

## Planning Board Work Session Minutes

**Location:** Strafford Town Hall Conference Room

**Date & Time:** July 27, 2023 6:30PM

**Voting Members Present:**

Phi Auger – Chairman  
Tim Reed – Vice Chairman  
Terry Hyland

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Donald Coker – Alternate  
Susan Arnold – Alternate

**Others Present:**

Autumn Scott, Strafford Regional Planning Commission, Regional Planner  
Robert Fletcher, Minutes Recorder

The Chairman, Phil Auger, called the Work Session to order at 6:33PM and recognized Board members Tim Reed, Terry Hyland, Donald Coker, and Susan Arnold as present. He also recognized as present Autumn Scott and Robert Fletcher.

**Work Session – Master Plan Review (Final Version)**

The Chairman began by thanking Autumn Scott and other members of the Strafford Regional Planning Commission that assisted in the development of the Master Plan, which the Planning Board worked on for over a year. He informed the public attendees that the Master Plan is available on the Town's website and thanked Terri Marsh, Town Clerk, for making improvements to the website and keeping it up to date with the Master Plan progress. He indicated that the goal of this Work Session was to provide a brief overview of the Master Plan and identify personnel interested in serving on implementation groups to act on the Master Plan goals and actions.

Autumn Scott presented a brief overview of the Master Plan development, which included the following:

- Vision statement – a direct result of the community outreach process.
- Community survey to identify areas of importance for town residents. The survey yielded an excellent response of 371 participants from all age groups.
- Public forum attended by over 50 Strafford residents, which provided the basis for the Master Plan goals and actions.
- Photo contest to provide visual community character for the Master Plan.
- Organization and content.
- Implementation guide.
- Website Story Map – dynamic, engaging, and visual Master Plan presentation.

The Chairman indicated that the community profile information in the Master Plan provides statistics for median household income, population age distribution, and other demographics that would be of interest to town residents. He asked the attendees for any comments, questions and/or concerns, and several attendees provided and discussed the following:

- Natural resources inventory. An update to the 2006 inventory prepared by Bear-Paw Regional Greenways for member towns is a Master Plan goal.
- Development near town centers (Bow Lake and Center Strafford) for centrally located, non-industrial commercial enterprise.
- Bow Lake – protect important natural resources, improve water quality, weekday boat checks, limited parking/public access, enforce Shoreline Protection Act.

The Chairman asked the attendees to break up into groups based their interest in the following:

- Water quality
- Arts
- Design standards
- Town build-out strategy
- Community center
- Green considerations

The Chairman allowed 45 minutes for group discussion, then asked the attendees to indicate their interest in committee participation to address Master Plan goals and actions. Autumn Scott offered to record individual contact information. An attendee suggested the need to encourage additional town residents to get involved in the implementation process, and the Board agreed to use the Town's website and Facebook page to inform the public of efforts to organize action committees. The Chairman thanked the attendees for their interest and participation in the Work Session and encouraged them to continue to assist with the Master Plan implementation.

There being no further business before the Board, Tim Reed made a motion to adjourn the Work Session, which was seconded by Terry Hyland. The Board voted unanimously in favor, and the Work Session adjourned at 8:06PM.