

APPROVED

Town of Grantham Master Plan Committee Meeting

January 9, 2017

Thain Allan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room of the Grantham Town Hall located at 300 Route 10 South in Grantham, NH.

Present: Thain Allan, Mary Hutchins, Bob MacNeil, Gene Martin, Adam Ricker (UVLSRPC)
Meeting minutes: Nikki Arsenault

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

January 23, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.
January 30, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.
February 13, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.
February 27, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

Administrative:

Approval of the minutes for the December 13, 2016 meeting:

Allan asked if there were any corrections to the draft meeting minutes provided to the committee. MacNeil noted that his last name was spelled incorrectly; Martin also provided the correct spelling for his first name. MacNeil noted for the record that he found himself in an argumentative position with regard to his stance on the potential for a large office space in Grantham; after further consideration of his stance, he wanted to note that his reasoning behind this was that he didn't recall this issue being discussed in prior meetings and he wanted it to be brought to the forefront. Allan concurred and made note of these comments.

New Business:

Ricker announced that this meeting's discussion would begin on the middle section on page 10. Ricker read the first bulleted section aloud for the Committee and asked if keeping the rural character of roads seemed to still be of importance given the survey results and the views of the Committee. Discussion ensued regarding where Grantham's village district is specifically located. MacNeil noted that perhaps this language might be dependent upon what the Department of Transportation decides is the most appropriate secondary egress point for Grantham Village School. Ricker suggested adding "unless safety needs require that a bridge be widened". Allan further noted that it is important to not define the village district too rigidly. Ricker added that the language could be softened by adding (after the "and" on the third line) "providing a safe vehicular and pedestrian experience for all Grantham residents".

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For the language under the second bullet point, Ricker and Allan suggested adding "...provide a second access to Grantham Village School to provide additional safety for children and for emergency access." Moving ahead to the language regarding sidewalks and bicycle paths (lanes), Ricker noted that it was suggested repeatedly in the survey results that a map be developed which outlines a trail system for bicycles, a trail system that would not necessarily connect to or use roadways. Allan added that he believes that it is important to use the word "lanes" rather than "paths" with regard to bicycle travel. In the section regarding paving/roads, MacNeil suggested adding "consider resident and abutter needs with paving plans" to the current statement.

Considering Community Services in Grantham: Following some discussion, it was agreed to remove the first section because it was likely carried over from an earlier plan and is no longer relevant. After reading the next sentence of the section, MacNeil suggested removing the entire section, as it appeared to have also been copied from an older plan. Hutchins added that with respect to emergency services, this needs to be looked at more closely so that the emergency equipment available is able to be used efficiently and as needed. MacNeil further suggested that discussion with the CIP would likely be important for accurately completing this section. Allan noted the importance of the Town continually reviewing its domestic infrastructure with respect to public safety, medical emergency, police and fire protection, and that this is reflected in the language of the Master Plan. Ricker announced that the bulleted language that was removed should probably be replaced with other applicable language and Allan replied that a version of the following statement could be used: "...continually review their infrastructure as to the efficiencies to meet the public needs of safety, emergency medical attention, and police and fire protection."

Page 11 / Conservation: Martin suggested removing the word "strongly" from the first bulleted point. No changes were made to the second bulleted point. At the third bulleted point, MacNeil questioned how this is accomplished; does the Town provide financial incentives in addition to current use tax incentives? Allan noted that there isn't an answer today, but he likes the use of the word "encourage". Ricker noted the importance of encouraging education and outreach here as well. In the next section regarding acquiring lands, Allan suggested removing the word "actively". After the reading of the last bullet point and ensuing discussion, it was agreed to change the language to "provide adequate means for Grantham administration, Code Enforcement, Selectboard, etc. to monitor and enforce local and state ordinances".

Recreation: Ricker noted that it was mentioned several times within the survey results that the Recreation department was under-staffed; respondents hoped that more staff and services would be added in the future. Allan and MacNeil noted here that this section would be a good place for the bicycle trail/path maps discussed earlier. Ricker suggested using the language "encourage the utilization and growth of Town recreation facilities and programs". The Committee then discussed the importance of including reference to the communication of all recreation-related entities, including the Conservation Commission, the Snowmobile Club, the Recreation Department, the Eastman Hiking Club, Eastman Recreation, and the Historical Society.

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Demographics: Martin noted that it would be helpful to create a few statements regarding the conclusions that can be drawn from the data collected, i.e. providing some comparisons to the Upper Valley region as a whole. Allan commented that the population projections chart on the next page needs to be double-checked for accuracy. Ricker suggested adding a narrative to explain these projections; MacNeil added that it would be preferable to further elucidate how these projections compare to actual (current) data. Ricker added that a build-out analysis could accomplish this, but it would require additional time and resources. Allan further suggested adding a statement at the beginning of the chapter that indicates that actual growth rates may differ greatly from the provided projections. The Committee then discussed the amount of Grantham land in current use and the importance of deciding how to add this component to the Master Plan.

Local Economy: Ricker to follow-up to confirm that the local employers listed are correct.

Adjournment

Chair Allan asked for a motion to adjourn.

Robert MacNeil motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Gene Martin seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

The next Master Plan Committee meeting will take place on Monday, January 23, 2017 in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room of the Grantham Town Hall at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nikki Arsenault