

**GROTON PLANNING BOARD
OCTOBER 22, 2009
MINUTES**

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

Members present: Capes, Burke, Giger, Hess, Perkins, and Wilson

Members absent: Barringer

COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

Chairman Capes reported on the meeting with the Town Manager, two Selectmen, and Finance Committee Chairman, Member Giger and Town Planner Michelle Collette.'

Chairman Capes said the group requested that the Planning Board explore options to reduce the cost of revising the Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP). He said the Board offered to work with other departments such as the Conservation Commission and Historic Commission to incorporate other studies such as the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).

Member Hess stressed that the Board should look at every element through the sustainability lens. Member Perkins noted that all the townspeople may not agree with that perspective.

Member Wilson noted that the Town of Clinton spent \$125,000 for a combined CMP and OSRP. He suggested that Groton explore doing something similar.

Chairman Capes said the Board must be prepared to offer some in-house assistance.

Member Burke agreed that the Open Space Recreation Plan and the existing Historical Commission plans could be incorporated into the work on the Comprehensive Master Plan. He suggested asking Community Opportunities Group to provide an estimate of the cost of a separate Open Space Recreation Plan and the cost of a combined OSRD and CMP. Member Burke noted that the Land Use and Community Facilities elements are critical.

Member Perkins suggested that there may be cost savings in the Cultural Resources element since the Community Preservation Committee has funded three phases of the Historic Inventory (totaling \$60,000) and the Archaeological Study (\$40,000). Member Perkins stated that the Economic Development, Land Use, Transportation and Sustainability elements should not be reduced.

Member Giger suggested that the Board may want to look at \$70,000 as the total cost since the funds have already been appropriated. Member Burke agreed that the implementation phase could be done by the Board on an on-going basis.

The Board discussed whether to use funds in FY 2010 engineering and consulting budget for the CMP.

Representatives from the Planning Board will meet with the Conservation Commission, Historical Commission and Sustainability Commission to explore the various options discussed at the meeting. The Board will schedule a meeting with Communities Opportunities Group to negotiate the revised scope of services.

Meeting adjourned 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
Land Use Director/Town Planner

