

**Committee of Precinct Chairs
Minutes 9/21/2023
Great Hall, Plymouth Town Hall
Remote participation by Zoom meeting**

Present:

Precinct 1 Chris Pratt remote
Precinct 2 Matt Tavares Vice Chair
Precinct 3 Dale Webber
Precinct 4 Charlie Vautrain
Precinct 5 Michael Leary
Precinct 6 Bill Arienti
Precinct 7 David Golden
Precinct 8 Don Williams
Precinct 9 Kathryn Holmes Chair
Precinct 10 Alan Costello remote
Precinct 11 Frank O'Brien
Precinct 12 Pat Adelmann Clerk
Precinct 13 Sue Wentworth
Precinct 14 Jeanette Kelly
Precinct 15 Wrestling Brewster
Precinct 16 Absent
Precinct 17 Joe Hutchinson remote
Precinct 18 Carmen Lifrieri remote

Materials distributed: plymouth.k12.ma.us/page/plymouth-public-schools-redistricting-plan,
Article24.pdf(4. GMSPS),CHARTING PLYMOUTH'S FUTURE TOGETHER, A
MASTER PLANNER FOR THE MASTER PLAN UPDATE,article 4 backup 2023 Fall
Town Meeting Book pages 63-121,article 5, pages 123-127.

The meeting began at 7 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Kathryn Holmes asked for a motion to rescind the vote for the COPC to elect a parliamentarian. David Golden made the motion. Matt Tavares seconded. David Golden expressed that the parliamentarian should be appointed to avoid any political machinations and to select the best person hopefully for long term. The vote was taken and carried. 17 in favor. One absent, Precinct 16.

Dr. Chris Campbell, Superintendent of Plymouth Public Schools, gave a presentation focusing on:
Plymouth Public Schools Redistricting Exercise
Statement of Interest (SOI) Filed with the Massachusetts School Building Authority

(MSBA): New Elementary School for North Plymouth

This link contains all elements of the presentation, plymouth.k12.ma.us/page/plymouth-public-schools-redistricting-plan.

A comprehensive review of our student population, demographics, equity issues, learning environment, facilities conditions, projected maintenance, and sustainability was given. The Statement of Interest submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for construction of a new elementary school on the Cold Spring campus which would cover the students at both Hedge and Cold Spring Schools was explained.

Questions and Answers:

Carmen LiFieri: What is the estimated rate of investment from the MSBA if the project is approved?

Dr. Campbell: 50-61%

Carmen: Are Hedge and Cold Spring at the bottom of the list for Facilities condition?

Dr. Campbell: Not necessarily worst conditions but cost to upgrade and maintain them are not sustainable when grants for consolidating facilities are available.

Carmen: Did the consultants do a Return on Investment Report?

Dr. Campbell: No. The facilities management team does assessments on all buildings and determine what resolutions give the best value for long term. It is about all students having an equitable learning experience.

Don Williams: Where is the population of students going and where does it fit into planning?

Dr. Campbell: 14.5% reduction in elementary students in last 10 years. Our projections see numbers going up by 350 students due to new construction. We have seen 109% increase in English language learners in past few years.

Bill Arienti: Will the addition of more special education services help to decrease the costs of transporting students out of the district?

Dr. Campbell: The Operational Service Division (OSD) sets the tuition prices for private special education programs. The tuition has increased 14%. Even though our number of students has remained the same the cost has increased due to tuition increases, which in the past only increased by 2 to 3%. We do all we can to keep students in district but some require extensive services outside the district.

Kathryn Holmes: When will you come before Town Meeting Town with a request to fund the building project and how much will the project cost?

Dr. Campbell: Within a year, the Town will be asked to fund the North Plymouth Elementary School building. Last years estimates were \$80 million.

Kathryn; It's time to think about consolidation and regional schools.

Attorney Timothy Angley and Mark Pacheco of 513 Consulting

Article 24 - To amend the solar array by law.

Attorney Angley explained that a group of residents is concerned about solar arrays being installed over cranberry bogs which could raise their height 8 up to 15 feet.

