



Town of Ashland , Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting

Ashland Community Center

162 West Union Street

Ashland, MA 01721

January 22, 2025, 7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes (*Draft*)

Present:

Planning Director:

Select Board Representative:

Select Board Representative:

Planning Board Representative:

Planning Board Representative:

Library Trustee's Representative:

Open Space and Recreation Representative:

Sustainability Committee Representative:

Affordable Housing Trust Representative:

Board of Health Representative:

Cultural Council Representative:

Historical Commission Representative:

Ashland Upper Charles Trail Committee Representative:

Conservation Commission Representative:

Council on Aging Representative:

DEI Task Force Representative:

Econ Dev Advisory Committee Representative:

ZBA Representative:

School Committee Representative:

Town Forest Committee Representative:

Design Review Committee:

Precinct 1:

Precinct 2:

Precinct 3:

Peter Matchak

Brandi Kinsman

Yolanda Greaves

Catherine Jurczyk

Anna Tesmenitsky (Remote)

Claire Goss

Roberta Soolman

Chuck Lidz (Absent)

Alan Galiwango (Absent)

Ed Burman

Stacey Grant Lewis

Karen Coleman (Absent)

Tony Lewis

Carl Hakansson

Steve Mitchell

Moala Kitayimwba (Absent)

Beth Reynolds

Mike Caira (Absent)

Cara Hulme (Absent)

Bill Novakowski (Absent)

Jacob Coolberth

Leah Suarez

David Evancho (Remote)

Precinct 4:
Precinct 5:
Precinct 6:
High School Representative:

Aroon Manoharan (Absent)
Rajashree Ghosh (Absent)
Lisa Churchill (Remote)
Hasini Reddy (Remote)

Others Present:

Jenn Goldson, JM Goldson
Kadineyse Pas, JM Goldson
Mark Dassoni, Resident
Chris Batard, Resident (Remote)

Call meeting to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Follow up on TWS outcomes & Next Steps

- 5-minute process overview

Ms. Goldson explained that tonight’s meeting is part of a two-part meeting, together with the March 20th meeting. Tonight’s meeting will be digging into a subset of strategies; the next meeting will be vetting the short list. In between the two meetings, the consultant team will be meeting with Department managers.

Ms. Goldson explained that the Committee will review 18 strategies marked as “low maybe” and consider whether they can be reworked and included. The Committee broke into groups of two to complete this exercise and each discussed their findings. Ms. Goldson explained that the consultant team will compile the comments and make revisions to the full strategies list. The Committee Members will receive a short list of approximately 100 strategies as well as a questionnaire. The consultant team will also be meeting with the Department managers to vet the ability to meet these strategies. Committee Members should expect to receive this information ten days prior to the March 20th meeting. The consultant team will compile the results and present them at the March 20th meeting.

Once they have the short list, they plan to present to the Select Board and Planning Board and invite public comment. From there they will go into Phase IV.

- Feedback to resident question

Ms. Pas explained that an email/question was received from a resident asking about the structure of the surveys and strategies, how much Committee input they are getting. Ms. Grant-Lewis forwarded the email and Ms. Pas’ response to the Committee Members.

Public Commentary

None.

Marketing process update

Ms. Kinsman discussed putting updates to the Comprehensive Plan in the Town Manager's weekly newsletter, and asked if there may be a Member who wants to work with Ms. Ghosh on the Committee's community update/report.

Town admin updates

Mr. Matchak reported that Committee Member Nathan Band has been deployed and therefore had to resign from the Committee. The Zoning Board will fill the seat as soon as possible.

Ms. Grant Lewis motioned to not meet in February; which passed with a majority vote.

Adjourn

Motion: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 PM

List of Documents:

- Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting Agenda, January 22, 2025
- Envision Ashland, Middle Strategies and Strategies Ranking PPT

