

City known as the Town of Greenfield, Massachusetts

Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee

Minutes

114 Main Street

Thursday, March 5, 2015

Members present:: Carole Collins, Nancy Hazard, George Touloumtzis, Ashli Stempel, Kurt Richardson,  
Louise Amyot, Sara Campbell, Tara Kurland, Mark Maloni—Quorum Reached

Others Present: Laurie DiDonato

Meeting Called to order 4:35pm

**Approval of minutes:**

December 2014 minutes - Mark made motion to approve, seconded by Sara. George had some corrections which he will send to Laurie for changes to be made. Motion to accept as amended made by Nancy, seconded by Kurt and approved unanimously.

January 2015 minutes- George had some corrections for these minutes, he will send to Laurie for changes to be made. Kurt made motion to accept as amended, George seconded, and they were approved unanimously. Nancy thought February Notes needed some changes. She will pass along to Laurie for changes to be made.

**Old Business:**

**SGIC Ordinance-** Amendment had been made to add member of Youth Commission along with one student. Carole asked Mayor to put it on agenda, but he did not because thought it might be too much to ask of a volunteer. Mark agreed that if it is written into the ordinance it is locked and there could be a problem if there is no one in the Youth Commission who had time to do it. Amendment language will be changed to say 'representative of a youth-serving organization or school'. Mark offered to bring the amended ordinance to the Town Clerk and Council president to get on the city council meeting. Carole said she would send to the Mayor for his information. Carole will get specific language for Mark before the next council meeting.

**Master Plan Chapter Reports:**

Housing chapter- George

- Housing Needs Assessment has already been done by FRCOG.
- Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance (ADU) is moving forward - there was a joint public hearing on Feb 19<sup>th</sup>
- Staff for a Resource Center is a high priority
- Low Impact Development – in process, there was a meeting with FRCOG on Feb 19<sup>th</sup> which was focused on public education, but it is unclear how the technical aspects are moving and if there is funding for it. There is a Stormwater grant that will go to Eric and Sara for the purpose of figuring out the bylaw wording. A timeline has been established for this process.
- Reducing Impervious Surface standards – This is a priority for the Planning Board after the ADU. Standards need to be changed to maximum instead of minimum parking requirements. Commercial lots are too big. Space for snow can be pervious. The Institute of Transportation Engineers standard says how much space is required, but these can be

revisited. The Library has a state Board that dictates space minimums, but the town standards are higher, so they need to be looked at.

- Inclusionary Zoning to keep low income housing limits- Planning Board is starting to look at this.

#### Natural, Historic and Cultural Resources Chapter- Ashli

##### Main goals:

- Communicate value of resources to the community so it is used more, such as history, open space and hiking trails.
- More protection of conservation land –we want to make sure what we have is protected, both open space and agricultural
- Increase promotion of town-wide events.
- Protect historic buildings. There are 9 properties that are underutilized- we could start walking tours, etc. Schools could get on board and teach local history.
- Use pre-existing structures instead of new – could have special deals for undesirable space so the town could support people who will make improvements. Demolition delay ordinance- don't knock down buildings without making sure they don't have value. Carole noted the Mass Housing Partnership has a loan program in lower income communities across the Commonwealth.

There is not an entity to take charge, so what role does this committee take? The Recreation department might be a player. A youth member would be helpful in direction. Caitlin von Schmidt, Greenfield Business Association Director is interested in increasing marketing but money is the issue. Ashli wants to do a Facebook page. Carole mentioned that there is a Sustainable Greenfield Facebook page (that is a continuation of the VHB Master Plan Facebook page).

Adaptive Reuse and Infill development apply to these issues and are being worked on by Planning Board.

Implementation bullet in plan says to rapidly adjust zoning to protect resources. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is doing a health audit on all zoning ordinances, so this should direct some changes that need to be made.

Also needed – Agricultural land survey – FRCOG may have already done this, or maybe for the whole county, Mark will check. Survey of farmers and what they are growing- GCC may have this information. Plans for succession of farms and agricultural land would be valuable as well. Maureen Pollock and Caitlin have applied for a Way-Finding/ Place-making grant and should hear by April whether the Town has been awarded.

#### **Communications Plan- Ashli**

Handout of slides available. Ashli presented on Communications strategies for the committee with a mission, goals, opportunities as outlined in the slides. Increased communication is needed, as community may have lost interest. Need to identify our role as well as primary and secondary audiences. Keep involved in other Departments and vocal at events. Use social media, start a quarterly newsletter or tack on to another organization's. Various possibilities discussed. Nancy has a list of available channels she will share.

Unfortunately the Town does not have a PR person to help in this regard.

Nancy was concerned the mission was for the Plan and not the committee. We will discuss at next meeting.

### **Snow Removal Ordinance –George**

Proposed language in handout. Key changes included addition of:

**for the full width of the sidewalk and including abutting curb cuts/ramps,**

to make sure full width and ramps are cleared for wheelchairs. Also:

**Each twenty-four-hour period a violation exists shall be considered to constitute a separate offense.**

Hydrants are covered in other ordinance- this is only for transportation. Nancy proposed more changes to make it more readable, but George felt the fewer changes the more likely it would pass easily. Mark will plan to propose these amendments in the next A&O meeting. Nancy made a motion to approve the changes, Kurt seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

### **Progress Report**

Carole is collecting edits- we will likely want to start using online file-sharing/editing soon to make this easier, and Laurie reported that Google Docs is only option.

Budget- Carole put \$2500 as a line item in her budget, noting that the Planning and Zoning Boards have \$1500 budgets through the Planning Department.

Nancy proposed to extend our meetings so there is time at the end for progress reports and to determine what is to be done between meetings. Suggestions from others to better manage time needs included longer meeting time, different meeting time, creating subcommittees, getting written materials out ahead of time. We will plan to leave time at the end of the next meeting for this.

Kurt moved to adjourn, George seconded, and approved. 6:05pm.