

**PLANNING BOARD  
APRIL 30, 2012  
MINUTES**

Chairman Burke called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Groton Dunstable Middle School South Cafeteria

Members present: Burke, Barringer, Capes, Giger<sup>1</sup>, Parent, Perkins and Wilson

**COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**

The Board discussed adoption of Phase I of the Comprehensive Master Plan. The draft was available for comment on the Town web site since September 2011. Printed copies were on file in the Town Hall, Groton Public Library and Senior Center. The Planning Board held public hearings on the master plan on January 19, 2012; March 15, 2012; and April 12, 2012.

The Board discussed whether to adopt the plan as written, amending the document, or not adopting it at this time. Chairman Burke noted that any necessary changes could be adopted during the Phase II Implementation part of the process.

Member Giger said the Board must have confidence that the plan will be endorsed by Town Meeting. More than 100 people have attended the public forums and public hearings. The Board held a very active public participation process.

Member Wilson agreed that the Board has done its due diligence and has been responsive to the concerns raised by the public. Chairman Burke agreed that the plan is based upon the thousands of hours of work by many Advisory Group volunteers and has been thoroughly vetted through a public process.

Members Barringer, Parent and Perkins agreed.

Member Giger noted that the plan would never please everyone.

Member Wilson said the concept of “sustainability” is fundamental to the whole plan. Board members agreed that the term is very conceptual and should not be an issue.

Member Giger said the Master Plan is a living document and the Board can amend it in the future.

Chairman Burke said the Planning Board has the authority to adopt the plan under Chapter 41, section 81D. Traditionally, the Board has placed an article on the warrant requesting that the voters endorse the Master Plan.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Member Giger participated remotely.*

Member Capes said the controversy about sustainability did not come up until the eleventh hour. The concept was included in the plan from Request for Proposals (RFP) in 2009 and the formation of the Advisory Groups in early 2010. He reiterated that the public has had ample opportunity to comment on the plan.

Chairman Burke agreed that sustainability was a theme of the plan but did not dominate it. Discussion about the Town Center and affordable housing has been in the master plans since 1963.

The motion was made by Barringer, seconded by Perkins, to adopt the Comprehensive Master Plan entitled "Groton Master Plan, Town of Groton, Massachusetts, Prepared for: Groton Planning Board, Land Use Department," prepared by Community Opportunities Group, Dodson Associates, and Fay Spofford & Thorndike, Inc., dated September 2011.

The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote with Members Burke, Barringer, Capes, Giger (voting remotely), Parent, Perkins and Wilson in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette  
Land Use Director/Town Planner