

Natick 360
Honoring Our Past. Planning Our Future.



Strategic Planning Oversight Committee
Minutes * August 29, 2007

Present

Rosemary Driscoll, designated by School Committee
John Heerwagen, at-large member
Bill Mayhew, at-large alternate member
David Parish Co-Chair, designated by the Board of Selectmen
George Richards, designated by the Planning Board (excused absence between 7:03 and 7:20 p.m.)
Andres Rochwerger, at-large member
Craig Ross, Co-Chair, designated by the Finance Committee
Harlee Strauss, at-large member

Absent

Terri Evans, at-large member
Matthew Gardner, designated by the Conservation Commission

Consultants Present

Phillip Blackerby, Blackerby Associates (by telephone)

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. EDT by the Co-Chair, Mr. Ross, in the School Committee Room, 3rd Floor, Town Hall, Natick, MA 01760. A quorum was present.

Item 1. Minutes

The Committee considered the minutes of August 15, 2007. Ms. Strauss requested corrections to Item 5, sub-item b., and Item 5, paragraph 2, with parallel changes to the summary of action items. Mr. Heerwagen requested some clarifying language in Item 4. Mr. Richards moved to approve the minutes as modified by these requests, Mr. Heerwagen seconded the motion, and the Committee voted 7-0-1 to approve the motion.

Item 2. Communication with Sponsoring Boards

The Planning Board is eager to review the Community Survey report. An updated version is expected to be distributed tomorrow, August 30. The Planning Board will meet tonight, and will consider a meeting time for the September facilitation process.

The Board of Selectmen approved the Phase 1 report at its last meeting. This approval means that the Phase 1 report is now fully approved and may be distributed.

The School Committee wants to start the *Natick 360* portion of its meeting on Monday, September 17, from 9:00 to 10:00 p.m. Ms. Driscoll will continue to work with the School Committee.

The Finance Committee will meet Tuesday, September 18.

At the last meeting of the Financial Operating Committee, it considered the size of the operating override that may be needed, and the nature of various service cuts that may be required. Some discussion addressed whether approval of the *Natick 360* strategic plan should wait until after the override vote. The final consensus was that the two processes should proceed in parallel.

A Warrant Article is on the Warrant for Town Meeting, to provide an interim report, showing “greatest hits” from Natick 360.

Item 3. Community Survey Update

Committee members submitted feedback on the August 22 draft; Mr. Ross transmitted the comments to Mr. Tatham at ETC Institute. Mr. Tatham has updated the report, and a new draft is now posted on the Natick 360 web site (www.natick360.org/ETC). The report will be distributed to the Board and Committee Chairs for further distribution to their members.

The Committee discussed ways to make the report available to the public. It will be posted on the Natick 360 web site (www.natick360.org); copies will be available in the libraries; a shorter version, without the tables at the end, could also be distributed electronically.

Item 4. Sponsoring Board Workshops – Sept 17-20

After a conference call with Messrs. Ross, Parish and Blackerby, Mr. Blackerby drafted an agenda and a series of handouts. Messrs. Ross and Parish reviewed this draft, and Mr. Parish modified it significantly. He emailed it to Committee members earlier in the day, and distributed copies to the Committee members present.

The purpose of the worksheet is simply to ask participants what they want to accomplish, and how they want to accomplish it. An example related to runoff water is provided. The Committee also reviewed the proposed agenda. The Committee suggested reducing significantly the time spent on the first three items of the proposed agenda. The session agenda will include a brief introduction and discussion of the Community Survey results, with the bulk of the session time spent on identifying specific strategic priorities and means of accomplishment. The packet including a cover letter, agenda and worksheet will be distributed to the Board and Committees chairs prior to Labor Day Weekend.

Mr. Tatham, of ETC Institute, will conduct a conference call to review the survey in detail as early as next week (currently scheduled for Friday, September 14 at 1PM).

Item 5. Natick Days

a. Date for ETC Institute Presentation

Wilson auditorium will be available September 25, October 2 and October 4. Mr. Tatham suggested that Tuesday, October 2, would be most convenient, with the least amount of conflicts. Mr. Ross will ask Pegasus if video will be available, though it will not be broadcast live, as the Finance Committee will also meet that date.

b. Publicity

Mr. Rochwerger reported on plans to publicize the activity at Natick Days, Saturday, September 8. At the booth will be posters presenting charts from the Community Survey on page 9 (reasons why

people will stay in Natick) and page 10 (respondent level of agreement with statements about the future of Natick); also distribute flyers about the ETC Institute presentation on October 2. Meeting of Natick Days booth sponsors will be August 30. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Item 6. Other Business

Mr. Richards announced that the Planning Board will meet Wednesday, September 19, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., for the facilitated discussion of the strategic plan.

Mr. Heerwagen moved to adjourn, Mr. Richards seconded the motion, and the Committee voted 8-0-0 to approve the motion. The Committee adjourned at 8:04 p.m.