

Town of Brookline Planning Committee
Minutes
Saturday October 28,2023 at 8:30 AM
At Town Office

Present:

In Person: Temporary Chair, Somara Zwick (SZ), Barbara Bourne (BB)and Stanley Noga, Jr.(SN)

Via Zoom: Oliver Ames (OA)

Meeting was called to order at 8:40 AM.

SZ made motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting of said committee. Seconded by BB. SZ and BB voted to approve the minutes. SN abstained since he was not in attendance but only half the meeting.

SZ advised the attendees that Mr. and Mrs. Michael Masters decided to not participate.

Status of Plan Update- BB reviewed prior (existing) plan with no updates.

At 8:42 AM Oliver Ames entered said meeting via Zoom.

SZ made comments on WRC previous notes which explained benefits and shortcomings of many towns previous plans. WRC suggested using directive language within a town plan which provides for a better chance of surviving challenges in court. She then provided a verbal overview of the plan and stated that she would send committee members a PDF of the plan.

SN stated his contemplation of what could be added to the plan as focusing on more housing, where the housing could be located, affordability and possible community solar array panels.

BB stated that population in town is dwindling due to a lack of affordable housing. She suggested that given the rural nature of Brookline, cluster housing and housing developments may be preferred route to more housing.

OA stated that he does not offer many changes. He noted that the current plan is more analytical than a projection of what the community wants. It does not provide for future uses or recommendations. Oliver feels that energy and housing are primary topics for a planning upgrade. He favors cluster housing as opposed to single private lots. He stated that he is working on a plan.

SZ suggests the date of the Planning Commission's next meeting to be December 2, 2023 at 8:30 AM. She suggested formulating a survey and formulate a plan upgrade based on survey results.

OA stated that he would be willing to research good digital survey using a system called "Qualtrics". He will take the role of reviewing surveys which may be of use to the committee. SZ will print out a paper copy of the plan and formulate a more proactive plan.

SZ will approach active and less active members of the committee seeking input and then formulate a final survey. The next major step is to publicize a updated plan and be prepared to place discussion on Town Meeting Agenda and discuss it.

OA stated that a rough draft could be written and he could built into it up to ten questions.

SZ stated that the current plan is in a Google Drive. OA will make a PDF of the Google Drive version and convert it to a Microsoft Word document to enable others to contribute ideas to the questionnaire.

SZ will formulate and provide notes as to what it was that WRC's observations were to be used in this committee's efforts.

Both BB and SZ stated that demographics questions and census data will be helpful. SZ feels that there may be some resistance to being proactive.

SZ will provide ideas for next Agenda. BB will type up next agenda when time to do so. OA will send out the next agenda.

In discussion as to who will be the Temporary Chair for the next few meetings, Barbara Bourne volunteered to be so.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stanley Noga, Jr.

Temporary Secretary