

COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Comprehensive Master Plan Committee is to plan, develop, and recommend to the Planning Board a Comprehensive Master Plan for the Town. The committee works with a team of consultants led by Judi Barrett, Community Opportunities Group, Boston, MA. Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) is contracted to provide the economic development section of the plan. During 2007, members Bob Krankewicz, Paul Rohs, and Diane Weir, and associate members Pat Savage and Bev Woods resigned. Their ideas concerning the master plan were greatly appreciated; we wish they could have continued with the committee. Meetings are held in the evening on the second and fourth Thursday of every month at Millennium School. Committee documents and meeting minutes are available from the committee's web page on the town web site, www.westfordma.gov, by going to the link for town departments. Thanks to Alan Rubin for developing and maintaining the web site.

Activities during the first half of the year focused on a town-wide survey that was mailed to all residences in January plus distributed to Westford Academy seniors. In total, 1162 town-wide and 132 student surveys were returned. The responses were manually entered into Excel spreadsheets by committee members and town staff. Peter Severance developed the spreadsheets, along with a procedure to verify the accuracy of the multiple-choice responses. Paul Rohs and Kate Hollister reviewed every transcribed comment for accuracy and completeness. All data were imported into Microsoft Access and statistical analyses were performed.

The committee spent the second half of the year reviewing technical papers written by the consultants. Each paper provided background information about Westford, followed by issues and/or discussion questions for the committee members. A subcommittee was formed for each paper with the following tasks: reviewing the contents for accuracy and completeness; soliciting inputs from town committees, staff, and other interested parties; and drafting responses to the questions for review and approval by the full committee. The schedule was aggressive, with each subcommittee having 8 to 9 weeks to complete its tasks. The technical papers and subcommittees were:

Transportation: Tom Spuhler (chair), Peter Ewing, Marian McCurley, Gideon Moran, Ed Thomas, John Cunningham

Natural and Cultural Resources: Peter Severance (chair), Peter Ewing, Carol Tucker, Victor Weisenbloom

Housing: Jim Silva (chair), Alan Rubin, Catherine Stewart

Open Space and Recreation: Marian McCurley (chair), Peter Severance, Kate Hollister, Alan Rubin, Jim Silva, Carol Winge

Economic Development: Victor Weisenbloom (chair), Gideon Moran, Ryan Dunn, Jim Kottas, Valerie Wormell

Facilities and Amenities: Jim Kottas (chair), John Cunningham, Kate Hollister, Valerie Wormell

Land Use and Zoning: Tom Spuhler (chair), Peter Severance, Carol Tucker, John Cunningham, Catherine Stewart

Kate Hollister
Chair
Jim Silva
Vice-chair
Alan Rubin
Clerk

John Cunningham
Peter Ewing
Jim Kottas
Marian McCurley
Gideon Moran
Peter Severance
Tom Spuhler
Catherine Stewart
Ed Thomas
Carol Tucker
Victor Weisenbloom
Carol Winge
Valerie Wormell

Ryan Dunn
Associate Member

Comprehensive Master Plan Committee

In addition, the entire committee developed a set of vision statements for what Westford should be like in the next 10 years. The vision statements, survey results, public input from forums held in 2006, and goals from other town documents were the basis for the Phase I report presented to the committee and Planning Board by Community Opportunities Group in May.

Committee members put in many hours above and beyond preparing for regular meetings in order to provide on-time, quality input to the plan. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by the officers, consultants, and Planning Board.