

Town of Chelmsford
Master Plan Update Committee
50 Billerica Rd., Chelmsford, Ma 01824
Regular Meeting
MINUTES
April 8, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Approved May 27, 2021

TOWN OF
CHELMSFORD
PATRICIA E.
DZURIS
TOWN CLERK

Attending: George Zaharoolis Nancy Araway, Michael Raisbeck, Kenneth Lefebvre, Bill Murphy,

Not Present: Scott Rummel, Joe Ready

Others Present: Evan Belansky-Community Development Director, Fred Brusseau-Age Friendly Initiative, Beverly Woods-NMCOG, Jay Donovan-NMCOG, Justin Howard-NMCOG

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 April 8, 2021, at 7:00 P.M.

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

1. 7:00- 7:15 Open Session

No one was present at this time.

2. Vision statement - discussion

Discussion tabled.

3. Housing - NMCOG

Mr. Donovan summarized the most recent changes to this section's goals list for the Committee.

Data discrepancies in one of the Assessor's tables still need to be resolved. Ms. Araway is working on this issue, and will forward updated information to Mr. Donovan once it is received.

Ms. Araway noted that there is attention given to affordable housing, but it doesn't address much of the recent development. Many single family lots are ripe for re-development, as the homes are torn down or extensively renovated and expanded. Past efforts to preserve older homes have not succeeded. Smaller starter homes are also being lost to re-development of this type. A paragraph acknowledging this trend could be added into the document.

Several maps will be added to the chapter. Ms. Araway and Ms. Woods will add some formatting changes. Mr. Brusseau liked the inclusion of Age-Friendly initiatives throughout the entire Plan Update.

4. Transportation - NMCOG

Mr. Howard reviewed the latest comments and changes made to this section from the last meeting, as well as comments received from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC).

The Committee was agreeable to these changes.

There was discussion about various traffic calming measures, including the flashing lights near several rail trail entrances. A sentence referencing the flashing lights will be removed, and this can be addressed by the Traffic Safety Committee.

Data about crash rates for bicycles and pedestrians in high traffic areas can be added to the document. Potential action items will also be added.

A recommendation to add signage that prohibits large trucks in certain areas around Drum Hill rotary such as North Road was suggested. It was noted there are many signs on North Rd.

5. Age Friendly Committee - follow up

No report provided.

6. Schedule moving forward – Next Steps – Planning Board update

The next meeting will be held on April 22, 2021.

Discussions will include adding comments about Agricultural uses to the Open Space section, reviewing the final version of the Cultural section to include updated information from Ms. Araway, and the presentation of the Facilities final draft document.

NMCOG will not be in attendance at this meeting.

Ms. Woods will need to review formatting edits in all of the sections of the Master Plan Update.

The Planning Board has been advised that the Plan Update is almost ready for their review.

Mr. Zaharoolis requested that Fred Brusseau be added as a working member of the Committee, as he has attended and participated in every meeting. The Committee supported this action.

7. Agenda items for next meeting

Potential Vision Statement discussion could begin once all of the Plan sections are completed.

8. Approval of minutes

January 28, 2021

Tabled pending further review by Committee members.

9. Adjourn

Motion: by Mr. Lefebvre to adjourn the meeting at 8:26PM. Seconded by Mr. Raisbeck.

Roll Call:

Ms. Araway: Aye

Mr. Lefebvre: Aye

Mr. Raisbeck: Aye

Mr. Murphy: Aye

Mr. Zaharoolis: Aye

Motion carries, unanimous.

Next Meeting: March 11, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

Vivian W. Merrill,

Recording Secretary

Supporting Documents:

-Draft Update of the Housing Section

-Draft Update of the Transportation Section

-Draft Minutes