

Town of Chelmsford
Master Plan Update Committee
50 Billerica Rd., Room 205 Chelmsford, Ma 01824
Regular Meeting
MINUTES
July 11, 2019
Approved July 25, 2019

Attending: George Zaharoolis, Donald Van Dyne, Kenneth Lefebvre, Nancy Araway, Bill Murphy, Joseph Ready, Scott Rummel (7:20PM)

Not Present:

Others Present: Evan Belansky, Community Development Director

Please note that all documents referenced in these minutes are on file at the Town Manager's Office, 50 Billerica Rd., Chelmsford, Mass. This meeting was hand recorded by the Recording Secretary.

This meeting was called to order at 7:08PM by Chairman Zaharoolis.

7:00- 7:15 Open Session

No one came forward at this time.

Bill Murphy was introduced as the newest member of the Committee.

Vision Statement Discussion

There was nothing new to add to the Statement at this time.

Review of Open Space and Recreation Chapter – Community Development's edited version

Mr. Belansky provided a draft updated version of this section to the Committee. The 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan will be used as the primary reference material for the Update.

A listing of what has been accomplished since 2010 was added into this section, and was summarized for the Committee's information. Mr. Zaharoolis noted the addition of a part of 101 Mill Rd. as Open Space, and the addition of a pickle ball court at Varney Park. A listing of completed Conservation Restriction documents will be added to the Update.

A new recommendation about creating a Recreation Department or an Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee could be added into the Update.

Much of the information presented in the 2010 Plan has not changed. Most of the recommendations in the Update will come directly from the 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Suggestions for new topics were provided to the Committee.

Letters requesting input from stakeholders can be sent from the Town Manager's office, as well as an invitation for stakeholders to come to a future meeting.

The Town's DPW Department will be asked to update their section.

Much of the maintenance of Open Spaces is done by volunteers with very little funding. The Town may need to figure out how to continue services currently being provided by volunteers in the event a current volunteer group decides to stop their activity, as the Town benefits from multiple volunteer groups in many services and programs offered to residents.

A suggested recommendation could be to improve public education and outreach on what Open Space & Recreation parcels are formally recognized to be open to the public, and which areas are not. The committee agreed that a better recreation program will lead to a better culture and sense of community in Chelmsford.

Mr. Murphy asked about how open space and recreation areas are evaluated. Are they meant to appeal to just Chelmsford residents, or to a more regional audience? Ms. Araway explained that she sees the Master Plan process as a "wants and needs" list that will benefit Chelmsford over the next 10 years. She is impressed with the results from the 2010 Plan recommendations, and believes this can be done again for the next 10 years.

At this time, there was discussion clarifying the development of a Mission/Vision Statement. The Committee stood by its decision to develop the statement throughout the entire planning process.

Natural, Historical and Cultural Resources also were referenced heavily in the 2017 Open Space Plan. New themes will include Storm Water Regulations and climate change. Ms. Araway suggested splitting Natural Resources from Historic and Cultural Resources.

There is a Historic and Cultural Plan in place that can also be used as a reference in the Update. Recommendations could include more advocacy, preservation, and volunteerism. More work may be needed to do cultural event planning such as festivals and similar events.

Mr. Rummel suggested updating implementation in the various town plans every two years. Ms. Araway advised the town doesn't have the resources to address this so frequently. Ms. Araway also noted concern with accountability for recommendations that a stakeholder does not agree with.

Committee members were directed to send any additional questions for stakeholders to Mr. Belansky.

Review items from previous meeting

Discussion tabled.

Discuss next meeting agenda

NMCOG will be coming in to discuss the Land Use sections of the Plan.

The next meeting will be held on July 25, 2019. Mrs. Merrill will not be present; either a Committee member will take minutes, or the meeting could be audio recorded.

Approval of Minutes

June 27, 2019

Motion: by Mr. Lefebvre to approve the Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2019, as presented.

Seconded by Ms. Araway. Mr. Murphy, Mr. Ready, and Mr. Rummel abstained, all others in favor. **Motion carries.**

Adjourn

Motion: by Ms. Araway to adjourn the meeting at 8:55PM. Seconded by Mr. Lefebvre. **Motion carries, unanimous.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Vivian W. Merrill,
Recording Secretary

Supporting Documents:

-2010 Chelmsford Master Plan Sections for Open Space & Recreation, and Natural, Cultural & Historic Resources

-Draft Minutes