

Meeting Minutes

Chilmark Planning Board Subcommittee Meeting

May 22, 2023

3:00PM

Chilmark Town Hall, 401 Middle Road, Small Conference Room 1

Present: Ann Wallace, Catherine Thompson, Peter Cook, Janet Weidner

Not Present:

Staff: Jennifer Christy, Admin. Asst.

Ann Wallace made a motion to nominate Janet Weidner as chairperson for the Subcommittee. Cathy Thompson seconded the motion. The subcommittee members voted unanimously to name Janet Weidner chairperson. Janet Weidner called the Planning Board Subcommittee meeting to order at 3:02PM.

Master Plan:

- Peter Cook opened the subcommittee meeting with a question on how the work may be organized.
- Cathy Thompson inquired whether a survey may be needed to find direction from the community. Ann Wallace and Janet Weidner agreed that some type of survey, at a particular time, would possibly be beneficial.
- Peter Cook wondered what would be found through a survey that has not been found already and he also asked what are the significant changes that have occurred in the Town in the last 10 years. Cathy Thompson and Ann Wallace suggested development,
- Cathy Thompson stated she is in favor starting a project with some type of research and buy-in. Cathy suggested the results could be used to develop a priority list.
- Ann Wallace thought that a list of priorities may be different for those that are seasonal residents and those that are year-round residents.
- Peter Cook thought that climate, energy and global changes are occurring, but stated that there is an exponential growth of the annual budget. He stated that this situation where the expenditures are much larger for the Town to operate requires professional work rather than volunteers. He thought that this is one of the biggest changes for the Town. Peter asserted that this would be a key reason why the Town will need professional assistance with the development of a master plan.
- Ann Wallace welcomed the news, gathered at the Annual Town Meeting, that the Finance Committee commitment is to proactively look at capital needs and planning.
- Janet Weidner wondered if the capital plan will need to be folded in to the Master Plan project.
- Ann Wallace asked what do the Subcommittee members want the Plan to look like.
- Janet Weidner advocated that there be an action plan within the Plan and she thought it would be good to reach out to all of the departments for their input. She thought this would be in the form of an appendix.
- Peter Cook suggested that the Master Plan needs to be online because of the changing nature of the document. He described a project that cataloged the artwork of his grandfather and noted

that there is an online catalog and then there are numerous appendices. He also noted that there needs to be an audience or identified different audiences.

- Ann Wallace noted that the 2000 edition of the Master Plan includes Actions, Goals and Objectives.
- Janet Weidner suggested the surveying of the Boards and Committees.
- Peter Cook suggested that the Town Report has reports from Boards and Committees and it reveals what each are doing and what their goals and objectives are. Cathy Thompson and Ann Wallace suggested asking the Boards and Committees to provide their input. Peter Cook suggested that the subcommittee needs to consider what the Master Plan looks like—how is it accessed by the public.
- Peter Cook noted the importance of getting younger people involved and therefore then it is important to really identify how the Master Plan is accessed.
- Janet Weidner suggested creating a timeline. Suggested first steps are:
 - Survey stakeholders in the fall of 2023
 - Town boards, committees and departments
 - Close examination of what has changed
 - Public presentation to the public
- Peter Cook suggested that he will rework the preamble to the Master Plan

Minutes:

- No minutes were reviewed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Next Meeting(s):

- Monday, June 12 , 2023, 3:00PM, Chilmark Town Hall

Documents:

- Master Plan historical documents

Meeting adjourned at 3:55PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer L. Christy