

Town of Shutesbury Massachusetts
Master Plan Working Group

February 1, 2017

Final Minutes
Minutes submitted by RL Groves

Meeting Begins at 7:00 PM

Members present:

Meryl Mandell, Bob Groves, Nan Dill, Dale Houle, Jeff Lacy, Jeanne Brown

Guests: Howard Snyder from Harriman.

Committee lacks a quorum for an official meeting.
Group decides to see what Howard has brought to meeting. It is possible that another member might appear and create a quorum.

Howard's handout suggests "Main Themes" that define results of visioning workshops. Town Facilities, Town Services, Open Space, Commercial Uses, Town-owned Business.

Nan states that taxes and costs are a main concern and not evident in Howard's "Themes".

Bob: Visioning should represent conflict between those who want "Progress" and the services and expense that come along with it and those who do not want the services and/or the expense.

Jeanne says that visioning Statement could reprise recent history in the Town, including Library dispute as a frame for the data collected.

Nan: Delineate next steps forward in planning process

Jeff: Next step is to present Visioning Statement to Town Meeting. Visioning is "Aspirational"

Meryl: MPWG to send document to Selectboard for review prior to public meeting. It will be up to Selectboard and Planning Board to assemble possible new working group to further the visioning process.

Nan: There is usually an "Ask" in these kind of studies. Maybe document can excite interest in volunteer work.

Howard distributes Visioning report created for Kennebunkport.

7:45 PM: Michelle appears. We now have a quorum and meeting officially begins.
1/17/17 meeting minutes approved.

Nan: Emphasis on particular data is important as to how the report is seen.

Jeanne: Some data can be flagged for emphasis.

Howard: Tone establishes relative importance of different data.

Nan favors appendices to include raw data from workshops and surveys.

Howard: Link goal statements with concomitant policy.

Example: Proposed service/cost. Page 4 Kennebunkport report "Action Plan".

Howard: Reviewed Draft Vision statement and report delivered to MPWG in early March. Town-wide final meeting to follow shortly thereafter

Howard distributes report prepared for Sheffield, MA. Report is less specific and more "narrative".

Jeff: Finds main themes are: community place, better use of existing facilities, broadband, cost/taxes of services, civil discourse, small town rural character.

Nan: Vision Statement: main themes, opposing dichotomies, next steps.

Appendices: 1. Background, process. 2. Raw data

Howard distributes outline.

Nan edits Howard's outline. Edited version passed around.

General agreement that edited outline is improved.

Howard will write draft and return it to MPWG "in about two weeks".

Committee will then meet and respond to Howard with consolidated suggestions/edits

Some discussion of how to edit document. Howard brings up legal and technical impediments to online editing.

Next MPWG session will hash out Howard's draft.

Nan would like to see demographic information alongside data. Would like to see which groups responded to survey.

Jeanne may write progress report for Next-door Shutesbury

Meeting adjourns at 8:54