

Long Range Plan Steering Committee Regular Meeting Monday, May 22, 2023 7:00 PM
DRAFT Minutes (Approval Pending)

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Cheryl Thibodeau at 7:05 pm. Roll call was taken. Present at the meeting were Shelley Barron, Anastasios (Tass) Angelides, Terry Weiner, Corey Odentz, Patrick Carnahan, Shyla Ruiz Kachwaha, Cheryl Thibodeau, Bruce Colton, Dan Zwirko, Dave Marinelli, Ed Carroll, Nicole Choiniere. Corrin Meise-Munns, Assistant Town Manager and Planning Director, was also present.

1. March 27, 2023 Draft Meeting Minutes

Vote: Dave Marinelli made a motion, seconded by Terry Weiner, to approve the minutes with one minor correction to the spelling of Shelly Barron's name. The minutes were unanimously accepted on a rollcall vote.

2. Draft Group Language Agreement

A clarification of some of the language was requested by Tass and explained by Corrin and Cheryl. The purpose and the need for the document was also discussed among the group.

Vote: Terry Weiner made a motion, seconded by Patrick Carnahan, to approve the minutes without change. The minutes were unanimously accepted on a rollcall vote.

3. Consultant Update: Long Range Plan Progress Report

Consultant Lauren Lind discussed the progress made to date. She discussed the contents of a Long Range Plan and the various chapters in the State mandated Long Range Plan Framework, and also the purpose of the Steering Committee and the timeframe for the 2 year life of the project.

Tass questioned what data bases would be available for analysis by the committee, the analysis tools to be used, and the results of the focus groups. Lauren explained that the results of their research would be forthcoming along with their data analysis. She also said that the summaries of the focus groups would be provided to the committee soon.

4. Discussion: Equitable Development

There was discussion among the group of the difficulty of prioritizing and implementation of an equitable plan with limited available resources and conflicting priorities. For example, creating more housing while still maintaining conservation and open space resources. Lauren explained that this is still in the high level stage and that strategies can be put forth to address these conflicting issues. Tass commented on the importance of good data on the changing demographics of the Town in analyzing and prioritizing these strategies. A question was also raised about Longmeadow's role in climate mitigation versus climate resilience. Lauren said that she would have their sub-consultants working on that issue at an upcoming meeting to address that question. Corrin also gave an explanation of what each of these topics referred to.

5. Preparation for May 24 Visioning Workshop

Lauren showed the flyer that had been distributed inviting members of the community to come to the workshop. Next was a timeline of the meeting agenda. The Steering Committee is introduced to the attendees followed by a brief explanation of the planning process by Lauren. Judi Barrett will lead what is referred to as a SWOT analysis which identifies Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats which may bring up where residents feel about some of the conflicting priorities that the Committee has discussed. Next is a small group activity – “Tour of Longmeadow”. Attendees will be at tables of 6 to 10 depending on attendance, and Committee members will facilitate the groups with guidance on how to do this. The activity is to identify 5 or 6 places in town that you would want to show someone who is thinking of moving to Longmeadow or visiting for the first time. Some discussion followed regarding spreading the word as widely as possible about the workshop to insure a diverse cross section of the community was in attendance.

6. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public viewing the meeting.

7. LRPSC Member Comments

Shyla Ruiz Kachwaha gave a report on an activity initiated by the Longmeadow High School Climate Club that would have a positive impact on the environment. After researching the cost of purchasing and disposal of plastic utensils they recommended a change to metal at the high school. This was accepted by the superintendent and implemented for forks and spoons. Further research is being done on the conversion of knives.

Terry Weiner noted that the activity that could save the most carbon dioxide emissions is eliminating food waste. This led to a conversation around composting of food waste. Corrin noted that composting has been discussed at municipal sites for employees. Curbside collection has also been discussed with a vendor but implementation is being put off due to other current priorities.

Corey Odentz questioned what was discussed at the last Age Friendly Task Force zoom meeting that he was not able to log into. Lauren said that she would contact him the next day and update him. Corrin then asked Lauren to explain to the LRPSC the purpose of the task force. She explained that the purpose of this task force was to conduct 3 listening sessions with some of the Senior population to talk to them about the AARP’s Age Friendly Designation criteria with the goal of obtaining that designation for the community.

8. Adjourn

Terry made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Bruce.