The proposed amendment would better equip the Building Department and Planning Board to protect the character of neighborhoods. The amendment would require projects over 8 feet above grade to have a cash bond to cover the cost of removing the

solar systems. The other parts of the amendment would require notifying abutters within 700 feet and also gives additional protection to the viewshed of those 700 ft abutters. A plan to screen the solar site would be required and the Planning Board could recommend additional screening. The requirements could be waived if all of the abutters agreed.

Questions and Answers:

Pat Adelman: Does the viewshed apply to other than solar projects?

Mr. Angley: The viewshed only applies to solar units at this time.

Don Williams: Does it include clear cutting trees?

Mr. Angley: Clear cutting trees is not part of this.

Lee Hartmann and Steve Bolotin

Article 8 - Master Plan Funding

Mr. Bolotin define the deficiencies of the current Master Plan and attributed the deficiencies to the hiring of a Master Planner instead of a consulting firm. He stated that the current proposal is to avoid past errors and talked about all the detail that went into the scope of the proposal.

Questions and Answers:

Mr. Tavares: How does Braintree come in?

Mr. Bolotin: Hard to tell but from conversations I have had about \$380,000.

Ms. Adelman: You and staff members opposed the proposed Charter stating that the Master Plan updates were too costly for the town. Why ?

Mr. Bolotin: My position on the Charter has nothing to do with the Master Plan.

Mr. Brewster: Is \$500k attainable?

Lee hartmann: It would not be any more than that.

Don Williams: We should be asking how much would it cost if we don't do it.

Bill Arienti: Do we intend to hire an enforcement officer?

Lee Hartmann: We expect a recommendation for more staff as a result of the plan.

Birgitta Kuehn

Article 8 Amendment A Master Planner for the Master Plan Update

Ms. Kuehn explained the elements of a Master Plan and the need to use a Master Planner to execute and implement the Master Plan working with Town boards and committees along with the expertise of consultants.

Q & A:

Mr. Golden: Did you bring this before proposition before the Planning Board?

Ms. Kuehn: No but I was integral in bringing the task force into play. They are all well familiar with my ideas.

Mr. Golden: Would your plan qualify for the \$70,000 grant?

Ms. Kuehn: Yes, according to Mr. Brindidis and Mr. Muratore. The grant is to update the Master Plan.

Mr. Golden: The Planning Board not Town Meeting is empowered to make the decision about the Master Plan.

Ms. Kuehn: Town Meeting makes the decision about the allocation of funds. What you do not see in this plan is how the funds are allocated.

Mr. Golden: I will be supporting the Master Plan proposal voted on by the Planning Board.

Mr. Brewster; We just heard that the last Master Plan started with a Master Planner but that didn't work. The Planner himself said it was too much work. Why do we want to repeat the same thing again?

Ms. Kuehn: The Planner will be around when the boards and committees are trying to learn how to implement the new Master Plan.

Mr. Brewster: I cannot support repeating what went wrong the last time and will support the Master Plan.

Mr. Williams: I support all of what Mr. Brewster said.

Mr Brindisi defers to Department Heads;

Mr. Gould presented information on projects using Environmental Affairs Funding.

1. Store Pond Dam and the engineering necessary to bring it up to the standards of the Office of Dam Safety.
2. Savory Pond modeling to reduce cyanobacteria bloom.
3. Herring Pond phosphate barrier pilot program to reduce cyanobacteria bloom.

Mr. Gould answered Ms. Adelman's question that Environmental Affairs funds are funds from PILOT payments coming from solar and wind turbine projects. 50% of the monies go into Environmental Affairs and 50% goes into the General Fund.

Mr. Williams commented that the Herring Pond project could benefit all of Plymouth's ponds.

4. The All Persons Trail by Jenney Pond known as Dark Orchard.

Mr. Brindisi briefly went over the rest of Article 4 items: Downtown car island and mitigation, security camera upgrade, replace fire pumping engine, T wharf extension, appraisals for administration building. There is property abutting the DPW administration facility and the \$25,000 would look at the possibilities and value to expanding.

