

MPIC Minutes

June 8, 2018

~~Members present~~

Judy Gooch Dobosh, Chair
Margaret Jodoin
Nate Therien
Michelle Wolfe

~~Absent~~

Ann Eaton

Judy opened the meeting at 12:35 pm.

~~Minutes of May 5, 2018~~ were amended to reflect adjournment at 11:30 am, then accepted as amended.

~~Updates on entities:~~ **Falls Neighborhood Association** – Nate reported on the May 2nd meeting, which he and Judy attended. Lots of interest in the coming updates, with a strong sense that much of the work called for in the original MP hadn't been completed and seems to die in Town Hall. Association doesn't want to be advocates and push for changes, nor do they claim to speak for all of the Falls. They just want to be a voice. They will gladly hold meetings, etc. and encouraged providing childcare. Meetings should be in different places, at different times (weekends as well). They suggested various tasks that would have a lot of impact: better sidewalks so kids can walk to school more safely (hard to get to high school); and better access to riverfront. They suggested outreach to the Food Pantry and homeless shelter, as groups accessing those services are often unheard. Judy agreed to draft a couple of paragraphs about the update process for the Fallsfest newsletter. **Council on Aging:** Judy attended their board meeting on June 4. They are excited to be included in the update process, as they were not included in the earlier plan. Board member asked if the current plan addresses diversity? Judy: Indirectly, economic diversity: emphasis on bringing 2 ends of town together, need for more entry-level housing. Board member: will we be considering "age-related planning", for example curb cuts. These are not just for elderly people but good for parents pushing strollers. Leslie Hennessey wants to be on the "mailing list" for notifications of meetings, etc. COA will gladly host meetings. **South Hadley Public Library:** Judy attended June 4 board meeting, congratulated them on completing their 1 task in the current MP, and explained the presumed sequence and process. Short and sweet, and they're certainly on board with the idea of the updates. **Mount Holyoke College:** Judy has been in contact with Kevin McCaffrey and will meet with him in early August. MHC has a strong interest in both updates. Judy may see if Kevin can suggest a MHC person to join MPIC.

~~Our role in the update process:~~ Richard Harris is concerned that we wouldn't be regarded as a neutral body if we serve as the advisory group to the MP update, that this would damage

our credibility. We noted that Jesse Lytle, 1st chair of MPIC, and Linda Young, 2nd chair, were both on the MP Advisory Committee for the original plan so there was no apparent conflict of interest there. As MPIC would be only monitoring implementation efforts, not forcing entities to take them on, the likelihood of blowback seems fairly small. Our role in the advisory process is not to define goals and tasks but to encourage input, yet another safeguard. Some questions were raised about the possibility of getting broader representation on the advisory group. While this might make sense, and expanding MPIC with a few more members is desirable, we don't see MPIC's role as shaping the plan (and thus needing to represent input from a broad spectrum) but rather as outreach in as many directions as possible.

It was agreed that Judy and Nate would try to get Mike Sullivan's thoughts on this before going back to Richard and/or the Planning Board.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Gooch Dobosh, Chair