

Master Plan Implementation Committee

March 20, 2023

Members present: Cheryl Tougias, Chair; Roxanne Musto; Taber Keally; Dick Burke; Warren Lizio; Regina Campbell-Malone; Elaine Benson; Josh Eckart-Lee, Staff

Meeting called to order at 7:01. Next meeting dates are April 17 and May 15.

Citizens Speak

Robert Mussey spoke on behalf of the Hillside Neighborhood Association, regarding the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan and the issue of traffic safety in their neighborhood. The study for a shared use path on Unquity was not opposed, though the issue of regrading was discussed. Harlan Street conversion to one-way was noted to be a significant challenge. Striped bike lanes on Chickatawbut were not opposed. Widening sections of Chickatawbut was not supported due to its significant grading and the expected costs.

Staff Update

Josh Eckart-Lee provided a brief update on sustainability efforts, including an upcoming kickoff meeting with the GHG Inventory project consultants at Apex on 3/21 and with Clean Energy Solutions, who are leading the microgrid feasibility study. The EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program is open and we have been doing some outreach, which will continue at tomorrow's TRIC meeting.

Discussion of letter of support for the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan

Member Keally discussed adding additional comments regarding the public comments received. Member Campbell-Malone added that the Select Board be requested to take an additional round of comments regarding the plan. Member Musto requested clarification regarding the Bike Advisory Committee's review of the materials. Member Musto also noted the lack of participation from fire and police at this stage of the process. Chair Tougias discussed a comment email received from Maggie Oldfield of the Hillside Neighborhood Committee regarding safety and cut through traffic. Member Lizio discussed the intersection of the proposed bicycle routes with FEMA emergency corridors. The Bicycle Advisory Met on February 17 to discuss this plan and Staff will find the results of that discussion and disseminate. Member Burke discussed the importance of noting that traffic concerns were not the focus of this plan and that its development by MAPC be very clearly defined. Member Campbell-Malone noted that a decision be made in a timely manner.

Discussion of Town Center and Library parking utilization study and potential for further Town Center planning efforts

Bohler Engineering has completed their survey and will be finishing their analysis in the coming weeks, though there is not a timeline for their final report. Staff will request a final report by the 10th of April. Chair Tougias noted that a parking utilization study would need to understand the potential parking needs of additional library programming outside of the existing demand. Chair Tougias discussed the use of Committee funding to organize that utilization study, and will expect a more robust discussion at the April meeting. Member Keally noted that the difficulties of positioning a crosswalk across Canton Ave is a key challenge.

Discussion of sustainability, climate change and related objectives in the Master Plan and the potential for future updates

Chair Tougias had received comments from Sustainable Milton and the Shade Tree Advisory Committee regarding increasing the sustainability goals of the Master Plan, particularly with regards to the update of the Master Plan. Discussion was held regarding the timeline for an update to the sustainability strategies of the Master Plan and whether the Plan should be updated in the near future. There was discussion on the process of updating sections of a Master Plan as compared to comprehensive updates of a Master Plan. Chair Tougias and Member Campbell-Malone discussed that an effective review and update may be best achieved through targeted updates in an addendum, rather than a comprehensive update. The update may also include the removal of strategies with little progress. Members discussed sending an updated charge to Town Meeting to include a role for updating and adding appendices to the Master Plan.

Chair Tougias and Member Keally were invited to discuss Master Plan implementation to a South Shore regional body and received excellent feedback.

Motion to adjourn made by Warren Lizio, seconded by Dick Burke. Meeting adjourned at 8:27.

Respectfully submitted,

Josh Eckart-Lee, Assistant Town Planner