

## Master Plan Implementation Committee

April 24, 2023

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

Meeting called to order at 7:03. Next meeting dates are May 15 and June 12.

One a motion made by Taber Keally, and seconded by Roxanne Musto, the minutes from February 15 and March 20 were unanimously approved by all members present. Regina Campbell-Malone joined at 7:09.

### Citizen's Speak

No citizens elected to speak at this time.

### Staff Update

Josh Eckart-Lee provided a brief staff update. The Three Rivers Interlocal Council (TRIC) Legislative breakfast is the Morning of May 5, at 8:30am in Norwood. The invitation has been sent along to members of the Select Board. Taber Keally, Milton's MAPC Representative, has been to previous breakfasts and shared his positive feedback. The Climate Action Planning Committee will soon receive its appointees following tomorrow's election and their work will tie in closely with the stated sustainability planning aims of MPIC. Efforts of that committee will be shared with MPIC.

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

Final edits to the letter were made following last month's meeting and have been distributed to members. Meredith Hall, Planning Board Chair, shared the sentiment that the Planning Board would like further presentation from MPIC on this matter and have the opportunity to comment on the plan. Chair Tougias clarified that committees and boards still have the opportunity to comment and provide feedback on the plan to the Select Board. Member Campbell-Malone made clear that this vote and language discussion is with regards to the letter of recommendation, not to the language of the plan. Member Keally discussed that the letter includes recommending that the Select Board encourage additional community feedback throughout the process. Member Campbell-Malone discussed the importance of action in the current moment and allowing for the community engagement and planning processes to begin. Chair Tougias briefly read out the text of the recommendation for the benefit of meeting attendees. Maggie Oldfield, Planning Board Member and Hillside Neighborhood Association Member, requested that the name of the plan be changed from "Master Plan". Member Benson did not support the request that the title be changed, given that the plan has regularly and historically been referred to as the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan. Member Musto discussed that a presentation to the Planning Board would be helpful and that the plan is aspirational and that the language of calling this a "plan" implies a certainty that Member Musto is not comfortable with. Chair Tougias stated that the term "plan" is the appropriate vernacular for the content and nature of the proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan document. Member Keally also clarified that the Select Board is the body that requested MPIC's feedback and recommendation, not the Planning Board. Member Lizio thanked staff and the Chair for their work on the letter drafts and requested that the names of those who submitted letters be included. That change will be made in the submitted draft. Member Benson made a motion to

accept the letter as is with the proposed edits from Member Lizio, seconded by Member Campbell-Malone. Meredith Hall requested that text be added to the final bicycle/pedestrian master plan to the effect that further community engagement is needed. Member Musto asked whether additional text could be added to the plan. Chair Tougias said that making changes to the text of the plan was outside the scope of the recommendation. All present in favor.

#### Discussion of Town Center Planning and Parking Needs

Chair Tougias shared a brief presentation on the history of the Town Center planning efforts. There are goals for the promotion and betterment of the town's "Civic Center" in the Master Plan. Included in those goals are improvements for parking and connection between the Library and municipal offices. **Other considerations included the expansion of the café in the library, engagement with the nearby churches, expand Town Hall gazebo access and uses, among others.** In the End Notes of the plan, resident recommendations included additional suggestions for expanding the uses and access for the Town Center. During the initial planning process for the Fire Station Headquarters, there was engagement with MPIC and MAPC which included public fora, and which led to a preferred concept plan for Town Center. A significant consideration is a crosswalk across Canton Ave at the Gazebo. A 2012 plan from the Canton Ave roadside parking striping process showed additional crosswalk potential. A survey conducted by the previous assistant town planner found that, at full capacity, Town Hall can host approximately 100 people in all of its meeting rooms. These efforts led to the current survey efforts by Bohler, which has provided the most comprehensive understanding of the topography and wetlands status of the municipal property on the library-side of Canton Ave.

Jim Potter, Library Trustee, spoke on the Library's needs. Their 5-year strategic plan and past community survey efforts have consistently found that parking has been a top need. There has been an inability of the library to offer the programming that they would like to, at all times of day when the lot is often full. Families are already parking on Canton Avenue or at Town Hall and have expressed concerns over the safety of that process. The Planning Department will conduct a parking needs assessment in May 2023 to get a current handle on the potential number of additional spaces needed for additional programming. Planning Staff will follow up with DPW to gauge their capacity to do pedestrian striping.

Member Keally noted that there are a number of unknowns that still need to be quantified, particularly near the Council on Aging and across Canton Ave, and that crosswalk solutions are a necessary first step. Members Lizio and Campbell-Malone concurred. Traffic counts that have been generated for the 40B projects near Town Center and can likely be used in the analysis of the impacts of a Canton Ave crossing. Mr. Potter noted that there are seasonal changes in demand, with summer having lower parking needs. Member Campbell-Malone questioned whether there are any prohibitions on structured parking above the existing library lot, which there are not. Chair Tougias noted that there are significant complexities associated with structured, multi-level parking.

#### Discussion of Potential Updates to the Master Plan

Member Benson noted the importance of connecting with the new Climate Action Planning Committee when they begin to meet. Chair Tougias also noted that youth needs, and broader health and wellness needs, have been brought up as a potential additional focus. Mr. Eckart-Lee suggested that the committee participate in MBTA Communities law compliance discussions at it relates to the housing

aspects of the Master Plan. Members will review broader goals of the Master Plan to start setting the schedule and agenda of the Committee for the coming months.

Motion to adjourn made by Taber Keally, seconded by Roxanne Musto. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:34.

Respectfully submitted,

Josh Eckart-Lee

Assistant Town Planner