

Bernardston Master Plan Implementation Committee

Minutes of June 13, 2017

Members Present: Wendy Abramson, Jane Dutcher, Celt Grant, Bill Hill, John Lepore (chairperson), Chris Wysk.

Members Absent: Will Pratt

Others Present: Sarah LaValley,

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.

Approval of Minutes, May 9, 2017

Motioned by Celts, seconded by Wendy, the Board accepted the minutes as presented.

Recap of Work To-Date

The Committee reviewed the table of priorities set so far, and agreed that it would be helpful to add the 'parties responsible' and 'goals met' to the five-year priorities table. Later a column can be added to indicate which items have been completed. The table will require a preamble to summarize the master plan process.

The Committee agreed that minutes and additional material should be made available online. Sarah will look into this. Other outreach methods could include Facebook and the town newsletter.

Continue Setting Five-Year Priorities:

Zoning and Policy

The Committee discussed septic and flooding challenges in the center village. The recommendation to create a regulatory system to require septic maintenance could be a challenge to enact and would be difficult to enforce. Jane moved to add the recommendation regarding shared ownership strategies for septic systems and education to the plan. Seconded by Chris, the motion carried unanimously.

The Committee discussed items related to agriculture, and agreed that allowing flexibility for farmers to retain land in agricultural use is important. Wendy moved to combine these items into one, and add to the plan. Seconded by Celt, the motion carried unanimously.

The Committee agreed that it is also important to plan for land transitioning from agriculture and forest to development, and be able to protect critical landscapes as needed. Bill moved to include the recommendation regarding strategies for protecting land coming out of the Chapter tax programs to the plan. Seconded by Celt, the motion carried unanimously.

Jane noted that housing recommendations have not yet been addressed, but are critical to plan for, and moved to include recommendations regarding by-right zoning for multifamily housing in some zones and permitting of accessory apartments to the plan. Seconded by Chris, the motion carried unanimously.

The discussion will continue with Municipal Infrastructure and Services on July 11.

Chris moved to adjourn, seconded by Celt. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.



Respectfully submitted, Sarah LaValley, Clerk