

Wilbraham Vision Task Force

Selectmen's Office: Town Hall

Minutes for January 17, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:30

Present: Carole Albano, Susan Burk, Edna Colcord, Karen Furst, Nancy Ross, Chuck Phillips. Dave Sanders

Guests from Steering Committee: Dick Butler, Joe Calabrese, Eric Fuller, John Pearsall

1. **Minutes** from Jan 10, 2012 accepted as read (motion DS 1, EC2)
2. **Highlights of Visioning process** presented: A Wordle example(CP) B. Capricity demonstration(SB) Google Docs(S.B, D.S) D. Town Comparison (population etc. of surrounding towns)(CP)
3. **Individual Group Highlights** from special meetings and Vision Day:
HOUSING (C.A) sales of small houses down but condo sales up for 2012
AGRICULTURE/LAND (EC) considerations for looking at land in future
RECREATION (NF)need for walk/bikeways
BUSINESS (KF) two meetings with business community(BRBA): expressed need for better communication;shared some findings; received good questions
EDUCATION (NF)need for space, technology, (especially in elementary and middle school), more interaction with businesses for student experience in work situations
(EC) added importance of volunteers in maintaining trails, land
4. **Response and dialogue with Steering Committee:**
(EF) discussion of "sidewalk fund" (DB)problems with State/Federal restriction and response to KF that business has made limited efforts to work as a group with Planning Board and that the Finance Committee also must be considered in planning effort. (EF)individual self-interest is often what is presented to Planning Board
5. **What format should be used in report to Planning Commission?**
(KF) Gave guests examples of proposed outline of report and explained format. Planning board to read through and direct VTF how to proceed. Emphasis of report to reflect what community "wants", not "if".
(SB)desire that report from survey will not leave out opinions of community
(CP)"*What do you see as the ideal product that you will receive?" "How will you use report?" "Will there be a public discussion of results?"*
6. **Further Discussion** (DB & EF) shared anecdotes of past experiences such as sidewalk fund and Capital Budget, once published in *Times* and problems that ensued. Results must be shared with Finance and Capital Planning Committees to make sure Vision is communicated as "what" not "how" and involve Town Meeting and business dictates. While town does not have a Master Plan, zoning and land use are up-to-date. Report should indicate wants and things that are not wanted by community. (NF)Data will give direction and priorities of community rather than "how" or "why" (JC) sees the data as a direction . Will see trends including demographics, and top issues for next ten years. (JP)Resources are ever the problem (CP) the report must be seen as 1.Fact based: example PVA findings 2.Intuitive/opinion

based: examples are Survey and results of meetings with citizens VTF goal is to blend all the data in a report that makes sense

7. **Concluding Commentary:** Steering Committee expressed thanks for VTF effort . Next Planning Board is Tues. and they hope to reply to the request regarding report format as soon as possible. SB said that data will also be ready to share by the end of the month in the most communicative way and assured storage of surveys/collecting materials are protected.

8. Audience -none

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 (motion KF1, NR2)

Next VTF meeting January 31,2013 at 7:00 pm, Town Hall

Respectfully submitted, EC