

TAMWORTH MASTER PLAN MEETING MINUTES  
for  
Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Chairman Tom Peters convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Judy Abugelis, Ann Albrecht, Dom Bergen, Pat Farley, William Farnum, John Gotjen, Steve Gray, Don Harte, David Haskell, Crosby Kennett, David Little, Dana Littlefield, John Mersfelder, Ruth Timchak, and Kate Vachon. Regrets were sent from Sue Colten and Dan Rowe.

**Surveys**

So far, 431 surveys have been sent in. Ballot boxes for the surveys will be left in place until the end of the month so that more members of our community can participate. Some people have been reluctant to fill out the surveys, citing that nothing was done the last time--a good reason for extending the deadline, this time around. Once people understand that all comments will be recorded and become part of the Master Plan, they might be more willing to fill out the surveys. Tom Peters and Kate Vachon will work on a Letter to the Editor for local newspapers. Ann Albrecht will ask Ann McGarity and Kate Thompson to put the extended date into their columns. Everybody in town should understand that they have no voice if they do not speak up.

Jeanne Bergen, Pat Farley, Steve Gray, John Mersfelder, and Kate Vachon have been doing the tabulations. Each person, who is processing, has a disc for working on the tabulations at home. The discs only work on PC computers, though, not on Macs.

Crosby Kennett, Dana Littlefield, Tom Peters, and Ruth Timchak have, also, volunteered to work on the tabulations. However, more tabulators are needed. If you can help, please get in touch with Kate Vachon at 323-8072 or online at <katev@merrsoft.com>. Ann Albrecht will send out an e-mail to all Committee Members asking for more volunteers.

Pat Farley noted that for those who are tabulating, the check mark is important when each survey is done.

All tabulations for the surveys are expected to be completed by April 31, 2007.

**Forums**

A number of forums have possibly been planned for the summer, if that idea is feasible.

At the forums, Tom Peters feels that we can start with our vision of the town based on the results of the surveys we already have. The forums would provide us with an opportunity to refine that vision.

A discussion followed about whether or not we should allow more surveys to be filled out during the forums. If people knew the results of the surveys already tabulated, would the new surveys weight results to a different direction? It was stated that during the forums, survey results would not be given.

The purpose of the forums would be educational and informational, with information going in both directions. Nobody will be dictating anything to anybody. Questions will be thrown out to the audience to stimulate people to talk. An advantage of having the forums is that there may not be as many changes to make when we have our public hearings.

One argument given against having the forums is that the forums will postpone the writing of the Master Plan, thereby creating a time crunch. The timetable for the draft of the Master Plan is to have it done by December 31, 2007, in order to get some public opinion before the March vote. It is felt by some that the writing of the Master Plan is more important than having the forums. Pat Farley suggested that instead of having the forums that we have one meeting instead to discuss the results of the survey. Her motion to decide what to do was tabled for a future Master Plan

Committee meeting. The Committee decided to make the decision to have the forums or not after the ice cream social.

### **The Ice Cream Social**

The ice cream social will take place on Sunday, June 10, 2007, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Brass Heart Inn. Tom and Judy Abugelis and Kate Thompson will provide the ice cream for the occasion. Many thanks go to Don and Joanna Harte as well as to Tom, Judy, and Kate for their generous offers.

The purpose of the ice cream social is to discuss the Master Plan and the Master Plan process. Once again, discussion will help us to refine what we have already decided to write. Also, the students who have designed posters will be invited to the social with their parents. At the social, the students' work will be displayed. Since the tabulation of the surveys will be done by the end of April, the audience will be told the exact number of completed surveys, to date. Willie Farnum has recommended that we lay out the survey results at the social and get feedback then (instead of having the forums).

### **Poster Project**

Dana Littlefield will get together with the principal and teachers of the Brett School. The suggested target date for beginning the posters is for April 30, 2007, the Monday that the students return from vacation. Two weeks may be enough time to complete the project, and students can perhaps receive credit for their work in both their social studies and art classes. Tom Peters is also available to speak with the principal, teachers, and students. He can perhaps give an overview of the Master Plan to the students and help to define the project.

### **Forum and Topic Chairs**

Tom Peters has appointed a number of people to take the lead in writing the following topics that are to be in the Master Plan. These same people will be in charge of chairing the various forums, if we have them. They are as follows:

- Dom Bergen, Chairman of the Planning Board, will be Chairman of Land Use.
- Dave Haskell will be Chairman of Transportation.
- Jim Bowditch will be Chairman of Historic Preservation.
- John Mersfelder will be Chairman of Natural Resources.
- Pat Farley will be Chairman of Economic Development.
- Herb Cooper will be Chairman of Capital Improvement (Tom Peters will ask him).
- Bill Rich will be Chairman of Community Services (Don Harte will ask him).
- TBA, the Chairman of Taxation.

If we have the forums, Tom Peters poses this question: "How will the community vision plays itself out with each topic?" David Little has been asked to write the draft of the first vision statement to be rewritten and modified afterwards by the Master Plan Committee.

If we have the forums, they are expected to be completed by Labor Day. Instead of having eight different nights, it was suggested that four forums could be done in two nights. Sunday night is probably the best night since parking places in town are largely unavailable due to performances at the Barnstormers. We should also have a table of information about the Master Plan at July 4th events.

**Outline of the Master Plan**

An outline of the Tamworth Master Plan was handed out to each of the topic chairmen and to others who expect to be involved with the writing.

Tom Peters has requested that each chairman bring an outline of their particular topic to the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**Future Meeting**

The next meeting of the Tamworth Master Plan Committee will be on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, at the Tamworth Town Offices at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Albrecht  
Recording Secretary