

**February 18, 2025 - 6:00 PM - Master Plan Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes - Working Meeting**  
**APPROVED MINUTES**

Attendees: Alan Bell, Lisa Prince, John Harris, Kristin Riley, April Ferguson, Ian Breshnahan.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Alan.

Motion to approve minutes of January 21<sup>st</sup> & January 25<sup>th</sup> meetings made by Kristin, seconded by April. All in favor.

Lisa read a letter in response to Alan's statement read at the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. "I have had some time to digest Alan's comments from our last meeting and I'd like to say that they were uncalled for and divisive. "There seems to be a constant movement by some of our group to install roadblocks to all endeavors which could increase the number of town responses to the survey." Then to add during discussion the word "conspiracy" was gas to the fire.

Everyone on this Committee wants the response to be overwhelming and also to be the best, most comprehensive survey we could put together. While we did have an initial schedule that we were trying to meet, I don't believe anyone felt that we should rush the survey in order to meet the deadline...that quality was more important than timing. In the course of a project such as this, things evolve and sometimes delays happen. When we met with the Planning Board, it was discussed that it didn't need to be rushed.

If you remember correctly, these members that you are trying to vilify were the ones that advocated for having forums prior to the survey being sent out to hopefully provide some education and clarity to the survey takers. We were voted down, and then suddenly, we were allowed to do it. It was well attended and considered to be very successful.

We also did a disservice to our volunteer, Cheryl Zajac. She has vast knowledge that she was willing to share but we gave her a partial survey with no time to review it and expected greatness...shame on us.

As far as the last Emergency meeting was concerned, it was regarding the placement of the survey link on a FB page that contains a considerable number of non-residents of Westmoreland. Please note that Kathleen Wheeler, who identified herself as not being a resident, accessed the survey and critiqued it. Did she take it, we won't

know. However, this is a prime example of what we were concerned about. How many others accessed it silently?

There have been several instances of quick tempers, attitude and disrespect between members of this group. We teach our children to be respectful and I would hope that going forward we can bring some decorum back to the committee.”

There was discussion with regard to how we got to the place we are at with several members expressing their thoughts (Alan, Lisa, April & Kristin). Since no resolution was going to occur, it was decided we would simply move forward.

Discussion about how the committee would process the returned surveys. There were 139 from the online version and 273 that were mailed in or dropped off to the Town Office. Lisa had created a tally sheet for manual entry in batches of 20. The group decided to enter the data on the surveys directly into the online form for computer calculation of them. Three people had personal laptops and they entered the data - John, Alan & Kristin. Ian, Lisa & April opened the envelopes and numbered the hardcopies of the survey. The completed/entered surveys were kept segregated from the rest in the Town Offices for the next group work session.

In the course of entering the surveys, the decision had to be made how to process answers when survey takers were supposed to select a limited number of options and they selected more. It was a unanimous vote that the question should be excluded when not filled out correctly.

April asked if the financials she requested last meeting to be placed in the minutes were available yet. Alan said he would provide after the meeting. Lisa said the budget numbers for 2024 at the Budget Hearing showed zero dollars were spent in 2024 which was incorrect. She brought that to the attention of the Selectmen as was told that it came out of the Planning Board budget. Received email from Alan on 2/19/25 stating the figures: Stamps - \$584.00, Envelopes - \$47.95, Printing - \$375.00, & Signs - ?. The signs were \$253.65. Total spent was \$1,260.60.

Motion made by Alan to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kristin. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

NEXT MEETING: March 18, 2025 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
Minutes recorded and prepared by Lisa Prince

Alan adamantly requested that his amendments to the minutes be added at the March 18, 2025 meeting. Yes: Alan, April, Emily, Ian  
Abstained: Lisa

Alan said that he “disagreed with much that was written in the read statement, and that he respects everyone on the committee even when he was in disagreement with them. He also said that he did not use the term “Conspiracy” to describe anyone in the meeting that was held on Saturday morning. He also said that the Forums which were talked about during the planning board meeting were suggested to be Forums to decide what questions to have on the surveys, not educational, and that the educational forums were a compromise because they would not stall the survey for inclusion in the Westmorelander. Lisa, April and Kristin, disagreed with this assessment. We all agreed that our visions of reality were different in this instance. Alan also mentioned that much of his frustration with the group comes from what he perceives as a lack of principle, in regard to decision making. For instance, when Cheryl Zajack offered to write the survey for the group it was decided in a meeting after the fact via vote that the committee would do the survey by ourselves. He said “You didn’t see me trying to take a re-vote on this or any other issues”. Once we made a decision if others in the group disliked it there have been efforts to overturn and take revotes. April said that she felt these were because a group like ours is working through information and trying to get the best survey possible and that is why we needed to make changes and re-vote on items.

Alan also said that he wished he had understood the amount of involvement the planning board would be taking and included them much sooner in the process.

John made it clear that he changed his mind about removing the survey from Facebook after statements that Mark Terry made and not due to Alan’s written statement.

We agreed that since no resolution was going to occur, it was decided we would simply move forward.