

SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING:
Review and Discussion of the Draft Master Plan Update as submitted by the Master Plan Update
Advisory Committee
MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2021
As Apporved

Present: Brad Hutchison, Chair; Diane Mulvaney, Vice-Chair; Joanna Brown, Clerk; Nate Therien, Member; Michael Davis, Member; Michael Adelman, Associate Member; Michael Sullivan, Town Administrator; Richard Harris, Director of Planning and Conservation; and Colleen Canning, Senior Clerk Planning and Conservation Department

Chair Hutchison called the special meeting to order at 6:01 PM and reviewed the virtual meeting

Agenda Item #1 --- Review and Discussion of the Draft Master Plan Update as submitted by the Master Plan Update Advisory Committee

The Board continued their review starting with *Goal 2: Caring for our Resources* on page 75.

Summary of Action Strategy:

- The Board identified that the bulleted item starting with “*Understanding that the physical health...*” needed to be reworded so its meaning was easier to understand.
- The words ‘*in terms of*’ should be removed from the bulleted item that begins with ‘*Valuing the history of the town...*’

Goal 2 Objective 2-1: No edits were proposed.

Goal 2 Objective 2-2: No edits were proposed.

Goal 2 Objective 2-3: Members considered if the objective should reference organic or sustainable farming. These sentiments could be captured in an action item.

Goal 2 Objective 2-4: Members supported adding ‘..... *and the Mount Holyoke Range*’ at the end of the sentence.

Goal 2 Objective 2-5: No edits were proposed.

Goal 2 Objective 2-6: The Board discussed the process for solicitation of letters of support in grant applications. No edits were proposed.

Goal 2 Objective 2-7: Members supported the removal of the first word ‘*Ensure...*’

Goal 2 Action 2-1: No edits were proposed.

Goal 2 Action 2-2: No edits were proposed. However, the Board identified that the action items needed to be reordered so related actions were grouped together.

Goal 2 Action 2-3: No edits were proposed

Goal 2 Action 2-4: No edits were proposed.

Goal 2 Action 2-5: The action should be re-written to something to this effect: *‘Work towards protection of parcels identified as priority for preservation in the Open Space and Recreation Plan.’* Additionally, the action should not be identified as a short term priority.

Goal 2 Action 2-6 and 2-7: These actions were similar so they were discussed together. These actions were partially being addressed within the Town’s ongoing *District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA)* Grant which was seeking to develop regulatory strategies for protection of natural resources. One action should address protection of the Dry Brook Well as a short term priority and the other should address the Bachelor Brook watershed as a long term priority. Another action could be added to address regulatory changes to the Water Supply Protection District. In summary, action 2-6 and 2-7 would be removed and replaced with three new actions (Dry Brook Hill, Bachelor Brook and WSPD)

Goal 2 Action 2-8: No edits were proposed.

Goal 2 Action 2-9: The word *‘other’* should be added in between *‘...and uses’* so the action would read *‘...and other uses’*

Goal 2 Action 2-10: No edits were proposed.

Goal 2 Action 2-11: The word *‘view’* should be changed to *‘viewshed’*

Goal 2 Action 2-12: no edits were proposed.

Goal 2 Action 2-13: The wording of the item was awkward and could be changed to *‘Increase visibility of, communication about, and investment...’*

Goal 2 Action 2-14: No edits were proposed

Goal 2 Action 2-15: The action could be re-written to clearly identify the steps needed to be taken to complete the action (i.e. understand, inventory, preserve) and the priority should be changed to long term.

Goal 2 Action 2-16: No edits were proposed.

Goal 2 Action 2-17: The action should be restated to something of this effect: *“Work across boards and committees to develop multi-generational partnerships.”*

Goal 2 Action 2-18: The term *‘Endorse’* should be changed to *‘Undertake’* and the responsible entity should be changed from the Planning Board to the Fire District 2 Water Commissioners and the term should be changed from short term to long term.

Goal 2 Action 2-19: This related to the objectives within the previously mentioned DLTA grant. Therefore it should be incorporated into the actions redeveloped from actions 2-6 and 2-7

Goal 2 Action 2-20: No edits were proposed. However, members identified action items relating to similar goals should be grouped together.

Goal 2 Action 2-21: The term *‘bylaw’* should be removed and replaced with *‘regulation’* and the term *‘through such means as:’* should be added prior to the listed revisions and the term *‘etc.’*

should be deleted so the revised action would read something to this effect: *‘Revise subdivision regulations through means such as: limitation on clear cutting of trees, decrease in impervious surface cover and encouragement of more communal open space.’*

Goal 2 Action 2-22: The action should be changed from short term to long term.

Goal 2 Action 2-23: This term *‘farming’* should be replaced with *‘agriculture’* and sustainable incentives should be referenced.

Goal 2 Action 2-24: This action was related to the aforementioned ongoing DTLA grant objectives. Therefore the action should be grouped with the reformed actions relating to 2-6 and 2-7.

Goal 2 Action 2-25: No edits were proposed.

Goal 2 Action 2-26: The action was implemented already but the Board choose to keep it within the draft.

Goal 2 Action 2-27: The action should be moved to Goal 4: Excellent Communication and the action should specify that the referenced programming is specifically related to the recreation department.

Goal 2 Action 2-28: The wording *‘...existing building or removal’* should be replaced with *‘site’*.

Goal 2 Action 2-29: The action should be restated to something to this effect: *‘Investigate impacts of taxation on stormwater utility and asphalt installation for new roads and driveways.’* DPW should be listed as a lead entity.

Goal 2 Action 2-30: The wording *‘...given climate change’* should be removed and the action should include reference to public education.

The Board continued on to review of *Goal 3: A Resilient Community* on page 81. Within the opening sentence which beings *‘South Hadley incorporates measures....’* the segment *‘changing demographic trends’* should be removed

Goal 3 Summary of Action Strategy:

- The bulleted item beginning with *‘Strengthening social networks...’* included the following wording *‘....such as the current Covid-19 pandemic’*. The Board recommended revising this segment so it would read *‘....such as pandemics.’*
- Within the bulleted item beginning with *‘Implementation of near-team...’* the word *‘future’* should be removed.
- Within the bulleted item which begins *‘Promoting a greater diversity...’* all language should be deleted after *‘.... boards and committees’* so the item would read *‘Promoting a greater diversity of people on town boards and committees.’* Additionally, the term *‘and bonds’* should be removed.

Goal 3 Objective 3-1: No edits were proposed.

Goal 3 Objective 3-2: The objective could be reworded to something to this effect “*Diversify the tax base to support the municipal budget in order to increase capacity and services.*” The reference to supporting jobs and manufacturing could be part of a new objective if needed.

Goal 3 Objective 3-3: The term ‘*now or have been*’ and ‘*as demographics change over time*’ should be removed.

Goal 3 Objective 3-4: ‘*Proposed fiber network*’ should be replaced with ‘*internet*’.

Goal 3 Objective 3-5: The wording ‘*take advantage of*’ should be replaced with ‘*utilize*’

Thing to carry forward/circle back to

- Include Goal 2 Action item to reference support of local agriculture and organic/sustainable practices.
- Consider reorganization of action items so related actions are listed together.
- Action 2-27 should be moved to Goal 4.

Agenda Item #2 --- Other New Business

No new business was discussed.

Agenda Item #3 --- Adjourn

Motion: Clerk Brown moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Davis seconded. Five (5) out of five (5) members voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
As Approved
Colleen Canning, Senior Clerk, Planning and Conservation Department

Document	Document Location
No Q&A comments submitted	----
Master Plan Draft	Planning Files