

Master Plan Advisory Committee—Survey Committee
January 25, 2011, 5:00 P.M.
Durham Town Hall—Council Chambers

— MINUTES —

Members present: Neal Ferris [Integrated Waste Management Advisory], Charles Forcey [Energy], Ute Luxem [Economic Development, alternate], Robin Mower [Conservation; Energy, alternate], Lorne Parnell [Planning Board]

Members absent: Jim Campbell, Amy Cunningham [Parks & Recreation], Jim Lawson [Economic Development, alternate], Joe Moore [citizen]

Others present: Charlie French, UNH Cooperative Extension

Meeting convened at 5:10pm

Donovan and French had compiled a draft survey from the questions submitted by Town committees and boards. The Committee reviewed this first draft.

General discussion about encouraging a visionary and integrative approach. Also discussed a more radical approach to reshuffling the questions, such as “Durham should be known as...” or “Thinking about Durham in 15 years...”

Luxem: Reported that the EDC addressed this question and concurred that the forum may provide a situation more conducive to address future vision and the survey a snapshot.

Donovan: Likes the organization by categories but agrees that we need to encourage a future focus. Another goal is to create balance among the different “interests.”

Forcey: Master Plan refers to the survey to justify broad policy decisions, so that is something to pay attention.

Parnell: One of the broader issues that came up in the “survey discussion” at the Planning Board is Durham’s relationship with UNH.

Forcey: Suggested we pick up the Newport section about reasons why one lives in Durham.

Ferris: Asked about incorporating options for adding comments following specific questions.

French: Suggested that questions be divided into themes and topics, carrying similar patterns throughout, and then include a general question: What else would you like to add or ask?

Committee will pull together a list of neighborhood names; must allow for an “other” option for the respondent. Ferris points out that it is valuable to find out how many neighborhoods there are and how many people identify with a named neighborhood. Geography piece is also helpful during the cross-tabulation process.

Luxem and Mower will assemble a list of the neighborhoods.

Next meeting scheduled for February 2, at 5pm.

Adjourned at 6:45pm

Minutes taker: Robin Mower