October 21, 2025 – 6:00 PM – Master Plan Committee Meeting
UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Attendees: Lisa Prince, Kristen Riley, Alan Bell, April Ferguson

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Alan (acting chair)

Recap of the meeting with Chris Coates from Cheshire County. Alan and April attending that meeting. Alan reported that only 120 out of the 150 beds can be filled at Maplewood due to not being able to find staff to cover the full capacity. There is a long waiting list to get in. One of the issues they report is that there is a lack of affordable housing available for staff. Some housing has been created onsite at the jail property for travel nurses. Lisa reported that the ability to find employees for any field of business is difficult at best.

The bridge remains an issue for all and active discussions are taking place to investigate all options, including temporary bridge and funding sources.

With regard to recreation on that property, a boat landing is unlikely but possibly a dock. April said that Chris reports that the County Commissioners are adamant about not putting the County land in Westmoreland into a conservation easement as it would tie the hands of future Commissioners. There would be a potential for grant money for a trail however.

Recreation goal and current use 20% reduction for recreational purposes was discussed.

Lisa discussed that the Planning Board is not in a rush to complete the MP but would rather have the MP committee write the goals and possibly take a hiatus until SWRPC can provide the map that we all agree we would like be a part of the Master Plan. This may or may not include waiting for the 2026 reassessment to be completed.

Plan for next meeting would be to review and draft possible changes to the Housing and Land Use Goals.

Kristen made motion to adjourn meeting, seconded by Alan. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

NEXT MEETING: November 18th at 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded and prepared by Lisa Prince