
Master Plan Subcommittee Meeting #2

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

6:00PM-8:00PM

Town Hall Land Use Office

333 Calef Highway (Rt. 125)

Barrington, NH 03825

Meeting Notes

Members Present: Steve Diamond (Planning Board), Jon Anderson (Citizen), Robert Drew (Citizen), and Marcia Gasses (Town Planner)

Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) staff member, Kyle Pimental, provided an additional section of the master plan for Community Services, and asked that everyone take 5-10 minutes to read through. The committee would be spending a majority of the agenda reviewing fire and police; however, since the Community Services section was not emailed in the original packet, SRPC staff wanted members of the committee to have the opportunity to read what progress has been made on that section.

The committee then reviewed the fire protection, emergency services, and cemeteries section. Discussion items included:

1. Staffing challenges and the lack of volunteers. There is a concern that the department does not have two-person staffing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The committee suggested adding a recommendation that the town consider new and creative ways to attract recruits and improve retention, including adequate compensation, performance incentives, and covering the cost of professional development training or accreditations.
2. The committee recognizes the importance of mutual aid systems and taking a regional approach; however, large-scale events disrupt these services.
3. Future upgrades to the fire and rescue side of the public safety building should include two sleeping areas with double bunks.

The committee then reviewed the police department section. Discussion items included:

1. The committee asked if the Police Department provides ALICE training for the Elementary School SRPC staff would follow up with the Chief.
2. Staffing challenges with a recent amount of turnover that has left the department lacking experience. The committee is concerned that current staffing levels do not provide 24-hour supervisory office coverage every day.
3. The committee asked if new regulations have been passed that would have an impact on the 32-hour schedule for part-time employees. SRPC staff would follow up with the Chief.
4. The committee asked what the pros and cons were of receiving CALEA accreditation.
5. The committee suggested adding a recommendation that the town consider part-time employment for summer month only.
6. The committee asked SRPC staff to expand on potential challenges with the Police Department staying in their current building.

SRPC staff closed the meeting and agreed to follow up with committee members when materials would be posted online. A next meeting date was not set, but a doodle poll will be sent out when the Library and School sections are complete. SRPC will ensure that committee members are notified at least two weeks in advance.
