

## Great Barrington Master Plan Committee (MPC)

Minutes of October 25, 2012  
Great Barrington Fire Station

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The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Co-Chairperson Michael Wise.

Members present: Barbara Bailly, Andrew Blechman, Charles Bouteiller, Ryan Caruso, Richard Dohoney, Shep Evans, Michele Gilligan, Jonathan Hankin, Paul Ivory, Bill Meier, Deborah Phillips, David Rutstein, and Michael Wise. Also present: Chris Rembold (Town Planner).

Members absent: Ethan Culleton, Suzanne Fowle-Schroeder (alternate), David Shanahan, Vivian Orłowski

### Minutes of September 27, 2012

Wise suggested two grammatical changes.

Dohoney moved to approve as amended, seconded by Phillips. All were in favor.

### Draft Natural Resources, Open Space and Recreation

Rembold showed the working outline of the Plan so the Committee could see how the chapters would be structured. He suggested that this chapter on natural resources should be one of the first chapters as it is foundation to the others.

Rembold presented an overview of the draft chapter, noting this chapter is based on the task force report from spring 2011, as well as from the two public forums on the overall plan, surveys, neighborhood meetings and other public input, and the first forum, in April 2012, on open space and recreation. Similarly, drafts of subsequent drafts will also draw on public input.

The Committee noted the following items should be explored and/or better defined:

- River access:
  - Add access to Williams River at Old Maid's Park
  - Add formal access to Housatonic at Division Street (no sign, parking, or launch)
- When negotiating conservation restrictions and other land protections include provisions for public access to rivers and trails
- Describe provisions/considerations for dealing with "too much" water, i.e. severe storms and the increasing probability thereof, protecting wetlands and floodplains, dealing with stormwater problem areas
- Conservation Commission to better educate/inform regarding importance of wetlands
- Define whether the 2,000 acres of wetlands are distinct or in addition to the floodplains
- Investigate data and determine amount of provisionally protected land (land in Chapter status), e.g. acreage loss or gain in last 5 and 10 years. Similarly determine increase in APR land during this period
- Investigate minimum requirements (acreage, management responsibilities) of entering into Chapter program and educate landowners about the program
- In table of land inventory, in activity column, note where hunting is allowed
- Consider the ramifications of distinguishing scenic roads and other areas that are treasured for their vistas, whether the designation will/should guide policies regarding development, solar farms, conservation areas, etc. Show scenic areas on same map with currently protected areas
- Add discussion about Senior Center park improvements/vision
- Add discussion about private lands in recreational use, e.g. golfing, skiing, and airport

- Add discussion about trees and tree stewardship
- Add discussion about dog parks
- Revise statements as necessary to reflect outcome CPA vote

Rembold asked members to review the draft over the next month and contact him with comments and changes. He will send the Committees a Word version and a color PDF.

### **Outreach**

Wise asked for the Committee contact stakeholders to review draft goals and strategies with them. The Committee reviewed the previous list of interviewees. Caruso, Meier, Bouteiller, Shanahan and Phillips will review Open Space and Conservation issues with GB Trails and others. Blechman will discuss with the airport. Dohoney will be added to Health and Education interviews. Gilligan will be added to Housing with Blechman removed. Also remove Blechman from seniors. Meier and Phillips will help with youth and teens. Phillips will coordinate again with ESL. Add Time Warner Cable and National Grid to services and facilities interviews.

Rembold will contact Committee members to establish interview times before the New Year. All agreed.

### **Other Issues and Concerns**

The next meeting will be Monday, December 17 at 6:00 at the Fire Station.

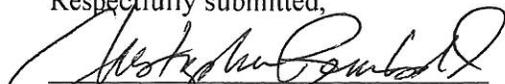
### **Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, Wise adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

### Materials distributed or presented for this meeting:

- Draft Minutes of September 27, 2012
- Draft Natural Resource, Open Space, and Recreation chapter
- Draft Master Plan outline
- Stakeholder interview list

Respectfully submitted,

  
Christopher Rembold, Town Planner