

Town of Chelmsford
Master Plan Update Committee
50 Billerica Rd., Chelmsford, Ma 01824
Regular Meeting
MINUTES
February 25, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Approved March 11, 2021

Attending: Nancy Araway, Michael Raisbeck, Kenneth Lefebvre, Bill Murphy, Scott Rummel

Not Present: Joe Ready, George Zaharoolis

Others Present: Evan Belansky-Community Development Director, Fred Brusseau-Age Friendly Initiative

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 televised via Zoom and Chelmsford Telemedia.

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020, Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place. Town of Chelmsford Master Plan Update Committee will be conducting a remote public meeting on Thursday February 25, 2021, at 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Mr. Lefebvre.

1. 7:00- 7:15 open session

No one came forward at this time.

2. Vision statement - discussion

Discussion tabled.

3. Historic – final draft review

The second round of edits submitted by Deb Taverna of the Historic Commission was reviewed by the Committee. Ms. Araway requested that updated information be provided where some information was deleted regarding grant awards. Mr. Lefebvre asked for clarification of several other edits.

There were no new Historic Preservation recommendations presented to date. Most of the recommendations in the 2010 Master Plan will carry over to the update. Ms. Araway noted that prior attempts at creating zoning changes to preserve older homes have failed, due to lack of support over increased density.

Committee members were asked to send any additional comments to Mr. Belansky. Ms. Araway requested this request be added to the Agenda for the next Historic Commission meeting, so they could discuss this as well.

Ms. Araway was asked to provide additional input on the Cultural section of the Master Plan. She noted that the Cultural and Historic Preservation Plan did address Cultural assets more precisely, and she will use that Plan as reference material.

4. Open Space and Recreation – final draft review

Additional edits to this section were presented and reviewed by the Committee.

A reference to the Warren-Pohl Farm will be added to the section about Town –owned land.

Additional formatting edits were suggested.

Ms. Araway suggested creating efforts to revitalize the Farmers Market on the Common. This will be added to the Recommendations. Ms. Araway and Mr. Raisbeck will add some edits for the Agricultural section.

Ms. Araway suggested recommending creating an Operating Budget for Open Spaces.

Mr. Raisbeck suggested putting some Open Space land under the control of another body than the Conservation Commission, if the Town’s goal is to promote Agriculture.

Fred Brusseau asked about ADA compliance to the best extent practicable on Open Spaces. He asked about creating opportunities for Senior Citizens at local parks and recreation spaces, and adding some information in this section. The data would be taken from the Age-Friendly Action Plan.

A revised document will be reviewed at a future meeting.

5. Housing –review updated technical paper

This will be discussed at the next meeting, when NMCOG can be present, as they are the party updating the paper.

6. Age Friendly Committee - follow up

Mr. Brusseau reported that implementation of their Action Plan is now being discussed. An Implementation Committee may be formed to assist in this process.

7. Public input sessions –discussion

Discussion was Tabled.

8. Agenda items for next meeting

Mr. Belansky suggested presenting some of the sections to the Planning Board for discussion and input. Mr. Raisbeck will ask the Planning Board for their preference on how to proceed.

Mr. Belansky will coordinate with Mr. Zaharoolis.

9. Approval of minutes

January 14, 2021

February 11, 2021

Motion: by Mr. Raisbeck to approve the Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2021 and February 11, 2021, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Rummel.

Roll Call:

Ms. Araway: Aye

Mr. Rummel: Aye

Mr. Lefebvre: Aye

Mr. Raisbeck: Aye

Mr. Murphy: Aye

Motion carries, unanimous.

10. Adjourn

Motion: by Mr. Raisbeck to adjourn the meeting at 7:50PM. Seconded by Ms. Araway.

Roll Call:

Ms. Araway: Aye

Mr. Rummel: Aye

Mr. Lefebvre: Aye

Mr. Raisbeck: Aye

Mr. Murphy: Aye

Motion carries, unanimous.

Next Meeting: March 11, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,
Vivian W. Merrill,
Recording Secretary

Supporting Documents:

-Draft Update of the Historic Section

-Draft Update of the Open Space and Recreation Section

-Draft Minutes