

# Regular Meeting of the Long Range Plan Steering Committee

September 11, 2023 | 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Conference Room at the Adult Center, 211 Maple Rd,  
Longmeadow, MA 01106

Virtual Option: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84475994368?  
pwd=K2JzTW90MlBDUGh2MzRpM0RuQ3JJdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84475994368?pwd=K2JzTW90MlBDUGh2MzRpM0RuQ3JJdz09)

Meeting ID: 844 7599 4368 | Passcode: 716719

## . Meeting Agenda

1. Chair's Call to Order & Roll Call
2. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes - July 24, 2023

Documents:

[DRAFT MINUTES LRPSC REGULAR MEETING - 072423.PDF](#)

3. Consultant Update: Long Range Plan Progress Report
4. Hidden Communities Findings presentation / discussion
5. Kitchen Conversation Report Outs

Brief summary of trends and topics from the kitchen conversations held to date. Each member speaking should limit their time to 2-3 minutes.

6. Public Comments

Limited to 10 minutes

7. Steering Committee Member Comments
8. Planning Director Comments
9. Next Meeting Lookahead
10. Adjourn

# **Long Range Plan Steering Committee Regular Meeting**

**Monday, July 24, 2023, 7 PM**

**Hybrid Meeting**

In attendance: Shelley Barron, Ed Carroll, Pat Carnahan, Christopher Morris, Minoo Tehrani, Terry Weiner, Corey Odentz, Joy Pan, Shyla Ruiz Kachwaha, Andrew Berke, Cheryl Thibodeau, Bruce Colton, Dan Zwirko, Corrin Meise-Munns (staff), Lauren Lind (consultant), Emily Slotnick (consultant)

## **Meeting Agenda**

### **1. Chair's Call to Order & Roll Call**

### **2. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes – May 22, 2023**

Corey Odentz made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Terry Weiner. The minutes were accepted on a unanimous roll call vote with no discussion.

### **3. Consultant Update: Long Range Plan Progress Report**

Lauren Lind provided an update of the progress made in the process since the last meeting. Additional interviews were conducted with other stakeholders including Town staff members and various organizations in the Town to obtain additional input beyond the public events and the community survey for input into the Inventory and Assessment draft. The document has been submitted to the Town for staff review. Once that has been completed, the document will be made available for committee and public review.

They are also working on developing recommendations for improvements to the Capital Planning Process and how climate resilient concepts can be integrated into the process.

They are also doing listening sessions for Age Friendly Community Planning. The first session was virtual involving the Senior community and those who work with them. Two additional in-person listening sessions are planned probably in August and September, one at the Senior Center and the other at the JGS campus.

### **4. "Kitchen Conversations" peer-to-peer community engagement tool**

Lauren explained that this tool is intended to gather additional community engagement on a peer-to-peer basis in a less formal small group setting. She also went quickly through each of the 15 pages in the document. Discussion within the committee was primarily if the tool had to be followed exactly. Lauren replied that there is flexibility with it, but the main purpose is to gather additional comments which should be documented for consideration when the final plan

is being developed. She requested that the conversations be completed before the next committee meeting in September. The committee was asked to commit to having at least one conversation before then.

## 5. Climate Resilient Framework presentation/discussion

Emily Slotnick provided an overview of the Longmeadow LRP Climate Framework including some of their data sources and how climate change is incorporated into the Long Range Plan. Key points include:

- How will climate change impact the Town?
- Who might be disproportionately affected by these impacts?
- What policies and actions can the Town take to mitigate these impacts and adapt to them?

Primary data source for climate change projections is downscaled modeling provided by the Northeast Climate Science Center. The consultants are working with the Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5, a model that anticipates relatively intensive effects of climate change. Projections are specific to the Lower Connecticut River water shed area which includes Longmeadow. Studies are based on a target decade of 2050 and include:

- Annual precipitation
- Extreme high temperatures

There was discussion regarding the appropriateness of using this particular model in light of recent state legislation addressing climate change actions. Minoo stated that the model doesn't take into account the state's commitment to reducing emissions. Patrick Carnahan asked for clarification on why the RCP 8.5 was being used for planning. Emily responded that the state itself uses RCP 8.5 as its model when identifying climate hazards, and so Longmeadow is following the state's lead. She also added that her group thought the study had more bearing on planning for adaptation and resilience than it did for mitigation.

Based on the results of their analysis, input regarding climate change will be included in each section of the LRP document. Emily also discussed the Recommendations Matrix which is still in progress. They are looking at how these climate issues can be incorporated into the recommendations that the Town can take in the future. One of the ideas discussed is to have a set of climate performance measures for each of these actions. Some of the performance measures they have been considering are:

Does the action:

- Enhance equity among vulnerable or underserved populations?
- Reduce GHG emissions?
- Enhance beneficial natural functions or protect existing and future ecosystems?
- Improve air quality?
- Build resilient infrastructure?
- Enhance community connectivity?
- Mitigate the impacts of climate change-influenced natural hazards?

Corrin asked Emily to speak to how the climate data can help inform the Town in the capital planning process. Emily responded that this is something they are looking into and gathering data on and will have some recommendations. She also pointed out that outside of major cities, Longmeadow is one of the few communities studying how climate can impact the municipal capital planning.

Terry Weiner questioned when will the impact on greenhouse gasses from individual residents' actions such as use of pesticides, gas powered lawn equipment, excessive lighting, etc. be addressed. Emily responded that due to the lack of empirical data this would not be included in their study. She pointed out that these types of issues are usually addressed at the local level and policy changes made when necessary.

## **6. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **7. Steering Committee Member Comments**

Shelley Barron asked for clarification on how BETA Group and Emily's climate analysis fit into the LRP process. Lauren explained that Barrett Planning Group is the primary consulting group on the project, they are working with sub-consultants on various aspects of the plan including BETA, which Emily is part of, and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Minoo Tehrani shared information about the upcoming Green Cities conference open to the public that may be of interest to the committee.

## **8. Planning Director Comments**

Corrin reported on a June 9 community engagement event for the LRP. A short documentary film had been premiered from interviews with members of the community. Speakers included a representative from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Longmeadow state legislators and the Mass Audubon Society. The event was well attended.

Corrin also reported that the date for the Fall Special Town Meeting has been set for November 7, and citizen petitions had to be submitted by September 22.

## **9. Next Meeting Lookahead**

The Committee noted that the next meeting was scheduled for September 25, which is Yom Kippur. It was decided that Corrin would send a poll to members to determine a date for rescheduling the meeting.

## **10. Adjournment**

Minoo made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Christopher. Motion was passed unanimously on a roll call vote.