**Meeting Summary**

Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2017

Location: Hopkinton Public Library, 13 Main St.

Attendees: Gino Carlucci, Sherborn

Jen Burke, Elaine Lazarus, and Claire Wright, Hopkinton

Richard McCarthy and Bob Nicodemus, Norfolk

John Charbonneau, Wrentham

 Susy Affleck Childs and Rich Di Iulio, Medway

 Kevin Tagliaferri, Bellingham

 Jessica Strunkin and Oscar, 495/MetroWest Partnership

Puja Mehta, Office of Senator Karen Spilka

Recorded by: Kasia Hart, SWAP Coordinator

**Community Exchange**

* **Sherborn** is currently experiencing a wave of development, including a 67 unit age-restricted 40B development on Coolidge Street, as well as another proposal for an assisted living facility.
* In addition to progress on a commercial solar array on Lumber Street, **Hopkinton** is working on a few subdivisions as well as some articles for Town Meeting, which include a hotel overlay district and some changes to heights in the Industrial District.
* At Town Meeting, **Norfolk** residents voted to ban recreational marijuana businesses. The Town also recently applied for Safe Harbor, and is considering updating their Master Plan
* **Wrentham** recently approved an indoor go-karting facility. The Route 1 corridor study is ongoing, and the Town would like to explore eventual rezoning along the corridor. Additionally, Kevin Sweet, former Town Administrator in Maynard, has been named Town Administrator in Wrentham.
* An OSRP is currently in progress in **Medway**. Timber Crest, the Town’s 148-unit single family subdivision, is currently under review by the Conservation Commission. The Town will also be holding a special Town Meeting on March 19 to vote on allowing the cultivation and processing, but not sale of, recreational marijuana.

**Update from MAPC**

* The Milford Regional Medical Center is conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment and is looking for community members to complete a survey regarding a wide array of community health issues. If you would like to participate, please contact Donna Boynton, PR/Benefits Coordinator at dboynton@milreg.org or (508) 422-2206. Barry Keppard, MAPC Public Health Director, will be following up with more details.
* The Mass Housing Partnership (MHP) has a $2 million grant opportunity available through their [Planning for Housing Production Program](https://www.masshousing.com/portal/server.pt/community/planning___programs/207/planning_for_housing_production). Communities with an SHI of less than 13% are eligible to apply, and funds can be utilized for assistance with zoning, planning public infrastructure improvements, planning and community development, and public education and data transparency. Applications are due at 5pm on Thursday, March 29, 2018.

**Legislative Update**

Lizzi Weyant, MAPC Government Affairs Manager, called in to provide an update on the Commonwealth’s budget and other ongoing activity in the Legislature.

The Legislature has returned from a break for the holidays, and there is lots of activity planned for the remainder of the session. The Governor will file his budget in the coming weeks, followed by the House and then the Senate. Two of MAPC’s main budget advocacy efforts will be focused on DLTA and the Shannon Grant, which supports youth anti-gang violence initiatives. DLTA has been held at $2.8 million for the past several years, and is increasingly connected to other state funding opportunities. Therefore, MAPC will be asking for $3.4 million this year. Please stay tuned for more information regarding DLTA advocacy assistance—we will need your help! The Shannon grant has seen a steady decline in recent years. Although there was a decline in youth violence over the same time period, there has recently been an uptick, potentially related to the opioid crisis and housing shortage.

A hearing for the Governor’s opioid bill was on Tuesday, January 16, and there will be a hearing for the Governor’s Housing Choice bill on Tuesday, January 30 at 10am. The Housing Choice Initiative, which was unveiled last month, creates incentives for communities to build more housing. There is also a complementary program designed to support housing production in small towns (populations < 7,000).

Additionally, the Legislature is committed to moving forward on a criminal justice reform bill, as well as addressing AirBnb. It is anticipated that there will be an environmental bond bill and potentially an economic development bill this session as well.

**Update from 495/MetroWest Partnership**

Jessica Strunkin provided an overview of two ongoing efforts at the 495/MetroWest Partnership—the regional priority development area (PDA) update, as well as an update on the Suburban Edge Commission.

*1. Regional PDA Update*

Through the 495/MetroWest Development Compact, the Partnership worked with MAPC, CMRPC, and Mass Audubon to develop regional priority development areas and priority preservation areas. This effort was finalized in 2012, and the Partnership and MAPC are now working on an update of the PDAs. This process will help market sites on a regional and statewide level, so please be in touch if you have any questions.

*2. Suburban Edge Community Commission*

The [Suburban Edge Community Commission](http://www.mass.gov/hed/economic/initiatives/metrowest-suburban-edge-community-commission.html) (SECC) was created to study development challenges and opportunities faced by edge communities. The SECC is co-chaired by Representative Hogan, Senator Spilka, and Assistant Secretary of Communities and Programs Juan Vega. The Commission met monthly from July 2016 through June 2017 to discuss and hear presentations on a wide array of topics, including housing, commercial development, water resources, transportation, and many others. Right now, the SECC is wrapping up a report that consists of three components—the Public Policy Center’s data pertinent to the region, the Partnership’s summary of the discussion and key topics, and a profile of the region. The group is also in the process of finalizing next steps for the SECC. If you are interested in attending the next SECC meeting, it will be on **Friday, January 26** at the Warren Center in Ashland.

A few other dates from the Partnership to keep in mind:

* **Wednesday, January 24** is the next combined committee meeting. Keith Bergman, Town Administrator in Littleton, will be presenting on his climate work, and Kari Hewitt of VHB will discuss the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program.
* **Friday, March 2** is the Partnership’s annual meeting
* **Thursday, April 12** is the Partnership’s annual State House Day. More details to come as the dates get closer!

**Parking Study Opportunities in SWAP**

Kasia Hart briefly talked about some of the parking management planning and policy work done at MAPC. MAPC has completed several [downtown parking studies](http://www.mapc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/MAPC-parking-FINAL.pdf) for communities, which can help take stock of existing parking regulations and parking behaviors and ultimately inform future parking management decisions. From the policy side, [parking benefit districts](https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/parking-benefit-districts/) are a new tool available to cities and towns that allows for a municipality to reinvest parking revenue back into a designated geographic district for transportation-related improvements. Finally, Kasia touched on MAPC’s [Perfect Fit Parking](http://perfectfitparking.mapc.org/) Initiative, which explore parking supply and demand at multifamily developments in Greater Boston. If you would like any additional details about this work, please don’t hesitate to reach out!

**SWAP Updates**

Best wishes to **Jen Burke** in her new role as Community and Economic Development Director in Bridgewater! The SWAP Nominating Committee has selected **Jim Kupfer** to fill Jen’s role as SWAP co-chair through the remainder of her term. A vote will take place during the February 13 meeting, and six voting communities must be present in order for the vote to happen. Please be sure to mark your calendars!

**Next Meeting**

The SWAP Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for Friday, February 2 from 8:30am-10:30am at the Thayer Homestead, located at 2B Oak Street in Medway. Please RSVP [here](http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=jqfo5obab&oeidk=a07ef00y70j357f4174)!

The next regular SWAP meeting will be on Tuesday, February 13 (topic & location TBD).

Respectfully submitted as draft

Kasia Hart

Transportation Policy Associate and SWAP Coordinator