

**TOWN OF HAMPTON
MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (MPIC)**

MINUTES

July 26, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Brendan McNamara, Planning Board (MPIC Chair)
Ward Galanis, Planning Board (MPIC Vice Chair)
Erica DeVries, Zoning Board Representative
Anne Marie Galanis, Budget Committee Representative
Rusty Bridle, Selectmen Representative
Donald Bliss, Resident-At-Large
Rayann Dionne, Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance
Danielle Albright, Resident-At-Large
Lily Cragg, Resident-At-Large
Bob Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District
Jason Bachand, Town Planner
Laurie Olivier, Office Manager/Planning

ABSENT: Jeffrey Grip, Resident-At-Large
Jay Diener, Conservation Commission Representative
John Nyhan, Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce
Frank DeLuca, SAU90 Representative
Alex Loiseau, HBAC Representative

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ward Galanis (Vice Chair) began the meeting as Acting Chair, as Brendan McNamara (Chair) arrived late. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

III. APPOINTMENTS

None.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- **MPIC Administrative Procedure (Follow-Up)**

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Mr. Bachand discussed an administrative change from the last meeting. It is not a substantive change. He asked if the members had any additional comments or changes on the procedure document (there were none).

MOTION by Ms. Galanis to accept the MPIC Administrative Procedure.

SECOND by Mr. Bliss.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

MOTION PASSED.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Preliminary Action Item Evaluation and Prioritization:

- **Survey Results – Implementation, Vibrant, and Connected**
- **Discussion and Possible Refinement of Preliminary Results**

Mr. Bachand thanked Ms. DeVries for setting everything up with the survey. We received a total of 14 responses. “Implementation”, “Vibrant”, and “Connected” were looked at. “Connected” had 13 responses. Only two committee members did not complete the survey.

Mr. Bachand asked how the committee members defined Year 1, Year 2, and so forth. He sees Year 1 as 2024. Ms. DeVries thought it was year one of our work. She thought it was the first 12 months, but she’s not hung up on that. It could be a calendar year as well. Ms. Galanis thought of it that way too. Right now, we are in prioritization and that will take several months. We will also need Department Heads to weigh in. She is happy with Mr. Bachand’s plan. Mr. Bliss also thought of it as sometime next year. Everyone agrees with 2024-2025 as Year 1.

Brendan McNamara arrived.

Mr. Bachand is thinking March to March; coincide with Town Meeting. New Boards are also appointed, etc. Warrant articles are approved.

Ms. DeVries’ concerns are that if warrant articles are needed for next year; if we want to, we would be in Year “0” now. Some of these projects are already underway. Ms. DeVries thinks some things need to be accomplished before the year 2024; we could call this “Year 0”.

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Budgets were asked about, i.e. budgets starting in the fall. Creating a warrant. If there's something we see that needs to go forward, bring it to the Town's attention. Time goes by so quickly.

Ms. Dionne (Rayann) looked at how long would it take to complete a project. She thought some projects would take several years.

Mr. Bachand second question was regarding the anticipated timeframe. The very beginning of a project. Some items take 6 months, and some projects take a longer time.

It was noted there could be many competing priorities. We will bring in stakeholders. It's a guideline.

This is preliminary. Priorities will change when we hear from Department Heads; look at grants, etc.

Moving forward with the prioritization was discussed; some things are low hanging fruit. These could be short term 'wins'. Maybe a lot of resources would not be needed. We could weed them out – and put them in a separate bin.

Mr. Bachand said maybe this could be noted as we go along.

The results were discussed. Options were highlighted (yellow) with the most votes. If an action item did not receive a majority, they are highlighted in blue. Setting attainable goals is our goal. We also need to be assertive.

The Implementation section is quick and easy. We're here with these items; then going to different Boards and Committees was discussed. All were high priority, Year 1.

Vibrant was discussed. Diverse and affordable housing. This looks like a high priority. Year 1 or Year 2 was asked. There is a lot of talk about this. Most agreed this should be Year 1.

