

CHELMSFORD 2021 MASTER PLAN

UPDATE COMMITTEE

SelectBoard meeting of February 14, 2022

PURPOSE OF TONIGHT

- Refresh and update SelectBoard
 - Final draft plan and Letter to Residents
- On January 26, 2022 Requested Planning Board endorsement of MP.
- On January 26, 2022 Planning Board initiated appointments of the Implementation Committee
- Provide Report at Spring Annual Town Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- NANCY ARAWAY PLANNING BOARD
- KENNETH LEFEBVRE SELECT BOARD
- WILLIAM “BILL” MURPHY CITIZEN AT LARGE
- MICHAEL RAISBECK PLANNING BOARD [REPLACED DON VANDYNE]
- JOE READY TOWN MEETING REPRESENTATIVE
- SCOTT RUMMEL CITIZEN AT LARGE
- S. GEORGE ZAHAROOLIS 2010 MP REP. [CHAIR OF 2021 MP]
- *AGE FRIENDLY COMMITTEE- FRED BRUSSEAU [NON VOTING]
 - AGE FRIENDLY COMMITTEE HAS PROVIDED VALUABLE INPUT TO THE MP COMMITTEE

ADVISORS TO MPC

- EVAN BELANSKY TOWN OF CHELMSFORD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- NORTHERN MIDDLESEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS [NMCOG]
 - BEVERLY WOODS DIRECTOR
 - JAY DONOVAN ASST DIRECTOR
 - JUSTIN HOWARD TRANSPORTATION AND ZOOM OPERATOR
- VIVIAN MERRILL MINUTES

INPUT RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING

- PAUL COHEN TOWN MANAGER
- LISA MARRONE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
- GARY PERSICHETTI DPW / FACILITIES / SEWER / PARKS
- WATER DISTRICTS
- SEWER DEPARTMENT
- AGE FRIENDLY COMMITTEE AND SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR
- CONSERVATION COMMISSION
- EVAN BELANSKY, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- BPAC
- HISTORICAL COMMISSION

TIME LINE

- PLANNING APPOINTED COMMITTEE IN APRIL 2019
- FIRST MEETING TOOK PLACE ON MAY 7, 2019
- COMMITTEE MET 2ND AND 4TH THURSDAY
- COVID CAUSED APPROXIMATELY 4 MONTH'S HIATUS
- MARCH 19, 2020 PUBLIC PRESENTATION / INPUT SESSION CANCELED
- MEETINGS RESUMED JULY OF 2020 VIA ZOOM
- June 22, 2021 - PRESENTATION OF DRAFT TO PB
- CONTINUED TO MEET THRU DECEMBER 2021

WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN

- MASTER PLAN IS A COMPREHENSIVE OR FAR REACHING PLAN OF ACTION.
- A MASTER PLAN IS A DOCUMENT AND POLICY GUIDE DESIGNED TO HELP COMMUNITIES CREATE A VISION OF WHAT THEY WANT TO LOOK LIKE IN THE FUTURE. MASTER PLANS MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO HELP GUIDE COMMUNITIES' PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, AND OUTLINES IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES THAT ADDRESS LAND USE ISSUES, TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES, THE LOCAL ECONOMY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND PRESERVATION.
- MASTER PLANS ARE NOT BINDING LAWS OR REGULATIONS ON THEIR OWN.
- MP IS A GUIDE TO CREATE A PLAN OF ACTION FOR RESPECTIVE PARTIES TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE MP. BUT IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE RESPECTIVE PARTIES RESEARCH AND OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS

MEETINGS SECTION BY SECTION

- ALL MEETINGS STARTED WITH OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC INPUT
- FIRST COMMITTEE UPDATED SECTION[S] DATA AND INFORMATION FROM THE 2010 PLAN
- MPC REVIEWED THE ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES SECTIONS
- MPC REVIEWED THE RECOMMENDATIONS
- MPC IDENTIFIED 2010 ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WERE ADDRESSED
- MPC UPDATED ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS SECTIONS WITH INPUT FROM SURVEY AND RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

COMMITTEE PROCESS

- COMMITTEE CONDUCTED A SWOT ANALYSIS
 - STRENGTHS
 - WEAKNESSES
 - OPPORTUNITIES
 - THREATS
- PUBLIC INPUT
 - COMMITTEE DISCUSSED PUBLIC INPUT SESSIONS
 - COVID PREVENTED FROM HAVING IN PERSON PUBLIC INPUT SESSIONS
 - MP COMMITTEE CREATED A SURVEY
 - OVER 1200 RESPONSES TO SURVEY
- MP COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS
 - UPDATED DATA FOR EACH SECTION
 - ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES
 - RECOMMENDATIONS
- UPDATED LETTER TO THE RESIDENTS

