



Bedford Master Plan Think Tank
October 17, 2018, 7 p.m.
MINUTES

A meeting of the Blueprint Bedford Master Plan Think Tank was held on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at the Bedford Public Library. This was the third meeting of the Think Tank. Present were: Jon Levenstein (Planning Board Chairman), Chris Bandazian (Town Councilor), Matt Sullivan (Planning Board member), Karen McGinley (Planning Board member), Barbara Salvatore, Bob MacPherson, Andre Garron, Lindsey Valliere, Susan Burns, and Becky Hebert (Planning Director) and Mark Connors (Assistant Planning Director).

Planning Director Hebert opened the meeting and asked the members to introduce themselves. Ms. Hebert noted that Mr. Connors had done some research into the 2010 Bedford Master Plan and would go over that with the Think Tank. Mr. Connors noted that there has been a lot of discussion relating to the existing Master Plan and what progress the Town had made in addressing the goals and recommendations of that plan, so we wanted to set some time aside to take a closer look and discuss that. He said that you have the Implementation chapter of the Master Plan in front of you which I e-mailed to you all and hopefully you had a chance to look that over. You will notice that there are a lengthy list of recommendation spanning 14 pages for all of the Master Plan chapters. He said it was an ambitious list of action items for a community that is fiscally conservative with a small staff. Many of the recommendations have been implemented, but many have not been pursued. It's important to note that nearly ten years have passed since this was drafted and they preceded most of the current planning staff, so opinions may have changed and that is why the Town is updating the plan.

Ms. Hebert said that staff had reviewed the existing Master Plan goals and how much progress the Town has made in implementing them. Ms. Hebert and Mr. Connors then read through the list of objectives and noted which items had been implemented. This was followed by a discussion of some of the different objectives and how relevant they were to the community today.

Mr. Connors said that as you look at the existing Master Plan recommendations, think about how you would like the goals for the current Master Plan to be structured. Do we want a more concise set of goals that might be more realistic for the Town to achieve? He said I have brought examples of other implementation chapters from other master plans the Town's consultant TPUDC, has worked on including chapters from the Londonderry, NH Master Plan, the West Fargo, ND Master Plan and the draft implementation chapter from Snowmass Village, CO. Mr. Connors briefly went over how each chapter was structured. The Think Tank also discussed how long the Implementation chapter should be and there was a consensus that the chapter should be more concise and achievable than the existing chapter. Mr. MacPherson said he felt there should be no more than fifteen objectives. Mr. Sullivan said he liked the Snowmass Village plan, not only for the Implementation chapter, but also because there were fewer chapters and it seemed more integrated across topic areas.

Mr. Connors said he did want to save some time to discuss the 'Planapalooza' schedule, which is quickly approaching. Mr. Connors and Ms. Hebert then reviewed the entire Planapalooza schedule

with the Think Tank. Mr. Connors said that we certainly don't expect you to attend all of the events, but we would like members to attend different events, so that Think Tank members were on hand at every event. Mr. Connors noted some steps the Planning Department was taking to promote the events and asked the Think Tank members to please help get the word out around Town about the events. This was followed by a discussion of places and businesses in Bedford that the Planapalooza events should be advertised.

Ms. Hebert said that we have included copies of the Town of Bedford's Media Policy in the materials tonight which covers members of Town boards and commissions. She briefly summarized the contents of the policy and staff handed out letters from a resident addressed to Think Tank members regarding an incident that occurred during an online discussion. There was a brief discussion of the letter and Ms. Hebert said the Town was looking into the issues it raised.

Ms. Hebert noted that there were some members of the public in attendance and asked if they would like to share any questions or comments. Mr. Kevin Gagne and Ms. Vandna Sharma shared some of their comments and concerns with the Think Tank regarding the Master Plan, development in the community, and a proposed workforce housing development off of Bow Lane and Chestnut Drive.

Mr. Connors said we should schedule our next meeting before we leave tonight. This was followed by a discussion of schedules before the Think Tank concluded that Thursday, November 15 at 6 pm was the most convenient time for the next meeting.

- *Respectfully submitted by Mark Connors*