

Natick 360
Honoring Our Past. Planning Our Future.



Strategic Planning Oversight Committee
Minutes * March 7, 2007

Present

Rosemary Driscoll, designated by School Committee
Matthew Gardner, designated by the Conservation Commission
John Heerwagen, at-large member
David Parish Co-Chair, designated by the Board of Selectmen
Craig Ross, Co-Chair, designated by the Finance Committee
Harlee Strauss, at-large member

Absent

Terri Evans, at-large member
George Richards, designated by the Planning Board

Consultants Present

Phillip Blackerby, Blackerby Associates (by telephone)

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. EST by the Co-Chair, Mr. Ross, in the School Committee Meeting Room, 3rd Floor Town Hall, Natick, MA 01760. A quorum was present.

Item 1. Minutes: Minutes from the February 21, 2007 meeting were not available for consideration.

Item 2. Coordination with sponsoring boards: The Conservation Commission is happy with what is going on, and would like to know about meetings the first week in April. School Committee is concerned about the timing, with other issues pending. Finance Committee met last night and received a process update; they noted that they had not yet approved the Phase 1 report; specific changes have now been submitted, under the Town Government section, about the delegation of unspecified powers; fact-checking is in order; a formal vote for the Phase 1 document will be scheduled.

A two-page summary of Phase 3 was distributed, describing process in March and early April. The proposed schedule avoids election week, and puts meetings between Passover and Good Friday, while not getting into the Town Meeting schedule. The Committee discussed the Phase 3 process in some detail.

Item 3. Approval of invoices:

a. The Committee considered the Blackerby Associates invoice number 07-006 for \$8,550.00 for regular monthly consulting fee for February. Ms. Strauss moved approval of the invoice, Mr. Heerwagen seconded the motion, and the Committee voted 6-0-0 to approve the motion.

b. The Committee considered the Blackerby Associates invoice number 07-007 for \$414.61 for expenses incurred during February meetings. Mr. Gardner moved approval of the invoice, Ms. Driscoll seconded the motion, and the Committee voted 6-0-0 to approve the motion.

Fundraising:

Deval Patrick inaugural fund has surplus funds; as a 501(C)(3), Natick Service Council is requesting funding on its behalf and on behalf of Natick 360, \$25,000 for outreach to people with low incomes, to improve accessibility for people with disabilities, and for survey to provide a voice to people with low incomes, as well as others.

A local multimedia communications company is interested in receiving a grant application by next week, related to the survey, for \$5,000.

A local medical devices manufacturer is also interested in receiving a grant application; Messrs. Heerwagen, Parish and Ross will work on this application.

Mr. Richards is investigating a telecommunications company for possible funding source.

Mr. Heerwagen is looking for foundation donors, and has identified two possible foundations.

In addition, the fundraising subcommittee is considering a general business solicitation for up to \$1,000 per donor.

Item 4. Posting for Community-at-Large representative: Posting is expected to go up later this week; posting will go to Town Clerk, and will be on Town web site. The Committee will also send a press release to the Natick *Bulletin and Tab*.

Item 5. Phase 3 Update: The Phase 3 update was covered in discussions under Item 2, above.

Item 6. Continued Public Input on Phase 3: Survey on SurveyMonkey has been posted; ask for Committee member comments before making it live later this week. Will send out an e-letter announcing the availability.

Item 7. Focus on Natick: A document describing the Focus on Natick photography activity was sent to the Arts and Culture organizations, and posters have been put up all over town. Additional emphasis will be on camera stores.

Item 8. High School Forum: The Committee is trying to find dates for seminars. Few choices are available. The seminars will occur. Current focus is on the 9th, at 2:00 p.m. at Morse Institute Library, with facilitators drawn from local service organizations.

Item 9. Other Business:

The Committee discussed opportunities for ongoing discussion of issues after completion of the Natick 360 strategic planning process.

A new Community Development Committee is talking about a housing conference, to look at the state of affordable housing, how to implement it, and how to finance it. Looking for co-sponsors,

and requested co-sponsorship by *Natick 360*. Committee decided to consider this request on March 12 meeting.

The Committee is considering a business group conference looking at builders, architects and developers in Natick. Purpose is to involve this group in the strategic planning process, and how their experience can help Natick.

A new version of Phase 3 process will be distributed.

Ms. Driscoll moved to adjourn, Ms. Strauss seconded the motion, and the Committee voted 5-0-0 to adjourn. The Committee adjourned at 7:45 p.m.