

**Master Plan Implementation Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2023
7:04 PM- 8:17 PM**

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2023 JUN -7 PM 11:10
TOWN OF WESTBOROUGH

Committee Present: Chairperson Mark Silverberg, Vice Chairperson Wendy Mickel, Patrick Welch, Kristi Williams, Jack Haagensen, Ding Han, Kris Allen, Tom Bleier, Dan Schur, Christina Keifer, Catherine Nourse, Hank Rauch, Stephanie Doyle
Also present: Kristen Belanger-Planning Dept. Administrative Assistant
Not present: Maria Barney

The meeting of the Westborough Master Plan Implementation Committee was held in the Fire Dept. Training Room on Milk St in Westborough, MA. on Monday, May 22, 2023. The meeting was convened by Mark Silverberg at 7:04 PM.

Recreation Department Update

Jen Kirkland Recreation Director attended the meeting.

Goal OSR-3-2: Provide public recreation facilities indoor and outdoor and make sure they are inclusive.

- Working on a cricket pitch, one at state hospital and one at Hennessy Field
- Awarded grant to build a dog park to have done for fall 2024
- Golf club use committee was formed
- Put new nets at tennis courts, maintain softball baseball and soccer fields
- Maintain the lake doing weed treatments
- Replacing lights at Haskell tennis courts
- No dedicated indoor space, schools can be used over the summer and at night
- Town has 8 pickle ball courts, which is the most in this area

Goal PH-2-5: Help advance as age friendly community

- Annually run adult leagues, run the golf course, revamping senior programming
 - 65+ recess program, daytime concerts and local field trips
 - Senior assessment did a survey for types of programming they want

Other Department updates:

- Replaced wood chips with poured in place to make playground more accessible
- Department has an employee that speaks three languages, has been extremely helpful for families to communicate and feel included
- Splash pad was a recent project that hit a few snags. Planned to use ARPA money but the scope of the project was larger than expected. There were zoning issues, shading, parking etc. There was outreach from businesses in the area that are concerned. Board members suggested it get bigger in scope. Some would like it to be at Chauncy Lake
- Revitalizing Chauncy Lake is something that should be considered as a goal. Ms. Kirkland mentioned a feasibility study can be contracted to determine the need of the town and what location could be considered
 - Member Rauch thinks a needs assessment is needed

- Member Williams pointed out that the first step was a senior needs assessment. This has been completed. The data shows that the seniors want a multi-generational center. Member Williams would like this committee to help determine when the right time is to take on this project in relation to the long term capital improvements

- PARC grant MA Land and Water Conservation and Mass Trails grant can be applied for
- Threats are wages, the state can pay more for lifeguards so these positions are hard to fill

MPIC can help identify grant opportunities and outside funding opportunities along with working with the Town Manager and Select Board on getting a community center.

Member Bleier thinks we can check the box on the OSR 3-2 goal since progress is being made.

Chairman Silverberg would like to understand how recreation can be used to draw interest in the downtown.

Member Welch thinks the committee can be focusing on what the next actions could be that recreation focuses on.

Chairman Silverberg asked about who would be running an outdoor rink. Ms. Kirkland did not think this would be her dept. It would need to be outsourced.

Ms. Kirkland said getting a feasibility study done would be her next high priority. This will help her be able to defend in public the projects they choose to move forward with. Member Williams mentioned this aligns well with the land prioritization committee work which is determining the value and use of various properties in town.

Member Williams would suggest that Ms. Kirkland come back after the study is completed to report to the MPIC and then solicit support if a warrant is going to be needed at town meeting.

Chairman Silverberg asked about a batting cage. Planning Board asked for more parking during site plan with Target, in exchange they paid mitigation for little league.

Chairman Silverberg asked if there is an opportunity with Amazon for robotics thru recreation. Current classes are STEM for younger kids.

Recreation uses school space for programming after 6 pm. On weekends they are charged to use the schools for a custodial fee. Can use their space in the summer from 7-2:30 pm.

Member Doyle asked if there is any training for lifeguards working with autistic children?

- Ms. Kirkland responded no specific training, she is not aware if Red Cross is providing that. Trend is to train all children together and be inclusive

A needs assessment was completed in several different languages. Printed in 2 or 3 and online in more languages.

- Member Haagensen asked if it is possible to get the developer to support these projects

- Pulte- the developer has paid the town \$9 million mitigation for affordable housing and senior needs. \$1.4 million has been allocated to affordable housing. Majority has not been allocated.
- Member Welch asked if that money can be used for a multi-generational facility. Member Williams responded yes.

Member Williams thinks there is always an opportunity to approach new owners to support funding when an item is something that makes their project more desirable.

Member Rauch also pointed out CPA money can be considered for new recreation projects as well.

Decisions regarding recreational programming is determined internally.

Chairman Silverberg asked Ms. Kirkland if the needs study can encompass programming as well as facilities.

There are opportunities to partner with other organizations that have their own facilities like Nomizo and Board and Brush.

Member Doyle mentioned there are regulations that community hospitals are required to put money back into communities they serve. The money goes into a funding program that gets distributed across the state. She will look into this and get back to the committee with info.

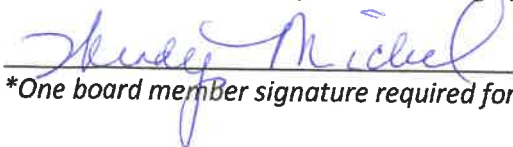
Warrants for Fall Town Meeting would need to be submitted by August.

Next meetings are 6/5 with the Senior Center and 6/26 with Peter Dunbeck from Sustainable Westborough. These meetings will be followed by 7/10 to identify focused priorities. Will know by the end of August if they need to have warrant articles for Fall Town Meeting.

**Chairman Silverberg made a motion to approve minutes from 5/8/2023. Member Mickel seconded.
Vote: 11-0**

**Chairman Silverberg adjourned meeting at 8:17 pm. Member Welch seconded.
Vote: 11-0**

Respectfully Submitted by Kristen Belanger, Planning Dept. Admin. Assistant



**One board member signature required for approval.*