

## Great Barrington Master Plan Committee (MPC)

Minutes of April 26, 2012  
Fire Station  
37 State Road, Great Barrington

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The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Co-Chairperson Michael Wise.

Members present: Barbara Bailly, Charles Bouteiller (Alternate voting), Ethan Culleton, Richard Dohoney, Jonathan Hankin, Paul Ivory, Mary Beth Merritt, Deborah Phillips, David Rutstein (Alternate, voting), David Shanahan, Karen W. Smith (not voting), Michael Wise  
Also present: Chris Rembold, Town Planner

Members absent: Andrew Blechman, Ryan Caruso, Shep Evans, Suzanne Fowle-Schroeder, Michele Gilligan, Bill Meier, Vivian Orłowski

### Minutes of March 22, 2012

After a motion by Smith, seconded by Evans, the minutes were approved as amended.

### Topical Workshops

The committee and audience members broke out into three different tables to discuss energy and climate change, historic and cultural resources, and housing. The full committee reconvened and recorded the results of each table. The results are below.

#### ENERGY AND CLIMATE (Rembold reporting)

- Because food security and energy prices will be an issue in the future, local food should be promoted, including allowing for chickens and renewable energy in residential areas. These initiatives should be as visible as possible, in front yards, not just back yards
- Community gardens should be encouraged and visible: at the Senior Center, the GB park, and other gateway or community gathering places
- Promote renewable energy and energy conservation. Educate the public that conservation is a money saving investment. Better utilize town events and meetings to get this message out and to connect people with energy assessment resources
- Energy conservation also means encouraging infill housing in neighborhoods, and multi-family housing in the mills, as well as building smaller homes in general
- Wind turbines are allowed only by special permit now. Change this so that they can be by right on parcels 5 acres or more. Large/tall turbines, or those on smaller lots by special permit. Commercial scale huge turbines are not likely to happen because they are not viable.
- Ensure zoning does not preclude other renewable energies like bio/waste digesters

#### HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES (Ivory reporting)

- Historic Resources
  - Develop an oral history program to highlight our historical and cultural assets and educate people, locals and tourists
  - Our numerous historical resources are valuable assets, authenticity, scale, character, draws tourists. Some resources are protected; many are not.
  - Past plans did not have action plans – this plan should (1) Identify resources, updating the architectural survey, (2) Evaluate properties for listing on the National Register, and (3) Implement various resource protection strategies and educational efforts to heighten public awareness and appreciation of the historic resources
- Cultural Resources
  - Past plans had no substantial mention of cultural resources