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MINUTES OF THE MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021 5PM IN THE MACOMBER ROOM

Members Present: Darcy Horgan, Lorne Jones, Jane Lannon, Ken McDonald, Kathy Richards, Rodney Rowland, Peter Schwab, Conni White

Members Absent: Pamela Yonkin

Chair Horgan started the meeting by announcing that Ken McDonald had volunteered to take over as Chair of the committee. Ms. Horgan will remain on the committee and take the minutes. Ms. Horgan then turned over the meeting to Ken McDonald.

The minutes to the October 19th meeting of the MP CTE were approved with one minor spelling correction.

Chair McDonald distributed a letter signed by Tim Roache, Rockingham Planning Commission Executive Director, which explained that New Castle can benefit from a grant that they have received allowing the MP Cte to receive 60 hours of RPC staff time for consulting and other services.

Chair McDonald announced that he will open a dedicated page on the Town website for Master Plan announcements/agendas/minutes/attachments/videos. This page can be accessed by a link under the Planning Board tab. There will also be a link to contact the chair of the cte.

Chair McDonald reported on two meetings he and some other cte members attended on October 27th and November 3rd on the subject of sea level rise threats to the Seacoast, hosted by the RPC and UNH affiliated organizations. He handed out a booklet from these presentations which depict potential flooding conditions along the NH coast under different levels of sea rise. Discussion followed on the FEMA flood maps as another tool for analysis and the lack of storm water treatment in New Castle. So much of this water is now flowing into our resources. How do we incorporate this into the MP?

The committee started brainstorming potential chapter topics for the updated Master Plan. Each member reported on their suggestions gathered from researching other towns' Master Plan or other sources. First issue discussed: Should we do an Executive Summary as done in other MPs? It may depend on how long our MP ends up being.

Potential Topics/Chapters for the Master Plan:

- Vision and Land Use (Required by RSA)
 - How will we keep our community heritage? Our uniqueness? Our history? Vision section will set a tone.
 - Town Easements: Preserving traditional community access points to natural resources
- Historical and Cultural Resources
 - Historic preservation, historic district
 - Look at issue of demolition of historic structures. Need more protection?
 - Historic cemeteries
- State and Federally Owned Properties in New Castle
 - The Commons, the Forts
- Recreation
 - Increase/ Not encourage greater tourism to New Castle with access to the water and beaches?
- Natural Resource Management
 - Do an inventory?
 - Sea level rise, Wetlands
 - Wildlife protection/management
 - Protection of trees
 - Docks
 - Remapping our wetlands
 - Lavenger Creek specifically targeted for protection?
 - Any islands/lands to put in conservation?
 - Management of invasives and use of pesticides on public lands
- Transportation
 - Safe Path
- Public Facilities, Better/increased usage of them? Highest and best use analysis
 - The school
 - Portsmouth taking over our water and sewer?
- Housing
 - Aging in place
 - AirBnB, our position on them?
 - Affordable housing
- Science, Technology, Energy and Communication
 - Solar Panels, town technology and cybersecurity
- Economic Development, Commerce: Do we need this section in New Castle?
 - Hotel, marina

Peter Schwab recommended a book that he found very interesting and possibly useful to members of the MP Cte: Communities and Consequences, Rebalancing New Hampshire's Human Ecology by Peter Francese and Lorraine Merrill. The book has to do with the aging of NH's population.

Suggestion of putting something in the Island Items or the Annual Report regarding the Master Plan update.

Next meeting is scheduled for **December 9th at 5:30pm** in the Macomber Room