

Meeting Minutes

Approved

Chilmark Planning Board Subcommittee Meeting

July 12, 2023

9:00AM

Chilmark Town Hall, 401 Middle Road, Chilmark

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

Not Present:

Staff: Jennifer Christy, Admin. Asst.

Others:

Master Plan:

- Ann Wallace distributed a printout from a website called DataTown.
- Discussion occurred about the one-page data sheet that the Board would provide to those entities surveyed. It was determined that September will be the month to send out the survey.
- Discussion occurred about who would be gathering the data for the informational sheet and when.
- Peter Cook inquired about the schedule of when to issue the survey and with what information included. Peter noted that it would be important to not wait to get a survey out. He noted there are a few blanket questions such as:
 - Is it even possible to consider the conservation initiatives in Town have been successful enough so that some compromises in favor of community and affordable housing may be made?
- Ann Wallace responded that that question puts forward an opinion and that she did not think it would be good to direct the survey respondents that specifically.
- Janet Weidner and Ann Wallace responded that the initial survey would not propose specific questions or scenarios that gather opinions on specific topics. She wants the town committees and boards to look within themselves. She noted that then the Planning Board will take that feedback and make a second survey that is brought to the Townspeople.
- Peter Cook agreed that this was a better path forward. He mentioned that he had spoken with a Housing Committee member about the usefulness of a friendly 40B process for the Peaked Hill Pasture affordable housing project and this is the type of topic that the Board may get feedback from the town committees and boards. He characterized the point at which we are is a track to get out a better and detailed questionnaire to the Boards and Committees by the end of the summer.
- Janet Weidner thought there are good questions but where could statistics be interspersed. Cathy Thompson thought that an introduction could include this information so that questions don't end up biasing people's responses.
- Peter Cook suggested that a process for preparing background information starts with a collection of topics and then there is a preliminary study of each topic. There was a rationale

developed and then a statement of facts that would both give a definition of the question and the defense of that. He thought that it would show all the things that are agreed upon, without controversy. Peter Cook noted that there is data from the Steamship and the MVC.

- Discussion proceeded about the parts of the survey. It was discussed what to state as the purpose of the survey:
 - To gain input to inform an updated Master Plan
 - What is the perception of the current picture of Chilmark and what should be the future picture through the lens of the work that Boards/ Committees do?
 - To find out what has been successful in Town
- Cathy Thompson agreed to make a draft of the purpose statement. She will work, using the draft provided by Ann Wallace.
- Discussion occurred about what and how much fact should be offered/provided to the Boards/Committees in the survey in order to prompt the response that is useful, but not pushed toward a certain response.
- Janet Weidner suggested that the important information to gather are the successes and the challenges.
- Peter Cook thought that the specific request of successes may not need to be included in the purpose statement.
- Janet Weidner stated that if Cathy Thompson can work on the draft and then, with receipt of an outline from Bill Veno at the MVC, a draft of the survey may be produced by the 24th.
- Brief discussion occurred as to how the Master Plan committee may need to expand as the process goes forward.

Minutes:

- The minutes from July 6th, 2023 Planning Board Subcommittee meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

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

Next Meeting(s):

- Monday, July 24, 2023, 3:00PM, Chilmark Town Hall

Documents:

- Master Plan draft survey documents

Meeting adjourned at 9:45AM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer L. Christy