Mr, Brindisi talked about Article 2 and how the CPC had voted to set aside money for administrative assistance. He noted in the past COPC had requested staff to attend COPC meetings to provide updates for the legislative Oversight Committee on the status of articles. He wants to support all the boards and committees and saw a gap, especially at CPC, where he felt administrative help was needed. He felt it was best to combine the CPC and COPC administrative assistant so it could be a full time instead of a part time position.

Q&A:

Mr. Golden; Are you looking for an endorsement from us for this article?

Mr. Brindisi: Yes

Mr. Tavares: I'm not prepared for this discussion and we need to have this discussion. What support are you looking for? We already have a clerk and the agenda goes out. Is this about a subcommittee?

Mr. Brindisi: Requests for the status on articles that haven't been closed out is where the Oversight Committee could use help.

Comments:

Mr. Tavares: Well that is the job of this town to have reports and keep track of all monies. Maybe down the road I would consider help but right now, I think it needs more discussion.

Mr. Webber: At this point mine is a no vote.

Mr. Brewster: Reckons back to last time Oversight Com asked for reports. I would support this.

Don Williams: Would rather give money to David Gould's staff to do more work.

Ms. Holmes: By-law and Oversight Committees may need help but right now we need data to analysis how much help is needed. What is the expertise of the staff help? I need the data.

Mr. Canty: A&F Com could not work without staff support.

Mr. Weber; The role and duty between the A&F Com and the COPC is like apples and oranges

Mr. Arienti: Consider pulling it for Fall Town Meeting and come back at Spring TM.

Ms. Wentworth: Would be very helpful to expand upon the goals we set and use the help.

Mr. Costello; Would be smart to table this at this time.

Who would the staff support have answer to?

Mr. Golden thinks it should be an agenda item for next COPC meeting.

Mr. Brewster: If we want to build this committee up with gravitas then we really need support.

Ms. Holmes will add it to the agenda next month.

Nick Mayo, Inspectional services- Article 5

To help the Town step in to clean up a severe problem.

Q&A:

Mr. Arienti: Would this handle a developer clear cutting property and leaving all the fallen tress and rumble on the property?

Mr. Mayo: It certainly may help that specific situation. There is a bylaw that already covers that.

Ms. Holmes: I am concerned about the vagueness. We have severe weather. Trees come down. Can someone not have a dead tree down on their property?

Mr. Mayo: 95% of language is already in bylaws around the state. It is designed for the most severe situations.

Mr. Williams: Who is the Blight detective?

Mr. Mayo: The Building Inspector, fire department, health director or agent.

Ms. Holmes: The language needs to be tightened up.

Alan Costello, Oversight Committee, Update

Our second meeting is Mon. Sept 25. Will report back at COPC Oct. meeting.

Mr.Tavares: Can you survey your members about the need for support staff?

Mr. Costello: Will do that and report back

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Minutes of 6/15/23

Motioned to approve by Wrestling Brewster. Seconded by David Golden.

12 Approved.

4 Abstained: Precinct 4, Charles Vautrain, Precinct 5, Michael Leary, Precinct 14, Jeanette Kelly, Precinct 18, Carmen LiFrieri

4 Not Present.

Motion Passed

Minutes of 7/20/23

Motioned to approve by David Golden. Seconded by Frank O'Brien.

12 Approved.

4 Abstained: Precinct 4, Charles Vautrain, Precinct 5, Michael Leary, Precinct 14, Jeanette Kelly, Precinct 15, Wrestling Brewster

2 Not Present

Motion passed.

Old and New Business

Kathryn Holmes, Town Meeting Handbook Update.

There is one more person, Carmen from Precinct 18, who volunteered.

Maybe the handbook is something for administrative support.

David Golden, Charter Review Committee Update

The Preamble and Chapter 1. Were reviewed. Next, we will review Legislative Branch.

Town Meeting Members are encouraged to attend.

Matt Tavares asked what we were planning on doing about Administrative Support

Article, when our Oct 19 is two days before Town Meeting.

Kevin Canty said that the article can't be pulled.

Kathryn said we will meet on our regular third Thursday of the month.

Motion to adjourn made by Wrestling Brewster and seconded by Matt Tavares.

All approved.

Adjourned at 9:48 PM

Minutes were approved on 10/19/2023.

Submitted by Pat Adelman

