

Town of Cohasset
Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC)
February 22, 2021 – Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

A meeting of the MPIC was held at 6:30 pm on February 22, 2021 virtually on Zoom. In attendance were:

Katie Dugan, Chair, Citizen at Large
Amy Glasmeier, Vice Chair, Liaison from Planning Board
Timothy Davis, Member, Liaison from Harbor Committee
Tom Callahan, Member, Liaison from Open Space & Recreation Committee
Peter Hobson, Member, Liaison from Affordable Housing Steering Committee
Julia Gleason, Liaison from Cohasset Historical Commission
Jennifer Boylan, Member, Citizen at Large
Cassie Malatesta, Member, Citizen at Large
Lauren Lind, Town Planner, Ex-Officio Member
Jason Federico, Town Engineering
Brian Joyce, Town Engineer & Director of Public Works

Absent:
None

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm.

Annual Re-organization of MPIC

Katie Dugan was elected Chair of the Master Plan Implementation Committee for calendar 2021. Cassie Malatesta was elected Vice Chair of the Master Plan Implementation Committee for calendar 2021.

Complete Streets & 3A South Update

Brian Joyce and Jason Federico gave the MPIC an update on 3A South project and the sidewalk priorities under the Complete Streets Program. The DOT is currently working on 75% engineering designs with Trans-Systems for the 3A South project. Construction is anticipated to begin December 2022 and will include work from Beechwood Street in Cohasset to Henry Turner Bailey in Scituate. The work will include sidewalks on both sides, bike lane and rationalization of curb cuts along the full length of the 3A South project area. The 2014 3A Corridor Study started the project back in 2014 and work for 25% engineering was completed by the Town. Subsequently, based on public forum and initial engineering work, the state has placed the project on the TIP which means that work will be funded from state funds. The MPIC discussed the need to begin work to look at 3A North section which would connect Sohier to the MBTA train station. The Town is engaging Trans-Systems to begin the 25% engineering

work for this project with the hope that in five to six years the Town can get this project placed on the TIP for state funding. The committee discussed further the need to connect in sidewalks from Lower King street to 3A North project in order to provide important sidewalk/biking continuity off N. Main to the train station and Whitney Thayer Rail Trail for recreation.

The committee then discussed with Brian Joyce and Jason Federico the Complete Streets Program which the Town completed back in 2019. Completion of the program requirements allows the Town to submit annually to the grant program for support with important sidewalk, ADA and other improvements to Cohasset's roadways. The current budget between Chapter 90 funding and capital budget funding totals around \$500,000-600,000 annually and this allows for 1.5 miles of roadways to be repaved annually. Streets are prioritized based on roadway plan whose intent to repave Cohasset's public ways every 20 years. Unfortunately, there is not funding currently for sidewalk priorities which is why the Complete Streets Program and grant funding is so incredibly important. A mile of sidewalks can cost anywhere from \$400,000-\$1,000,000 in contrast to approximately \$500,000 for 1.0 mile of roadway. The Town was awarded Complete Streets Grant and completed Town Common sidewalks and curbs project in 2020. The next priorities identified and grant applications submitted under this program are for ADA cross-walk at Sohier Street & Ripley Road and improved sidewalks from High School to Pond Street. The Committee reviewed the spreadsheet provided by Jason Federico with the 34 projects which were identified by the community as part of the public forum process of the Master Plan and Complete Streets Program. The following are some of the top projects identified:

- Crosswalk Reconstruction near Pratt Memorial Library
- Pedestrian Scale Lighting along Sohier Street (S. Shore Music Circus to Ripley Road)
- Elm Street Corridor (priorities 4, 14, 15, and 20)
- Curb Tightening and Crosswalk on the Cushing Street Intersection
- ADA Compliant Curb Ramps on Sohier & Ripley Road Intersections
- Beach Street (from Highland Avenue to Atlantic Avenue) Shared Road Environment
- Shared Road Environment Jerusalem Road (from Atlantic Avenue to N. Main Street)
- Curb Tightening and Crosswalk on Cushing Street & Norfolk Road Intersection
- Sidewalk Reconstruction along Ripley Road (from Town Lane to USPS)
- Radar Feedback Signs Deer Hill/Osgood School Zone
- Curb Tightening and ADA Compliant Curb Ramps on N. Main Street, King Street & Forest Avenue Intersection.

Finally, the committee discussed additional funding for sidewalk priorities. Katie Dugan will send the committee listing of local revenue receipts for discussion at next meeting.

MPIC Working Group Updates

Elm Street Working Group

Lauren Lind and Tim Davis provided an update on the Elm Street Corridor project. The Town has signed a \$35,500 contract for consulting services for design & public forum support. The

work being done by Weston & Sampson including several public forums will be completed over the next four months. The MPIC will be updated on public forum dates as they become available later this spring.

Cohasset Economic Task Force

Amy Glasmeier gave a brief update on the CETF including a downtown revitalization partnership with Hull. The economic task force is being assisted by Emily Ennis, part-time consultant, in order to help organize and prioritize next steps. Discussions include extending the Community Gift Program, Downtown Revitalization Project, Regional Economic Development Talks (particularly with Hull), and the concept of a Community Foundation to jump start private community investment in Cohasset's long-term economic development.

Affordable Housing Steering Committee - Peter Hobson and Jennifer Boylan

Peter Hobson and Jen Boylan gave an update on affordable housing. The next meeting on the Affordable Housing Steering Committee will be on February 23rd. The 808 Jerusalem project has been awarded to Habitat for Humanity for the construction of two units. There are exploratory conversations regarding two properties which just recently became available on Hull Street near the 808 Jerusalem project. In addition, there is contact being made by the Town on the new owners of Avalon to see if there is any renewed interest in expanding 40B housing opportunities at the existing site on Route 3A. Finally, the census has been delayed due to the pandemic and as a result 40B enforcement of 10% may be delayed in 2021.

Zoning Bylaw Working Group

Katie Dugan and Tom Callahan updated the MPIC on the work of the ZBWG. The working group is meeting every 2-3 weeks and is currently focused on three zoning articles for ATM. The articles proposed include Land Alteration Bylaw, Use Variance Bylaw and Sunsetting of Senior Multifamily Residential Overlay District.

Regional Sewer

Sewer planning proceeds forward with the help of discussion between the Cohasset Sewer Commission and the Select Board. Bill McGowan from Sewer Commission and Corey Evans from the Select Board are working with Chris Senior to begin preliminary discussion regarding extent of regional partnerships with Scituate and Hull in the coming weeks.

Historical Commission

Julia Gleason gave a brief on priorities of the Cohasset Historical Commission. The Commission will be very interested in participating in the Elm Street Corridor conversations and Harbor Walk re-configuration made possible by 20,000 sq feet of open space around the corridor as part of the CHI project.

Approval of Minutes

The committee voted to approve the MPIC minutes from January 19, 2021. Katie Dugan will file copy of the minutes with the Town Clerk's office for posting on the Town website.

Administrative

The committee agreed to the next meeting date of Monday, March 29th at 6:30 pm

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.