Amendments to housing ordinances were discussed. It was noted Year 1 and Year 2 - these are vague definitions. Year 2, it was noted may be good. Mr. Bachand discussed the HOP grant. Since this is "exploring"; it could be Year 1 or Year 2. Anything we want by 2025 has to be a year "1" for us. Data is out there; we need to find that out. Mr. Bachand put a "1" on this.

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RPC information from the Regional Housing Needs Assessment is part of the HOP grant; it is underway now.

Incentivizing housing development was discussed. Nine out of 14 members ranked it high. Year 3-5 was the top choice; followed by Year 2. Where will we put all the housing was discussed. Year 3-5 is fine on that. Ms. DeVries does not like 3-5. Other towns have incentives in their Ordinance. If the policy is changed; something has to be built; then there is lag time. There is a big need for workforce housing. Having a policy won't mean everything is going to happen. She thinks this is too important to push out so far. It affects economic development as well. We should examine this earlier.

This does align with the HOP Grant. We hope to have something in our Ordinance in 2024. It could be put to Year 2.

Does the Town need a consultant to work on this was asked. We are working with the RPC on this. We are obtaining data right now also.

Data gathering is being discussed. There are also incentives being offered by the State. Housing Champions. If we don't have policies in place, we can miss the boat on free money from the State.

We will give this Year 2.

Downtown – revitalizing the area with landscaping, sidewalk upgrades, parking, etc. 71 percent rated this high. Looks like Year 3-5 reigns; Year 2 is second.

Ms. Cragg (Lily) thinks this should be Year 2. How does this add value to previous downtown work was asked. Are we doing something different? Mr. Bachand said that was over 10 years ago.

This is going to take a while; whether we get consultants, etc. Then implementation could be a few years. Could it be a Year 1. What does the community want. Some people are unhappy with unwalkability; aesthetics. We can't do everything at once. Creating the plan is good; it will take years; maybe Year 2. We will need experts.

Mr. Bachand said this topic was very popular with locals during our Master Plan work.

Burying utility lines. It's costly and we'd have to find funding. If it's a goal and downtown is being revitalized, this would be taken into consideration. There was a

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warrant article on this a few years back; it did not pass. It should not be separated out. Investigation may show it's not feasible.

Year 3- 5 seems to be the consensus on this.

It could be clumped with item 2.5.

Everything should be clumped under item 2.5.

Item 2.9. Expand community events and have downtown street fairs. Most had it in Year 3-5. This is saying to do this. This should be low hanging fruit. This can be Year 2.

Informal gatherings were asked about. It could be a low hanging fruit. There are picnic tables there. The rail trail is being constructed eventually also. This is low hanging fruit. Maybe partner with the Rec. Department. Keep it at "0" and see what the intent is.

Recruiting businesses. The timeframe is 3-5 years. New tourism opportunities don't happen overnight. It takes a while to get established. It should connect with the other Greenway items in the survey. That is Year 3-5.

The HUB was asked about.

Parks and Recreation.

Improving facilities. This should be ongoing. It was asked if the Rec Department takes this in stock now of what needs to be done. It could be a #1 with low hanging fruit.

Publicizing resources. Year 1 got the most votes. Adding a GIS layer was asked about. It's not a heavy lift with help.

The Village District is already doing this. We should build off that. They have managers who deal with this.

Expanding capacity of the Rec Department. We will have the Rec Department eventually meet with us. It links well with 2.12.

Increasing lighting for fields, etc. Low priority. Not a high priority. Year 3-5 was the top choice. How much space is out there to use this. Is this for the area at the transfer station was asked. There is a Towle Farm site also. We'll talk to the Rec Department to get clarification.

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Indoor and outdoor amenities. That will need Rec and Parks input.

The HUB was discussed. Year 2. It is in the CIP. High priority. This could be Year 2. We've already started planning.

Enhance parks. This is year 3-5. Unique recreational infrastructure. Medium priority.

Pickleball courts and a pool. Medium. What is stopping towns from having pools was asked. Is it litigation? A pool would be worth exploring.

A Historic Resource Inventory was discussed. Medium priority. Year 2. Our Historical Society does a good job; they could help. We need more clarification. This is #2.

Integrate temporary or permanent public installations. Relates to 2.5.

