



Metropolitan Area Planning Council SouthWest Advisory Planning Committee Annual Report 2018

Bellingham, Dover, Franklin, Hopkinton, Medway, Milford, Millis, Norfolk, Sherborn, Wrentham

The SouthWest Advisory Planning Committee (SWAP) includes the towns of Bellingham, Dover, Franklin, Hopkinton, Medway, Milford, Millis, Norfolk, Sherborn, and Wrentham. SWAP is a subregion of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and a regional advocate on transportation, the environment, energy, open space, affordable housing, economic and community development, and legislative issues.

SWAP Highlights and Updates

Jen Burke, former Principal Planner at the Town of Hopkinton, moved on to a new role at the Town of Bridgewater. Jim Kupfer, Town Planner and Zoning Compliance Officer at the Town of Bellingham, was subsequently voted as SWAP Co-Chair at the SWAP meeting in February.

Susy Affleck-Childs' (Planning and Economic Development Coordinator at the Town of Medway) two-year term as SWAP Co-Chair concluded in June 2018, and John Charbonneau, Town Planner at the Town of Wrentham, was voted as Susy's successor. John ultimately took a new role in Walpole in October, and Rich McCarthy, Town Planner at the Town of Norfolk was voted to serve the remainder of the term.

SWAP Meetings

SWAP held ten regular meetings and two special events in 2018. Highlighted meeting topics included the following:

- Housing Choice Initiative
- Regional Economic Development
- Rail Trail Planning and Development
- Living Little- Small Housing Typologies
- SWAP Legislative Priorities
- Retrofitting Suburbia
- MS4 Permitting
- Monitoring Affordable Units
- Federal Transportation Funding: Discussion of UPWP, LRTP, and TIP

Month	Description
January	At the January 16 meeting in Hopkinton, Jessica Strunken of the 495/MetroWest Partnership provided an update on the Suburban Edge Commission, as well as some more information regarding the ongoing effort to update regional priority development areas. Kasia Hart, Transportation Policy and Planning Specialist and SWAP Coordinator, also presented on



	ongoing parking management and policy work and other parking-related resources available to SWAP communities.
February	SWAP met on February 13 in Millis. Chris Kluchman, Housing Choice Program Director at DHCD, provided an overview of the program and answered questions from the communities.
March	SWAP met on March 26 in Wrentham to discuss the impact of the tourism industry on regional economic development. Susan Nicholl, Executive Director of the MetroWest Visitors Bureau, gave an overview of her organization and highlighted the impact of both residents and tourists in promoting assets in the region.
April	On April 10, SWAP met in Medway. Eric Hove and Lizzie Grobbel of the Department of Strategic Initiatives provided the group with some information on MAPC's upcoming regional plan update, and solicited ideas on what the subregion would like to see in the plan and how the communities would like to be engaged during the planning process.
May	SWAP's May 8 meeting was held outdoors in Norfolk. David Loutzenheiser led a walk of a two-mile rail trail right of way from the Millis town line to the Norfolk commuter rail station. The walk showcased opportunities for further trail connectivity in the SWAP subregion.
June	SWAP's final meeting for the 2017-2018 program year was a joint meeting with TRIC on June 19 in Medfield. The group heard from Francis Goyes, Regional Land Use and Housing Planner, on the findings from the Living Little project, and later vote on a new SWAP co-chair (John Charbonneau from Wrentham) and approved the 2018-2019 workplan.
September	SWAP met on Tuesday, September 11 in Wrentham. The primary agenda item was a discussion of legislative priorities with Diego Huezo, Government Affairs Specialist. The group had an engaging conversation about local challenges and opportunities around housing development, stormwater management, zoning, and other topics.
October	SWAP convened on October 9 in Medway to hear presentations from Senior Regional Planner Chris Kuschel about "retrofitting suburbia" principles and case studies, and Environment Director Martin Pillsbury, who provided an update on MS4 permitting requirements.
November	SWAP's November 13 meeting took place in Sherborn. The focus of the meeting was on strategies for monitoring affordable units and opportunities for regional coordination, with presentations from Maritza Crossen of CHAPA, Katy Lacy of the Mass Housing Partnership, and Liz Rust of the Regional Housing Services Office.
December	On December 11, Jen Rowe and Anne McGahan of CTPS joined SWAP to discuss regional transportation planning efforts and brainstorm project ideas with the group. Top transportation concerns in the subregion included first mile/last mile connections to the commuter rail, improving shuttle services, reducing congestion, and improving safety at certain high-concern intersections.

Special Events

SWAP held two special event in 2018.

Legislative Breakfast: The SWAP legislative breakfast was held on February 2 at the Thayer Homestead in Medway. Legislators in attendance included Representative David Linsky, Representative Brian Murray, and Representative Jeff Roy. The three legislators all participated in a panel discussion to share their legislative priorities, and then took questions from SWAP subregional members in the



audience. Some of the key issues addressed at the breakfast included housing and zoning reform, transportation finance, charter schools, and the state budget.

Citizen Planner Training Collaborative (CPTC) workshop: In October, Michael Zehner, Planning Director at the Town of Wellesley, facilitated a training on Site Plan Review. The participants came from several different communities within the MAPC region and beyond, and included planners, and planning and zoning board members.

MAPC Planning Projects

In 2018, MAPC provided technical assistance to SWAP communities in the following projects:

- SWAP/TRIC Tiny Houses Project (Medway, Medfield, Foxborough, Sherborn, Stoughton) (cont.)
- Bellingham Economic Development Initiative (cont.)
- Norfolk Economic Development Initiative (cont.)
- Norfolk Village Zoning
- Wrentham Village Center Zoning
- Millis Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Millis Housing Production Plan (cont.)