

Minutes from the Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting, 03-19-2007 at 6:00 PM, Hilton Senior Center

Attendees: Bob Straubel, Lisa Pearson, Leah Hill, Ed Hunt, Jerry Klima, Bobbi Klima, Sally Laffely, Tim Mulcahey, John Davidson, Lisa Davidson, David Holscher, Joyce Hartt, Jackie & John Haggerty, Ruthie True, Berenice McLaughlin, Barbara Souther

INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting began with introductions; those in attendance are listed above in the attendees list. Each attendee told a brief history of themselves/their involvement with Salisbury as well as why they attended the meeting. Each had different experiences from life-long residents who remember the hey-day back in the 1950's to new residents who found the charm and potential Salisbury has. This translates into individuals with varied interests for subcommittees as well as the direction of the Town. The benefit: although the end result desires may vary the common theme is that all want to see positive change and improvements.

MASTER PLAN BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A packet of information was handed out to the group and Bob Straubel provided the group with a definition of a Master Plan as well as information on many tasks that have been done that are applicable either in whole or part. There have been many beneficial projects completed to date which are solid building blocks for the Master Plan. It will be the job of the subcommittees to work along with the consultant to formulate this (and a great deal of additional work) into the Master Plan.

The method and prerequisites for hiring the consultant were discussed. Interviews will be conducted on April 4th from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. There have been interested responses to the information that was submitted.

There were many concerns for the Town stated by the group which helps to define why they attended. Here are a few of the bullet item/paraphrased statements:

- Direction & Town Vision
- Housing, Low-income conditions
- Sewer & Water services and condition
- Salisbury Square development
- Police & Fire support, no Ambulance service in Town
- Roads are in deteriorating condition and the lack of sidewalks
- Job opportunities
- Lack of restaurants (fine dining) and quality entertainment
- Taxes
- The school system and the potential drain on it
- Town involvement – considering that the attendance at the Town Meeting is disturbingly low, a difficulty in obtaining adequate community input is foreseen. Various methods to obtain adequate participation were discussed:

- Draft a questionnaire for completion at the Town Meeting was suggested
- Post notices at the school, send in water bills and/or at local restaurants & bars
- Get positive information to realtors to help promote the town
- Consultant input and direction
- Neighboring community Master Plans – Newbury & Merrimac are currently completed, obtain copies if possible

CHOOSE SUB-COMMITTEES.

Those in attendance stated areas of interest and sub-committees were chosen as follows:

Housing – Lou, Tim, Bev, Brenda

Economic Development – Bernice, Ed, Bobbi, Sally, John/Lisa, Joyce

NCHR/OSR – Bev, Jackie/John, Ed, Ruth

Land Use/Smart Growth – Jerry, John/Lisa, Sally, Brenda, Bernice, Barbara

Transportation/Public Services – Joyce, Bobbi, Jerry, Ruth, Tim, Jackie, John, Barbara

PREPARATION FOR NEXT MEETING

Committee members are encouraged to review other Towns' recently completed Master Plans, either on-line or at the Salisbury Planning Office. Also, the Planning Department has a list of Master Plan-related web sites that members of the committee may wish to review.

- o Lowell, MA: www.lowellma.gov/depts/dpd/master_plan/complete_masterplan
- o Newburyport, MA: www.cityofnewburyport.com/Master%20Plan.pdf
- o Nantucket, MA: www.nantucketcomplan.com/index.html
- o Seabrook, NH: <http://www.seabrook.nh.us/MP/masterplan.htm>

When complete, the Master Plan will be upheld by the Planning Board as a way to review new developments, meaning, that would be a criteria of a project, that it is consistent with the goals of the Master Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting date was discussed; April 2nd is currently on the schedule however that may change. Bob Straubel will poll members by e-mail on March 26th to see if there is a need to hold a meeting prior to the appointment of a consultant. If members have questions regarding planning and master plan preparation than a meeting will most likely be held.