Highlight Hampton's history and culture. Year 3-5. Medium. It could be low hanging fruit.

Support community events. High. We will continue to do as we do; support this.

Convene representatives. Medium. Year 2.

Identify and survey cultural and historic resources. It relates to other topics. Grouping can go on there. It can stay medium. It can stay high but put it as 3-5. It can be bumped up a little bit. It could be Year 2 and pushed out to 3-5. Are other coastal resilience issues being taken into consideration. There is a lot of funding coming in on this as well.

CONNECTED – Items 3.1 – 3.20 are multi model transportation network.

The Seacoast Greenway. High priority. Year 2.

Complete Streets policy. Medium. 3-5. It could always be moved up. Bike lanes are essential. This would tie into downtown also.

Roadway improvement plan. The DPW has a roadway maintenance plan. Some would push this to sooner rather than later. High priority Year 1 makes it more serious.

Town wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Year 2. It connects with other ones. If a large project is taking place, the Town should take this into consideration sooner.

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Sidewalks in Hampton. High priority. Year 2.

Bicycle Steering Committee. It could be Year 1 or 2. High priority – same time frame. Year 2.

SAU 90 Safe Routes to School. High. Year 1. Is it tied into Complete Streets. Maybe this should be a guidance document. Year 2.

Improved Parking Plan. Shuttle opportunities. Year 2. Join it with other items. Electric vehicle charging stations may make it a top priority. High – Year. 2. Folding into other elements.

Provide bicycle parking facilities. Is this low hanging fruit was asked. The Greenway coming in could add an extra element. It would be hard to develop at the beach with traffic. Ocean Boulevard area is the State's property. It could be low hanging fruit. Maybe have a conversation with Rec. Year 2.

Amend the Site Plan and Subdivision Regulations. It's a high priority and Year 2.

Develop traffic enforcement for speeding. High priority. This is for enforcement. Improve 5 corners. Medium by majority – Year 3-5. Need to work with the DPW.

Transportation options. Start it in Year 1. Getting transportation companies is tough. There are ways to get creative to get a trolley.

Work with the State. Green infrastructure. Medium. Work with the State on Complete Streets. This ties in with earlier items. Medium. This maybe could be accelerated. This is high. 3-5.

Investing and partnering with electrical bicycle fleet. Low priority. Year 6+. The Town does not have to drive this.

Dangerous and unsafe crossings. Traffic calming. High priority. This is to identify. Move it up.

Work with the State to clarify access. Ask the Town for more signs. Medium.

Promote the use of low emission. Year 3-5.

Pursue opportunities to add electric vehicle charging stations. People wanted EV charging stations in Town parking lots when we worked on the Master Plan. Year 2.

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Mr. Bachand said we'll stop here. We'll pick up where we left off at the next meeting.

• Assignment for Next Meeting

It was noted for all to rank the Resilience Section. There are 50 or so action items. Ms. DeVries can help with that (the survey). Mr. Bachand asked what people thought of this process. If we didn't have a survey, we'd still be on the first questions. All noted this process worked well.

Ms. DeVries has this loaded up. Does it make sense to put all the rest of it into a survey and let everyone get into it. Or have it all at once. "Resilient" has 58 action items. The other two themes have another 30. We won't get them all reviewed. We could do it (survey) all at once. Ms. DeVries thinks you can enter back in. She thinks you can. It was decided to keep "Resilient" as one survey, and then "Innovative" and "Collaborative" can be a second survey.

Ms. DeVries will get the questions out by the weekend. August 11th would be the due date. This is for the "Resilient" portion.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES of June 28, 2023.

MOVED by Mr. Galanis.

SECOND by Mrs. Galanis.

VOTE: 8 - 0 - 2 (Bliss, Bridle)

MOTION PASSED.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Bridle to adjourn.

SECOND by Mrs. Galanis.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS.

MOTION PASSED.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Olivier, Office Manager/Administrative Assistant

****PLEASE NOTE****

**ITEMS NOT CALLED OR IN PROGRESS BY 9:00 P.M.
MAY BE CONTINUED TO THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**