SECTIONS OF 2010 VS 2021 MP

2010

- LAND USE AND ZONING
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- TRANSPORTATION
- HOUSING
- OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION
- NATURAL, CULTURAL & HISTORICAL RESOURCES
- FACILITIES
- IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

2021

- LAND USE AND ZONING
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- TRANSPORTATION
- HOUSING
- OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION
- CULTURAL AND HISTORIC
- NATURAL RESOURCES
- FACILITIES
- IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

PRINCIPLE GOALS OF THE M.P. SECTIONS

- 1. Land Use and Zoning: Manage and direct growth, including redevelopment and new development projects, in a manner consistent with the community's character and ensure that the Town's zoning and land use policies and practices are consistent with the approved Master Plan.
- 2. Economic Development: Revitalize the Chelmsford economy by addressing the COVID-19 impacts through new businesses, resolving the sewer capacity issues, redeveloping aging vacant and for sale properties, utilizing the Economic Development Commission to market the community and attract "growth" businesses which enhance the town's tax base and create well-paying jobs in a manner that balances job creation with the quality of life.
- 3. Transportation and Circulation: Improve and enhance the community's established transportation network by promoting alternative transportation modes, expanding public transit options, and implementing traffic improvements and techniques that are directed at alleviating congestion and improving safety.
- 4. Housing: Promote the development and maintenance of diverse and affordable housing opportunities for Chelmsford residents consistent with the community's character for all income levels, lifestyles and age groups.

PRINCIPLE GOALS OF THE M.P. SECTIONS CONT.

- 6. Cultural and Historic Cultural Resources: Maintain, protect and preserve the natural, cultural and historical resources that provide the town its unique identity and enhance the quality of life of its residents
- 7. Open Space and Recreation: Manage, preserve and protect open space and recreation resources and invest in the expansion of these area in order to enhance the quality of life.
- 8. Facilities and Services: Provide high quality, cost effective and accessible services to meet the changing needs of the Town's residents and businesses
- Sub Goals Within Each Section: A list of sub goals are enumerated on the first page of each section.

VISION STATEMENT

Chelmsford will continue to evolve and change over time, and will strive to make such changes in a manner that respects the shared values, needs, and desires of all residents, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, income levels or abilities. We will make every effort to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all who live and work here, by ensuring that: the town is safe and attractive, community character is preserved, our educational system is of the highest quality possible, and the local economy remains strong and vibrant. High priority will also be given to protecting and preserving natural resources, open space and the town's historic assets for generations to come. The future success of the Town will depend on town government, residents, non-profits, volunteers and the business community working collaboratively as partners to address present-day and future needs in the areas of housing, municipal service delivery, transportation, economic development, public health, energy and climate resilience, and age-friendly policies and programs. The Town has a strong record of forming effective partnerships and working in tandem to achieve common goals. We expect that this will continue and are confident that Chelmsford will remain a great place to live in the future.

SUMMARY

- MPC UPDATED 2010 MP PLAN
- FORMAT 2010 PLAN DID NOT CHANGE -- DATA UPDATED
- NEW ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES WERE IDENTIFIED
- NEW RECOMMENDATIONS WERE CREATED
- SOME 2010 ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS REMAIN.
- PRESENTATION TO PB in June 2021 (SOUGHT COMMENTS)
- PB REQUEST FOR APPROVAL (TONIGHT)
- SELECTBOARD PRESENTATION (TO BE SCHEDULED)
- PRESENTATION TO TOWN MEETING (SPRING 2022 TM)
- IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE TO BE FORMED (appointed by the PB)

ROLE OF IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

- Role of Implementation Committee is to alert respective boards or departments of the recommendations included in the Master Plan and not to enforce or to engage in actual implementation of the recommendations.
- Gather results and finding of the of the respective parties in order to keep the Master Plan recommendations updated.
- Periodically report back to the Planning Board on the progress of implementation of the recommendations in the Master Plan
- Master Plan outlines the recommended composition of the Implementation Committee.

MASTER PLAN DOCUMENT

A link to the Letter to Residents and Master Plan is below.

<https://www.chelmsfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13616/MP-Letter-To-Residents--FINAL-with-12-2-21-edits>

[https://www.chelmsfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13617/Final-Draft-Chelmsford-Master-Plan 10 28 21](https://www.chelmsfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13617/Final-Draft-Chelmsford-Master-Plan_10_28_21)