

Planning Board Letter to Town Crier

May 2, 2019

Sudbury residents enjoy a wonderful suburban community rich in history, natural resources, and convenient services. We are a town blessed with an energetic blend of long-term residents who have steadily guided the town through years of change, and young families that actively use the town's resources and bring fresh ideas for how to evolve them. But towns always change in both expected and unexpected ways, and may evolve in the wrong direction if that change is not carefully managed. The Sudbury Planning Board has embarked on a substantial effort to develop a Master Plan to meet our current realities and needs to help guide the town forward, and we invite all citizens to participate in the process.

From a regulatory perspective and in order to qualify for various state grants, the Commonwealth requires all cities and towns to have a Master Plan in place – suggested at being renewed every ten years. Sudbury last updated our Master Plan in 2001, so we are overdue for a refresh. Topics covered by this plan will include demographic trends, land use, housing forecasts, transportation needs, economic development, historic and cultural resources, open space priorities, schools/educational needs, and community services and facilities.

To develop such a comprehensive plan that truly reflects the community's values, the Planning Board is soliciting help and participation from the community as a whole. To start, we have established a Master Plan Steering Committee with representation from Town boards and committees as well as 4 at-large seats from the public to advise the Planning Board. The steering committee will have subcommittees that will be looking for input and we are hosting a town-wide Master Plan Public Forum on May 22nd at 7:00 pm in the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School cafeteria. The Planning Board believes the more input received from the community towards the development of this critical plan, the better and more accurately it will represent the overall wishes and values of the town. Since communication during the master planning process is essential, we will also be looking for new ways to share our progress. Watch for an ongoing series of letters in The Town Crier by members of the Planning Board and the Master Plan Steering Committee which dive a bit deeper into the key planning topics and issues under discussion.

Our primary focus and goal is to produce a Master Plan that will guide the expected and unexpected decisions the town will need to address in the next decade, so please help us by participating in any way possible.

Stephen Garvin
Chair, Sudbury Planning Board