

Open Space/Master Plan Committee Minutes
Town Hall, Banquet Hall
Minutes of January 14, 2009

Members Present: Cheri Carty, Sarah Heller, Cindy Scott, William R. Simpson

Members Absent: Gwen Broz, Phil Chaffey, Sharon Mahoney, Tim Simon

Also Present: Jonathan Church (Consultant)

Note: There was no January 7 meeting. It was rescheduled to January 14 due to bad weather.

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by Chair Cindy Scott.

A) Discussion about survey findings. Cindy brought a printout of the survey results that Sarah had compiled in excel. There was general discussion about how to interpret and present the survey findings. Cindy suggested that we word the results "of the people who responded" because there are many blanks. There was discussion about what the blanks mean. Looking back on the questions, many are multiple choice, asking the respondent to check all that apply. It was agreed that we would review the survey carefully, grouping the multiple choice responses to each question. Sarah said that she would go through the surveys to see which ones have totally blank pages. These will be indicated as "skipped" rather than "blank" so that the results are more informative.

Bill will send Jonathan and the members of the committee the missing surveys (#21-50) so that the results can be recompiled.

Jonathan noted that he was looking at the responses by comparing the answers of the people who work outside the area to people who work in town or are retired.

We agreed that for the economic questions, he will phrase the results as "These were the top 5 responses" and "X number did not answer the question".

B) Discussion about goals and objectives for the economic chapter.

- a) The following draft goal was agreed to: "The goal of Brookfield's economic strategy is to encourage new economic development that maintains a balance between resident's preferences for limited commercial/industrial growth while expanding local opportunities for meeting the employment and commerce needs of Brookfield's residents. All of this should be compatible with Brookfield's small town rural New England character." Jonathan will work to make it more readable.
- b) The following objectives were agreed to in principle. Jonathan will rewrite as necessary:
 - 1) Encourage the reuse of existing structures and vacant properties with the town for the purpose of new economic development.
 - 2) Review and consider revising zoning standards for the town's commercial districts to foster new economic development where appropriate.
 - 3) Review licensing and permitting process and consider options to foster appropriate economic activities.
 - 4) Work to retain Brookfield's existing businesses and help them expand when and where appropriate.
- c) Bill proposed an alternative goal that he felt better reflected the real underpinnings of economic

activity: "The goal of Brookfield economic development strategy is to increase the wealth of the town and its citizens by fostering an environment of entrepreneurship and creative destruction". After discussion, we agreed that this needed to be expanded with an explanation. Jonathan will incorporate it into an introduction to the Economic Chapter.

C) Discussion about largest businesses in town. There was a brief discussion about whether the businesses listed as the largest employers in town are correct. Cindy will talk with the managers at Cumberland Farms and The Clambox to see how many employees they have.

D) Approval of Minutes. Bill moved and Cindy seconded the approval of the minutes from Dec. 29, 2008. All in favor.

E) Next Meeting. We agreed to meet again on Jan. 21 at 6:30pm to continue work on the Economic chapter, and begin work on the Housing Chapter.

D) Adjournment. Cindy made a motion to adjourn. Sarah seconded it. All in Favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Heller, Secretary

Date approved by the Committee: Feb 4, 2009

Date submitted to the Selectmen's office: Feb 5, 2009