

## **Master Plan Steering Committee**

**Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

**1pm-2pm**

**Rye Town Hall**

***Members Present:* Chair Rob Wright, Joe Persechino, Ann Fox, Rob Patten, Vice-Chair Kathy Garcia and Howie Lazerowich.**

***Also Present:* Planning Administrator Kim Reed**

### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Wright called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **II. Budget**

Chair Wright explained that the monies for the Master Plan and the Build Out Analysis are in the Town's overall budget under Capital Outlay and that both the Select Board and the Budget Committee already approved it. The Long Range Planning Committee spent months going over other master plans and their costs with other towns and the amount that the Planning Board was vetted and a reasonable amount for the work we are requesting.

Discussion about the budget and if could be altered at the Deliberative Session which led to a good discussion on why the monies for the Master Plan and the Build Out should not be altered.

Round Table discussion as to how to talk about this to others and how to best support this.

Group came up with a FAQ to be shared. Write an article for the Annual Report, an article for the Newsletter and if members can attend the Deliberative Session to answer any questions, it was encouraged.

Discussion about lunch forum and decided best to stay within the deliberative session and answer questions in a public forum.

Member Patten said it sounds like a lot of money and wanted to know what we were getting for the price that we were paying and he did the math. This is going to cost only \$20 per resident for a 5 year plan! That's \$4 per year per resident! Our current plan is very outdated. The reason Rye is a nice place to live is because we have continually updated the plan to reflect the needs of the town as they change over town!

Other questions and answers were:

**Q.** Is the amount enough for the Master Plan?

**A.** The Long-Range Planning Committee and the Planning Board hired a consultant in 2021 and the committee/board looked at many other towns and what they spent and the end product they received, and the amount was derived from those reviews.

**Q.** Are we required to have a Master Plan and if so, are we required to update it?

**A.** The Master Plan is mandated by the State of NH. NHRSA 674:1 Duties of the Planning Board. – I. It shall be the duty of every planning board established under RSA 673:1 to prepare and amend from time to time a master plan to guide the development of the municipality. 674:2 Master Plan; Purpose and Description. – I. The purpose of the master plan is to set down as clearly and practically as possible the best and most appropriate future development of the area under the jurisdiction of the planning board, to aid the board in designing ordinances that result in preserving and enhancing the unique quality of life and culture of NH, and to guide the board in the performance of its other duties in a manner that achieves the principles of smart growth, sound planning, and wise resource protection

**Q.** Where can I view the current Master Plan?

**A.** **The current Master Plan is per chapter and may be viewed on the Town Website at Master Plan | Rye NH.**

**Q.** What is wrong with the current plan we have, why update it?

**A.** The Plan is adequate, but it needs to be updated and be more fluid as a working document to create a road map of where the Town would like to be in the future. We need to define what the Town is going to look like to avoid unintentional consequences and start to seek understanding of items important to the townspeople of Rye such as: roads, beaches, safe water resources, infrastructure, growth, affordability and schools just to mention a few.

**Q.** What is a build out analysis and why are we doing that in addition to the Master Plan?

**A.** The Building Out Analysis is a look at what exists currently in Rye and what can be built upon with the current available land that is left based on our zoning. You can not plan for the future Land Use without knowing what you currently have.

**Q.** Why is it important to put so much time and effort into updating the Master Plan?

When we invest time to analyze our current town resources and know what is important to the people of Rye (ie, land use, water, roads, beaches, town buildings, town center, housing, extreme weather/climate change effects, etc.), we can update the Master Plan to thoughtfully prepare for the next ten years in a way that helps us plan the town of Rye to incorporate what we value. Examples include land use that is thoughtfully developed and/or conserved; safe drinking water; beaches and roads that are in good shape and uncrowded; recreation facilities that meet the needs of the citizens; thoughtful development of business, center of town and homes.

**A comprehensive Master Plan ensures that the town can create laws regarding land use that represent those values of the people of Rye.**

### **III. Standing Meetings Every Tuesday at 1pm.**

- Next meeting scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 1:00 p.m., Town Hall

### **Adjourn**

**Motion by Rob Wright to adjourn at 2:46 p.m. Seconded by Kathryn Garcia. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kimberly Reed