

Town of Westmoreland
Masterplan Committee Unapproved Minutes
780 Route 63
PO Box 55
Westmoreland, NH 03467
Mar 19, 2024

Attending: Alan Bell (chair), Lisa Prince, April Ferguson, Ian Bresnahan, Michelle Hayward, Kristen Riley

Review of Minutes: January 9

Alan made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Lisa Prince seconded that motion. All voted in favor.

Review of Minutes: February 20th

Kristen Riley mentioned that the minutes should say who recorded them.

April Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Alan Bell seconded that motion. All voted in favor.

Identification of Key Town Issues

Jean Prior and Rachel Bartlett from the recycling committee attended the meeting, with the purpose of educating the group on what they have been working on, and what issues they are currently dealing with. They have a goal to begin glass recycling at the transfer station at the end of April. There will be volunteers to sort through and obtain the usable glass. They will not have to crush the glass, this will be done at the Keene Recycling Center. It costs \$202 a ton to bring commingled recyclables to Vermont, when Keene will take it for \$48 a ton. They hope to bring up the subject at the next town meeting of "Pay as you throw," where residents would pay per trash bag. It costs the town \$120,000 a year to offload trash. The Recycling Committee wants to know, How does the town want to pay for the deficit?

Ian Bresnahan will research the fire department in regards to current issues. Kristen Riley wondered if there should be a question in regards to other services that the town would want the fire department to have, like an employee to address non-emergency needs of residents, that require the fire department's attention.

April Ferguson commented on a proposed survey question from John Harris at the previous meeting: "Would you support reducing lot size and road frontage requirements in residential zones to encourage moderately-priced homes?" April said this should be reworded and warrants more discussion.

Alan Bell spoke on his findings on the Community Power Committee. His suggested survey question is, "Should the town use a minor increase in Community Power funds to establish a price buffer and or save to create an energy supply program. Ie solar, wind, or other solutions?"

Further Discussion of Survey Questions

The board discussed including more questions about demographics in regards to gender/race. There was a consensus that this is not relevant to the master plan, that is more of a census concern. The board also referenced questions 1-5 of the masterplan. Alan Bell mentioned that question 3 could be reworded.

Master Plan Timeline:

April 16: Begin questions

June 18: Finalize questions

July 15: Invite Cheryl Zajac and Lauren Bressett to give comments on the survey.

October 1, 2024: Produce survey

November 5, 2024: Pass printed surveys out at town hall, as well as make online survey live

Late January: Hold Community forum(s)

March, 2025: Start writing survey

January, 2026: Turn survey in

Alan Bell moved to accept the timeline as written. Ian Bresnahan seconded that motion. All voted in favor.

Alan Bell moved to adjourn the meeting. Ian Bresnahan seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm. Draft.

Recorded by Kristen Riley.