

Meeting Minutes

Newbury Planning Board – • Presentation and Discussion on Draft Master Plan Update

Joint Meeting of the Planning Board with the Select Board and the public, held in person.

Thursday, June 29, 2023, 7pm

Newbury Town Library, 0 Lunt Street, Byfield, MA

FINAL – Approved August 2, 2023

Planning Board Members Present: Larry Murphy (Chair), Peter Paicos, Woody Knight, Mary Stohn

Planning Board Members Absent: George Morse

Planning Staff Present: Martha Taylor, Planning Director; Kristen Grubbs, Assistant Planner

At 7:00pm, Planning Board Chair Larry Murphy welcomed the public to the library and opened the Planning Board meeting. Murphy confirmed by roll call vote that the Planning Board members listed above as present were in attendance and that the Board had a quorum. The Select Board also opened its meeting. Select Board members Bill DiMaio, Dana Packer, and Leslie Matthews were in attendance.

Murphy outlined the agenda for the meeting and asked Planning Director Martha Taylor to introduce the speaker, Emily Innis. Taylor welcomed the public and Innis, saying that Innis is an experienced planning consultant who has been working on the Town's Master Plan Update since December of 2021. Taylor explained that the work has included pulling together the multiple elements of the plan together, developed by the Town and different committee authors over many years, incorporating updated data including the most recent US Census data, and updating maps and other resources.

Innis thanked the audience for being in attendance and presented a set of slides describing what a Comprehensive (or "Master") Plan is, per MGL Chapter 41, Section 8D. She further described what the Newbury process has been, the Plan's format and content, and the schedule for adoption by the Planning Board of the 2023 Newbury Master Plan Update. Innis reviewed the key concepts of the plan, including the Vision Statement and the Key Elements of the Goals (Land Use, Community Services, Economic Development, Historic & Cultural Resources, Housing, Natural Resources, and Transportation), as well as the recommended actions and strategies.

Following the 20-minute presentation, Innis took questions and described the next portion of the meeting, which was an interactive group activity. The public in attendance were asked to review the large printed maps and the Vision Statement and Goals posters that were displayed on easels around the room. Each person was then asked to place an orange sticky dot on their favorite or most important statement within the Vision, and to place a yellow sticky dot on their favorite or most important Goal from within each of the seven Plan Elements. There also were sticky notes and paper available for individuals to record any comments and questions. Innis reminded the audience that all of the Plan materials are also on the Town website, including a digital version of the questionnaire that has been open for the month of June and will stay open til July 14. Members of the community who were not able to attend the meeting are welcome and encouraged to weigh in on thoughts about the Plan through these other vehicles. There has been significant outreach about the questionnaire with a postcard mailing to all households, flyers posted around town, social media posts and news alerts, as well as discussion at multiple board and committee meetings. The audience broke up to mingle and complete these tasks.

Following this activity, the group reconvened. Innis reviewed the preliminary results of the questionnaire responses received to date. She then opened the floor to questions, comments, and discussion about any aspects of the Master Plan Update and the process going forward for the Town.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00pm.

Materials reviewed at the meeting:

- [Presentation slides](#) from Innis Consulting

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Grubbs
Assistant Planner