

City of Claremont Master Plan
Transportation Subcommittee
Meeting - November 7, 2008 - 9 a.m.

Draft Minutes

Present: Alan Grigsby, Dennis Osgood, Jr., Lisa Paquette, Tom Ford, and Steve Picano

Dennis moved and Steve seconded that the minutes of the October 24 meeting be approved and they were by acclamation.

A review was undertaken of the transportation chapters of 13 master plans from around New Hampshire. They range from a two-page section from a small town to dozens of pages from cities. The committee examined methods used to make these reports, aspects of transportation covered, actions suggested, and the information and graphics used. As these elements of the plans were discussed committee members weighed whether they might be included in Claremont's plan.

Steve said our report could consist of two parts: An overview of what the situation is and specific projects to be done. The committee liked a guiding overview or mission statement for this report.

Alan and Dennis discussed the importance of getting projects and ideas into a plan so that they can be addressed and funded. or to "Get in line" for financing.

Lisa pointed out that the other sections of this master plan, housing for example, may affect the transportation component. She said this committee needs to understand the emphasis they make. The joint sub-committee meetings when MPAC meets could provide this type of cross checking.

Lisa thought the long lists of roads and their definitions were overkill in the other plans. Concern was expressed by several that a long transportation section that doesn't get to the point will be difficult to wade through and may therefore be less effective in guiding the city.

Dennis thought we needed to develop a view of where we want the city to go on transportation .

Steve said more detail in our report may be needed for main roads. Alan said that several of the plans had traffic counts for the preceding decade and projected traffic until 2020 or 2030. Dennis said that kind of detail may be needed to support our position.

Lisa pointed out that we were developing a plan not a finely detailed blueprint. She also suggested we look at the last Claremont master plan to see what went right or wrong with it. She said the plan we write needed to be pragmatic. Steve said the report should be to the point so that its message sticks.

Alan said he would check with Bruce Temple to see what kind of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) exists and how it is administered. He will also ask about traffic counts and projections and whether the truck route study is doing anything to get community input.

Work at the next meeting will be to develop an approach for the Dec. 4 MPAC meeting and transportation questions for a community survey.

It was pointed out that traffic flow through the city affects other aspects of the transportation picture such as pedestrian traffic, bicycle routes, and parking. Steve said the new skateboard park had reduced skateboarding around the city. Lisa said these types of facilities can improve traffic in the city.

Alan said several of the plans from around the state suggested changes to zoning and planning ordinances to accomplish the traffic objectives recommended.

Lisa distributed copies of a consultant's study of bus transportation in the Claremont area and the New Hampshire Long Range Transportation Plan.

Next Meeting: Friday, November 21, 2008, 9 a.m. in the conference room at:
Community Alliance Transportation Services
940 John Stark Highway
Newport, NH 03773

Respectfully submitted by:
Alan Grigsby, chair