

**WORCESTER TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE TASK FORCE
WORCESTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY HALL
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER by Stacy Crandell at 7:10 PM

ATTENDANCE

STEPHANIE BAILEY	[X]
ART BUSTARD	[X]
WINNIE HAYES	[X]
BURT HYNES	[X]
PATRICIA QUIGLEY	[X]
TONY SHERR	[X]

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- July 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes – This was tabled due to not having a quorum. Will be on the agenda for the November meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- There were no public comments.

FOCUS AREA OF COMP PLAN FOR DISCUSSION

- Discussion on Comp Plan Schedule:
 - After receiving feedback from the group about the comp plan schedule, Stacy Crandell explained that an additional meeting with scheduled for November 10th to go over the last two chapters. The December 8th meeting will be used to go over the first full draft of the Comprehensive Plan Update before it moves through the next steps of the process to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. Everyone at the meeting was in agreement so the Township will advertise the November meeting and take care of updating the comp plan schedule.
- Discussion on Open House in October
 - There was a brief discussion regarding the open house on October 27th. Stacy Crandell distributed committee assignments to the group. Brian Olszak and Stacy Crandell went over how the event was going to run. The task force members talked about advertising the event. Stacy will produce a one-page flyer so the group can distribute and spread the word.
- Draft Chapter – Parks, Open Space & Preservation
 - Brian Olszak went over the draft chapter which covered Parks, Open Space & Preservation. There was some discussion regarding the chapter.
 - There was some discussion about the phrase “as appropriate” in regards to the recommendation of providing a degree of public access at properties acquired or eased for preservation purposes, as

appropriate. Wini Hayes asked that this be spelled out more because some properties like farmland may be preserved but public access may not be available or appropriate.

- Burt Hynes asked that the abbreviations that are in a few places like EDU, ASA be defined so that everyone can understand what they mean.
 - Patricia Quigley inquired about the greenways and park priority map and felt that this would be an important element to have displayed at the Open House so the Township could receive some feedback on what may be priority areas that residents feel is needed for recreation and parks.
 - Art Bustard commented that he thought it was important to have the TDR in the plan, and also commented that he did not feel that the Township should hire consultants to advise on different things and thought that role should go to the planning commission. Patricia Quigley stated that may be a lot on the planning commission but maybe there should be subgroups under the planning commission.
 - Wini Hayes stated she felt it was important to highlight and preserve the areas near and around Evansburg State Park for natural resources and animal habitats.
- Draft Chapter – Environmental Resources & Infrastructure
 - Brian Olszak went over the draft chapter which covered Environmental Resources & Infrastructure. There was some discussion regarding the chapter.
 - There was a discussion about stormwater management and who is responsible for stormwater that may be flowing onto a public roadway or property from a private property. The members were in agreement that this matter is a big problem in the Township and should be addressed in the future and that section should be expanded.
 - Patricia Quigley stated that she felt the map titled “Worcester modelled Existing Wetlands and Potentially Restorable Wetlands” which was from the University of Vermont and WeConservePA was a little misleading and probably not really helpful map to include. She suggested that a map from NWI would be a better resource.
 - There was some discussion regarding the minimum requirements of Riparian Buffers. Burt Hynes suggested that the Riparian Buffer section be more representative of Worcester and include information about the pastures and cropland.

- Burt Hynes discussed tree planting and tree density. He is definitely not against tree planting but felt that there should be some thought placed on tree density during the land development process so trees are placed in areas that continue to flourish instead of planting too many too close and the trees being taken down.
- Burt Hynes discussed that he wanted to see that certain types of energy like solar were listed in promoting sustainability and noted that other municipalities has been successful with running their facilities with solar power. Brian Olszak bought about the County Program C-PACE which allows residents to finance clean energy improvements like solar panels.

NEXT STEPS AND NEXT MEETING

- October 27, 2021 Open House – The Task Force will host the Open House from 4-7PM on October 27th. The next Task Force meeting will be November 10th and will cover the chapter for Governance & Public Services; Land Use & Growth Management.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force, Stacy Crandell adjourned the meeting at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Stacy E. Crandell
Assistant Township Manager