

**GROTON PLANNING BOARD
FEBRUARY 8, 2001
MINUTES**

Chairman Curtis called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall

Members present: Curtis, Barringer, Clements, Degen, and Lewis

Member absent: Eliot and Perkins

COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN FORUM

The Board conducted a forum to update townspeople on the status of the Comprehensive Master Plan. Chairman Curtis explained that the project was a few months behind schedule because the Planning Board and the consultant had some contractual issues. Those issues have been resolved so the project is back on track.

Edna White asked why the Board is not proposing a cap on growth at the Annual Town Meeting as recommended in a detailed report submitted by the Growth Management Committee. Consultant Ezra Glenn of McGregor Associates said the Committee's report will be incorporated into the final draft of the Comprehensive Plan when it is prepared. The plan must be prepared, reviewed by the Board, and then finalized. The implementation plan is the last phase of the plan.

Scott Wilson asked when the draft plan will be available. Chairman Curtis said each of the chapters will be ready two weeks after the Board issues a Notice to Proceed to the consultant.

Irene Buck emphasized the importance of addressing historic preservation and cultural issues in the Comprehensive Plan, especially with the Town's 350th anniversary approaching.

Member Lewis said the Board must have a clear statement on the master plan process and asked what will be accomplished. He said he expressed this concern at the first forum held at the Country Club in November, 1999.

Carl Flowers asked that the plan address infrastructure issues such as road maintenance, water and sewer. He said private ways cost more money so all roads should be public and maintained by the Town.

Edna White reiterated her concerns about a cap on Groton and questioned why the plan was not completed within two years from the vote of Town Meeting authorizing the funding. Chairman Curtis said the Board worked with the consultant to renegotiate the contract so that the Town would have better control over the budget and specific tasks. The consultants will begin writing the plan as soon as the Board votes to issue a Notice to Proceed.

The motion was made by Clements to issue a Notice to Proceed with the drafting of the Comprehensive Master Plan with the chapters to be completed in the following order of priority:

1. Chapter II Growth Management and Housing
Section 1. Growth Management and Housing
2. Chapter III Open Space, Natural Resources, Culture & Recreation
Section 1. Open Space and Recreation
Section 2. Environmental Protection
Section 3. Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources
3. Chapter V Public Facilities, Infrastructure and Services
4. Chapter IV Agriculture
5. Chapter VI Transportation

6. Chapter II Growth Management and Housing
Section 2. Village Center Strategy
7. Chapter II Growth Management and Housing
Section 3. Economic Development

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
Planning Administrator