Grand Trunk Railroad and Soldiers Field. The town recently created a video using some drone footage. Bob Minarik will send this video electronically to Emily.

6. Vision statement discussion:

Dated - 5/21/25.

“What Makes Douglas, Douglas?

Douglas is an inviting town with quaint neighborhoods and villages, a distinct downtown, treasured natural resources and abundant outdoor recreational opportunities. The town is guided by thoughtful economic development strategies that embrace a healthy balance of employment opportunities, a competitive local business and industrial sector and a reasonable tax base. Civic transparency and public participation are at the heart of the town, encouraging active local voices, responsible fiscal management and exceptional provision of public services and infrastructure.

Douglas envisions a diverse inventory of housing for residents of all ages, abilities and financial needs. The town aims to maintain a friendly small town atmosphere that supports a balance of generations. Residents and visitors will be safely connected by well-maintained roadways, sidewalks and trails.

We strive to preserve the town’s heritage and important historic resources while embracing both the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.”

We are all in agreement this is the vision statement we want for the Master Plan. Emily will be sending this vision statement to the various town boards.

7. We would like to see any traffic studies that CMRPC has for the last 20 years and see what the changes are.
8. Emily will reach out to the school again to see if we can post the High School Survey completed results on our Town of Douglas website. Our town wide survey results have already been posted on the Town website under the Community Development section.
9. Mike Zwicker motions to adjourn at 6:38pm. Bob Moran seconds the motion. The motion passes.

Linda Brown

Master Plan Committee

Secretary