

**Town Wide Planning Committee**

**140 Worcester Street**

**West Boylston MA**

**Meeting Minutes**

**November 27, 2018**

**Meeting convened at 7:00 pm.**

**Members Present:** Joanne Kasper Dunne, Norma Chanis, Tony Sanders, Siobhan Bohnson, James Morrissey, Sue Meola, Rich Simmarrano, and Anita Scheipers (Chair).

**Members Not Present:** Vinny Vignaly

**Also Present:** Peter Murphy of the Finance Committee

**Discussion and Decisions:**

- 1. December 4<sup>th</sup> Public Forum:** Anita Scheipers asked the committee if everyone had seen the email from Vinny Vignaly in which he asked the committee to not present the draft Open Space and Recreation chapter at the public forum as his committee had not yet fully vetted the draft. After brief discussion, there was a clear consensus of the members present that the process needed to be moved along and that the chapter should be part of the public forum on Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. Anita Scheipers suggested that a disclaimer could be made at the public forum that the Open Space and Recreation Committee may make additional changes to the draft when they conduct their full review after the public forum.

Anita Scheipers reviewed the draft PowerPoint she had drafted for the Dec 4<sup>th</sup> event, adding that she had not yet inserted a section on the Open Space chapter but will do so this week now that the committee has decided to keep the Open Space chapter on the Dec 4<sup>th</sup> event. She stated she will get the updated version out in the next day or so and asked the committee to review the updated draft and get back any edits to her before the Dec 4<sup>th</sup> forum.

It was discussed who would be the presenters of the various chapter slides: Peter Murphy stated he would be willing to help present and discuss the Finance chapter, Norma Chanis agreed to present the Cultural and Historic chapter, and Joanne Kasper Dunne agreed to do the Open Space chapter since Vinny Vignaly would not be present. Anita Scheipers stated she would send Vinny an email letting him know the chapter would be included and to ask if he would send another member of his committee to help discuss that chapter. Joanne stated she would be glad to handle it if the Open Space Committee did not send a representative.

- 2. Other Matters:** Anita Scheipers stated that the Chair of the committee is by charge set to be the Town Administrator. Since she is retiring in January, she asked the committee to establish an interim chair to keep the committee organized and moving along until such time as a new town administrator is appointed. Norma Chanis offered to take on this role. The other members of the committee vigorously approved. Anita will work with Norma to help her get prepared for the January meeting.

Sue Meola shared that she still has not heard from the Planning Board chair as to when the Planning Board will have their draft Land Use and Zoning chapter ready. Anita stated she had sent an email to the Planning Board Chair and Planning Board member Vinny Vignaly urging that committee to get the draft chapter on an upcoming agenda and to let the committee know when that would be so as to allow a liaison to be sent to aid in that discussion.

Anita stated she is still committed to preparing an initial draft of the Municipal Services and Facilities chapter before she leaves in January.

The committee talked about how social media is creating tension between residents and town officials at times, as it appears that people post on social media with incorrect information or with complaints and never take the time to reach out to the proper town official or office to provide direct feedback about issues or to seek correct information. Anita Scheipers asked the committee if they felt this is something that should be raised on the Municipal Services and Facilities chapter. It was agreed it would be a good way to begin to raise awareness if the complications that careless use of social media can cause.

3. **Adjournment:** Joanne Kasper Dunne moved and Tony Sanders seconded to adjourn. Vote: All yes. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

**Respectfully Submitted:** Anita M. Scheipers

**Date Accepted: Dec 4, 2018**