

Meeting Minutes

Housing, Population, Economic Development Subcommittee

Master Plan

April 16, 2018

Present: Kathy Tetreault, Alan Harding, Rich Masse, Lynne Palmer, Steve Durgan, Roger Murray, Jeff Ouellette, Jim Kimberly, Cindy Melanson, Matt Sullivan, Kathy Barnard

Kathy Barnard called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

There was a brief discussion about the demographic data submitted at the previous meeting. It was agreed that some data needs to be included in the chapter. Examples – need to know how many employed persons are in town; the numbers in specific employment categories; commuting distances; others to be determined.

The Development Constraints map was presented. The map shows conservation land, lakes and ponds, areas of steep slopes, wetlands and developable land. Also shown are the municipal water lines and sewer lines. These constraints should be considered when discussing possible development areas.

Matt mentioned Filter Bed Road/ Pine Hill Road as an area that may have opportunities for development. Matt will provide a map of this area for the next meeting.

Also discussed was the Downtown area which has opportunities for development/redevelopment. A map will be provided of this area for review by the committee.

Committee members discussed the need for smart economic development. What kinds of jobs are young people being prepared for – these should be considered. How do we do that? In order to promote economic development growth, we need to identify our strengths, weaknesses, threats and obstacles. What do we do best? How do we improve what we have (businesses that already exist). It was determined that we will do a SWAT analysis at the next committee meeting. Committee members need to consider what they perceive as strengths, weaknesses and threats and be prepared to discuss them.

There was a discussion about opportunities that already exist and could be expanded. Many small businesses already exist. Also, home occupations. What could further benefit these small businesses? Many already use the facilities at the Library. There are existing educational facilities. Some of the services have been brought to Town by a nearby Community College. Can these services be expanded to benefit all age groups? The GALA Maker space is a positive for the community. We need to create an atmosphere for growth and promote this in a positive atmosphere. A collaborative culture needs to be further developed (Brewster has facilities that could be used to encourage conferences in Town). The restriction on the number of Hotel rooms needs to be revisited. All utilities need to be improved. Power outages were given as an

example of a company not moving to Town. More high-speed internet services need to be provided. Committee members agreed that we need to review/consider our existing businesses, especially those that are located in non-conforming locations (residential zones). What are their needs? What are the obstacles? All agreed that we are a year-round community and need to consider job growth.

Committee members were asked to review the 2007 Master Plan Economic Base and Greater Downtown Area chapters and list the Goals/Actions that have not been addressed. The Committee then needs to determine if these items need to be addressed.

Next meeting – Monday, April 30, 2018, 8:00 AM either in the Great Hall or the Library – to be determined.

Meeting adjourned – 9:15 AM.

Submitted by

Kathy Barnard