**Meeting Summary**

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Location: Millis Town Hall, 900 Main St.

Attendees: Gino Carlucci, Addie Mae Weiss, Marian Neutra, and John Higley, Sherborn

Elaine Lazarus, Hopkinton

Richard McCarthy, Norfolk

John Charbonneau, Wrentham

Mike Guzinski and Camille Standley, Millis

Amy Love, Franklin

Karen Sherman, Holliston

Gaby Jordan, Foxborough

 Susy Affleck Childs, Bob Ferrari, and Ann Sherry, Medway

 Kevin Tagliaferri, Bellingham

Recorded by: Kasia Hart, SWAP Coordinator

**Community Exchange**

* Mike Guzinksi is the new Town Administrator in **Millis**. The Town is looking forward to getting more involved in SWAP!
* **Norfolk** has several 40Bs in the pipeline, and also recently received approval for Safe Harbor for the upcoming year. The Town also recently finished an economic development strategy with MAPC, and is currently seeking technical assistance to rezone some of the downtown.
* A new elementary school is opening in **Hopkinton** in September, so the Town is currently determining the best use for the old school that will be empty come fall. Additionally, the Town is revisiting their Affordable Housing Trust Fund and exploring potential ways to allocate those dollars.
* In addition to two large 40B and age-restricted developments in progress, **Sherborn’s** Planning Board will hear a proposal for an assisted living memory care facility.
* **Medway** will be holding a hearing and a ballot vote to determine how the Town would like to regulate recreational marijuana. The Town also recently issued an RFP for zoning regulations for the Oak Grove Urban Renewal Area. Additionally, the Little Living project (formerly known as Tiny Houses), which will explore smaller house typologies appropriate for suburban communities, is underway!
* **Franklin** recently received an application for a 44,000 sq. ft. medical building, and there is a new mixed-used development proposed for the downtown. The Town is also continuing to plug away at their housing production plan.
* On Thursday, **Wrentham** will host a public meeting to discuss the findings from the Route 1 corridor study. The Town has also applied to the Mass Gaming Commission for additional funds to support rezoning efforts along the corridor. Additionally, the review process for a CVS/Cumberland Farms is also coming to a close.

**Update from MAPC**

* Thank you again to all who attended the legislative breakfast earlier in February! Materials shared at the breakfast can be found [here](https://mapc-org.sharefile.com/d-s6d40baa41754847b). Please do not hesitate to reach out to Kasia if you have questions, comments, or suggestions for future breakfasts.
* SWAP has two projects that have been evaluated for the [2019-2023 TIP](http://www.ctps.org/tip-dev), one in [Bellingham](http://ctps.org/apps/tip11/tip_detail.cfm?project_town_id=940025&d=0&op=dy&un=&hp=) and one in [Milford](http://ctps.org/apps/tip11/tip_detail.cfm?project_town_id=1643185&d=0&op=dy&un=&hp=). The next two MPO meetings (Feb. 15 and March 1) will include time for discussing the proposed projects. Please stay tuned for more information about a subregional letter of support for the Bellingham and Milford projects.
* MAPC has released a draft of our [State of Equity Policy Agenda](http://equityagenda.mapc.org/), which encompasses several different goals that, if achieved, can lead to a more equitable region. Public comments and questions can be submitted to [equity@mapc.org](equity%40mapc.org).

**Housing Choice Initiative**

Chris Kluchman, DHCD Housing Choice Program Director, presented on the new program and highlighted several opportunities available to SWAP communities. A few highlights from the conversation are below. Chris’ presentation to the Old Colony Planning Council, which includes a more in-depth look at demographic trends affecting housing across the state, as well as the materials shared at the meeting can be found [here](https://mapc-org.sharefile.com/d-sf5b4a20bb6b42a59). If you have questions about the program, please contact Chris at chris.kluchman@state.ma.us.

* Housing crisis across the state, particularly east of Worcester; issue of supply and demand
* Changing demographics at play: baby boomers aging, lack of workforce housing
	+ For more information on the relationship between housing development and school enrollment, MAPC’s research brief and data on the topic are available [here](https://www.mapc.org/enrollment/).
* The Housing Choice program is intended to reward communities for housing production
* [Housing Choice Designation application](https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-the-housing-choice-designation) deadline: April 30
	+ Qualification is determined by number of building permits issued.
* Once approved, designated communities can apply to the Housing Choice grant program, which will open in late spring
	+ Grants can be utilized for any capital project
	+ $6.7 million for main program in FY19
* There is also another small town program, for communities with a population of less than 7,000. $1 million in grant funding will be available to communities who qualify
* Program is supplemental to Governor’s Housing Choice bill, but will continue regardless of whether the bill passes

**Next Meeting**

The next regular SWAP meeting will be on Tuesday, March 13 from 9:30am-11:00am at Wrentham Town Hall. Susan Nicholl will join us and discuss the role of the MetroWest Visitors Bureau in regional economic development.

Respectfully submitted as draft

Kasia Hart

Transportation Policy Associate and SWAP Coordinator