

Master Plan Advisory Committee – Town of Spencer



Minutes

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

April 25, 2023 at 5:30 PM

In-Person & Remote

McCourt Social Hall, 157 Main Street Spencer, MA 01562
Memorial Town Hall

Master Plan Advisory Committee Members Present: Chair, Taylor Wentworth (in-person), Vice Chair, Jared Grigg, Clerk, Dennis Shiver (in-person), Steven Carey (in-person), Vaughn Slack (in-person), and Carol McPherson (remote)

Master Plan Advisory Committee Members Absent: Howie Letendre

Staff Present: Lauren Vivier, Town Planner/Conservation Agent (in-person), Jeffery Bridges, Town Administrator (in-person)

Staff Absent: None

CMRCP Members Present: (all remote) Elena Ion, Dominique Dutremble, Janet Pierce

1. The Chair opened the meeting at 5:40 pm

2. Announcement of open meeting recording

Ms. Wentworth made an announcement of this being an open meeting and that it is recorded.

3. Review survey results and discuss

Elena Ion and Dominique DuTremble, from CMRPC, presented a very preliminary summary of the responses so to date, additional input from Janey Pierce.

- 220 responses received
- Topics receiving the most responses
 - Rehabilitate town center
 - Maintain small town feeling
 - Existing infrastructure at capacity a concern
 - Housing needs with the most responses – middle income and senior housing
 - For businesses desired restaurants have the most responses
 - For leisure, a recreation center and hiking trails were the major selections
- Highest number of respondents from the 45 – 54 age group, followed by 35 – 44

The Committee also had a discussion and made suggestions regarding methods to increase survey responses.

- Additional places to try posting flyer
- Set up a table with surveys available at Town Meeting (May 4th) and Town Elections (May 9th). Tables will be staffed by committee members or CMRCP staff

- Janet Pierce volunteered to try to address student bodies
- Ask highway department if their portable traffic sign could be used
- Suggestions to address a number of town meetings – Spotlight on Spencer meeting, other committee meetings
- Attempt to get Spectrum to add an announcement
- Attempt to get Spencer Fish & Game to announce on their sign
- Attempt to get an announcement in the New Leader weekly newspaper
- Explore possibility of committee members handing out flyers to patrons of Big Y, Price Chopper, Transfer station
- Add additional drop boxes – highway center, when people get new transfer station stickers

4. Discussion: Master Plan community workshop (select date and discuss promotion strategy)

- Will be held May 17th, between 5-7 PM, at the Spencer Fish and Game Club, in the pavilion
- Attendees can arrive at any time
- There will be tables set up for each topic. Topic suggestions will be provided by CMRCP staff
- Pizza will be provided for the first 100 attendees
- Mr. Carey will ask pizza restaurants for sponsorship, but first Ms. Vivier or Mr. Bridges will make sure that this doesn't violate any regulations
- Water and soft drinks will be provided, several committee members will provide coolers
- Activities to keep children occupied will be arranged

Ms. Vivier and/or Ms. Wentworth will create sign-up sheets for committee members to man tables – workshop, town meeting, town elections

5. Discussion: Incorporations of housing needs and open space (Housing Production Plan [approval pending], additional housing needs, Open Space Plan [2021])

Discussion tabled for a later date.

6. Approval of the minutes from 3/15/23

Tabled to a later date.

7. Other Business

Additional meetings are scheduled:

Monday, May 1st 5:30 PM

Monday, May 15th, 5:30 PM

The Committee agreed that the survey will remain open through May 31st.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Wentworth motioned to adjourn at 6:50 PM

SECONDED: Mr. Carey

VOTE: Mr. Carey, Ms. McPherson, Mr. Grigg, Mr. Shiver, Ms. Wentworth, Mr. Slack all voted aye (vote 6-0) motion carried.

Submitted by (Dennis Shiver), Minutes Clerk

Reviewed by Lauren Vivier, Town Planner/Conservation Agent

Approved by the Master Plan Advisory Committee on: May 15, 2023