

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
January 15, 2020 – 7:30 pm
Library Community Meeting Room, 660 High Street, Westwood, MA

Committee Members Present: Chair Jack Wiggin, Vice Chair Steve Olanoff, Pam Kane, Peter Kane, Sheila Hanley Longval, Janica Midiri, John Rogers, Tom Viti, Linda Walsh, Nancy Donahue, Charlie Donahue, and Paula Jacobson.

Members Absent: Peter Neville, Barbara Shea, Trevor Laubenstein, Kate Wynne

Staff Present: Abby McCabe, Town Planner and Recording Secretary

Called to Order by Chair Jack Wiggin at 7:35 pm. The meeting was video recorded by Westwood Media Center. [Watch the meeting here.](#)

Review Progress on Section Updates

Chair Jack Wiggin explained that all nine of the subject elements have been before the Planning Board and received comments. Each section should be updated to include comments received from the public and planning board. Mr. Wiggin recommended each group work on integrating the initial comments received by the Planning Board and return the draft to Ms. McCabe. Staff and a small group the Chair and Vice Chair Steve Olanoff anyone else interested will work to double check and do final editing so that each sections flows and matches to read as one cohesive document. He noted that each section may be reduced as some of the background information related to the survey and visioning session will likely come out and go into an introductory section that will explain the public participation process. Once all sections are in a final form there will also be a priority implementation plan that will list each action item and assign a responsible party and recommended timeframe.

Discussion of specific Goals and Implementing Actions

The Committee went through each section and gave input on overall recommendations, and discussed some of the issues raised and how to address. Suggestions of the Committee members included adding more properties to the National Register and more policies to emphasize preservation of historic buildings in the Natural and Cultural Resources section. For the Transportation Section it was recommended to include a new action item to advocate for a regional corridor study for Route 109 to the regional planning agency to study and make regional recommendations. Adding in consideration of autonomous vehicles into the Transportation Section was also recommended. The Committee discussed the recommendation for establishing an inclusionary process for the consideration and review of affordable housing. More public art and recommendations related to art were recommended in the Town Centers section. It was noted that MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) has a public arts program. The space in front to the Fisher School and the bandstand area in front of the Council on Aging were noted as possible locations of public art.

Review Work Plan and Next Steps:

It was recommended that each group provide initial updates to Ms. McCabe within the next two weeks. Ms. McCabe will work to secure dates for two public open house sessions and will inform everyone once the dates and locations are confirmed. This will be an opportunity for people to come to us about what they want to be included in the Comprehensive Plan and talk on an informal basis about our work.

The Committee selected the next meeting for Wednesday, March 11th.

The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from September 25, 2019 as amended this evening.

The Committee voted to adjourn at 9:30 pm.

List of Exhibits:

Agenda

Draft meeting minutes from September 25, 2019

Meeting Agenda Detail

Summary of Planning Board Comments from each meeting on first drafts October 22 – January 7, 2020 meetings