

Great Barrington Master Plan Committee (MPC)

Minutes of August 30, 2012
320 State Road, Great Barrington

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Co-Chairperson Michael Wise.

Members present: Andrew Blechman, Barbara Bailly, Ryan Caruso, Ethan Culleton, Shep Evans, Michele Gilligan, Jonathan Hankin, Paul Ivory, Vivian Orłowski, Deborah Phillips, David Shanahan, and Michael Wise. Also present: Chris Rembold (Town Planner)

Members absent: Richard Dohoney, Bill Meier, David Rutstein, Charles Bouteiller (Alternate), Suzanne Fowle-Schroeder (Alternate), Karen W. Smith

Minutes of July 26, 2012

Two corrections were noted by Wise.

Hankin moved to approve as amended, seconded by Gilligan. All were in favor.

Goals and Strategy Maps

The Committee agreed to the following *additions or corrections* to the draft maps:

Castle Hill Avenue neighborhood:

- Lake Mansfield Road: restate recommendation to explore the concept of a shared roadway or working with the Lake Mansfield Task Force rather than expressly calling for a one-way road
- Educate homeowners in lake watershed regarding stormwater control and lake health
- Crosswalks or pedestrian safety improvements at Taconic and Castle, Oak, and West.
- Develop criteria to rank or prioritize sidewalks improvements, e.g. connect commercial areas, community facilities, population centers.
- Work with Bard College at Simon's Rock to develop a walking route or series of maps for a safe route from campus to downtown
- Develop design criteria for the type of material used for sidewalks and curbs
- Traffic: instead of "speed enforcement," state as "traffic calming and pedestrian safety improvements"

Egremont Plain:

- Explore design guidelines or zoning controls for property alteration or development on prime agricultural soils. A one-size fits all approach to locating a house or improvement will not work, whether due to aesthetic, environmental, or other reasons, but some development guideline or education is needed in order to guard against chopping up farmland and conserving blocks of productive soils

South Main corridor:

- Revisit hotel room limit (currently 45 rooms), perhaps allowing more rooms by special permit, or exploring bylaws similar to Lenox's great estate bylaw

North Plain corridor (downtown to Division St.):

- Sidewalk maintenance and pedestrian safety at Railroad underpass
- Safe pedestrian and bike connection between Housatonic and downtown, e.g. a bike lane and/or signage on North Plain Rd.
- River access (multiple points)

State Road east

- Three Mile Hill trail from Butternut north

- Trail to East Mountain
- Traffic calming on Rte. 23 and sidewalks on both sides

Stockbridge Road

- Bike lanes/shoulder and lighting improvements (e.g. on Rte 183)
- Ensure neighborhoods like Fairview Terrace are walkable to commercial centers and downtown
- Connect High School to Beartown Forest, Benedict Pond, and Appalachian Trail

Other Issues and Concerns

Wise reminded the Committee that the next meeting will be in Housatonic, on September 27.

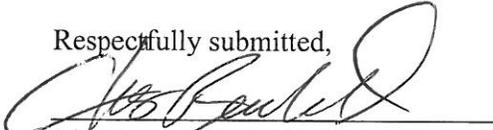
Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Wise adjourned the meeting at 9:20 PM.

Materials distributed or presented for this meeting:

- Draft Minutes of July 26, 2012
- Draft goals and strategy maps for neighborhoods, rural areas, and commercial areas

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Rembold, Town Planner