

# MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

November 14, 2017  
Minutes

Present: Scott Wunderle, Rick Paterno, Barre Pinsky, Jason Rasmussen, Kelly Arrison,  
David Pisha, Richard Amore, Carla Westine

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

## 1. Minutes

A motion was made by Kelly Arrison to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Rick Paterno. The motion passed.

(minutes amended to correct “next meeting date” - it was written to be on Oct. 30th- but meeting was rescheduled to Nov. 14)

## 2. Project wrap up and final discussion

Presentation of Village Center Master Plan by Mark Kane of SE Group to the Select Board went well and was received favorably by members of the board. SAPA TV covered the meeting and that coverage would be available to the public for viewing. The booth at the Foliage Fair on the Green was a success, Julie and Carla interacted with the public both days of the event and shared the Village Center Plan with many members of the public. Further presentations to the public at the American Legion and the Newsbank Conference Center ,although lightly attended, met with an interested and enthusiastic response from attendees.

It was agreed that further efforts to reach out to the public would be beneficial to the outcome of the plan. The quarterly newsletter produced by the Town would be one avenue to keep the public apprised of initiatives underway such as the signage/wayfinding work being done by Claudio, the grant for the Zoning Audit which will get underway soon, the application for a Municipal Planning Grant (possibly affirmed just after Thanksgiving), the canopy work being done and the 800,000.00 Bike/Ped Grant awarded to the Town for the improvements from Town Hall to Depot St. It is important to point out that funding will come from many sources- grants, donations, private investment as well as some tax dollars. The burden will not fall entirely on Chester taxpayers. The goal of reaching out to the community would be to garner support and build excitement for future improvements. The Town should publicly “celebrate” improvements as they are accomplished via press releases, newsletters, open houses and “celebratory” events like ice-cream socials, Arbor Day celebrations etc.

Rick Paterno suggested that the Steering Committee write an open letter- which could be presented to the Select Board and/or included in the quarterly newsletter- thanking the Select Board for the opportunity to serve on this committee, state that the Village Center Master Plan

was complete, outline the key initiatives, declare our support for the Plan and offer to continue to serve in some capacity to move the initiatives forward and work on future projects. It was suggested that this letter could be shared with the public via The Telegraph or local print papers. Rick will take the lead on this letter and will work with several other members to write a Draft.

Richard Amore pointed out that it would be important for our communication to point out that although this Village Center Master Plan is focused on a relatively small area of Chester, that improvements to the downtown benefits the entire town. A vital town center attracts people to Chester as a whole.

The work of the formal (appointed by Select Board) Village Center Master Plan Steering Committee is complete now that Plan is done. Some members agreed that they would like to continue to work on implementation of the Plan. Discussion ensued regarding appointed committee versus ad hoc group- with the consensus being that a more informal group would lessen the burden of warning meetings. Scott Wunderle said he would be interested in working as an individual- as a “bridge” on some projects rather than as Chair of a committee per se. It was agreed to inquire of Julie Hance, the pros and cons and how such an ad hoc group would be formed and organized. This will be a topic for discussion at the next and final meeting of the Steering Committee. When the possible, future role of the present committee is determined, the group will approach the Select Board with thoughts about transition.

Richard Amore stated he is willing to continue participating in the work of the group and offered his help toward the goal of implementation.

Barre Pinske stated he would like to see the committee take on the task of PR-promoting Chester and taking on a more economic development type role. David Pisha reported that the Town is planning to work more closely with Bob Flint of Regional Planning on economic development in the coming year.

David Pisha brought up the planned acquisition of the Tommasso property by the NEFF and the possible recreational activities that may be in our Town’s future. He pointed out the economic benefit the town may reap from visitors coming to Chester to hike, bike and recreate. Richard Amore suggested that the Master Plan be shared with NEFF as there may be possible grant opportunities for them to explore.

### 3. Next Meeting

Final meeting date set for the formal Village Center Master Plan Steering Committee-  
Dec. 12th, 10:00 a.m. at the Free Range.

The Agenda will include:

Approve Minutes of Nov. 14, 2017 meeting

Draft Tennants of a “new” committee or group.

Organize a committee or group.

Set ongoing meeting date/time/place for the “new” committee or group.

Adjourn