**Meeting Summary**

Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Location: Medway Town Hall, 155 Village Street

Attendees: Richard McCarthy, Norfolk

John Charbonneau, Wrentham

Bryan Taberner, Franklin

 Susy Affleck Childs, Barbara Saint Andre and Rich Di Iulio, Medway

 Jim Kupfer, Bellingham

Eric Hove and Lizzie Grobbel, MAPC

Recorded by: Kasia Hart, SWAP Coordinator

**Community Exchange**

* Welcome to Barbara Saint Andre, new Director of Community and Economic Development in **Medway**! The Town has a variety of projects beginning, including a mixed use zoning project for the Town’s Urban Renewal Area.
* **Bellingham** held a ribbon cutting event for a home that had recently been restored through a statewide program that works to get abandoned homes back online. More information about the event and the program can be found in [this article](http://www.milforddailynews.com/news/20180409/bellingham-house-restored-as-part-of-state-program).
* **Norfolk** is continuing to work on the many development projects that are in the pipeline.
* In addition to examining the potential need for a zoning bylaw amendment related to ground-mounted solar, **Franklin** is also exploring the reuse potential for an industrial zone in town.
* **Wrentham** held a pre-application meeting for an age-friendly living community on the Wrentham-Norfolk town line. The Town is also working to secure funding for rezoning of Route 1, and is very close to completing a Town Center rezoning effort with MAPC.

**Update from MAPC**

* A reminder that the Mass Housing Partnership will be hosting a workshop on zoning for multifamily for SWAP and TRIC communities on **Thursday, April 26 from 9am-12pm at the Medfield Public Safety Building**. To register, please visit the link [here](https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ef8ckj47a09ae99a&oseq=&c=&ch=).
* Please be advised that MAPC will be following up with all communities to enlist your help in advocating for DLTA as the House and Senate work to develop a budget for the state. Stay tuned for more information!

**MetroFuture Update**

Eric Hove and Lizzie Grobbel from MAPC’s Department of Strategic Initiatives facilitated a discussion around the upcoming update to [MetroFuture](https://www.mapc.org/get-involved/metrofuture-our-regional-plan/), MAPC’s plan for the region. First, Eric provided some background on the original MetroFuture (completed in 2008), and provided some information on work that has been done to date:

* MetroFuture was adopted in 2008, and has primarily been updated through the [Regional Indicators](http://www.regionalindicators.org/) work in three different areas: regional prosperity, sustainable transportation, and the state of equity in Metro Boston
* MAPC has spent the past year in the process design phase, working with an internal advisory committee of MAPC staff as well as an external advisory committee of around 35 diverse regional stakeholders
* MAPC is also currently evaluating MetroFuture to better understand how the agency has (or has not) made progress on the goals described in the plan
* During summer 2018, MAPC will build the tools needed for the planning process, which will kick off in the fall.

Next, the group spent time reflecting on what topics should be considering in the upcoming planning process. Topic areas and themes that were reviewed include:

* Municipal fiscal issues (e.g. how to provide equitable services as population changes over time)
* The challenges of an aging population
* Balancing home rule and regional planning efforts
	+ Highlighting areas in which a regional approach has been successful (e.g collective procurement, regional call centers)
* There are some services that may impact subregions differently, so less of a one-size-fits-all approach is preferred
* How to address the changing face of retail and revitalize struggling downtowns
	+ What is next for large suburban shopping centers
* Challenges of filling commercial space
	+ Zoning, accessibility, visibility
* Addressing the changing face of housing and evolving housing preferences

The group also provided feedback on the planning process and the plan itself. Some comments and ideas on the best way to engage with SWAP include:

* Consistent opportunities to provide meaningful feedback
* Would like more information about digital engagement strategies (this is still in process, but if you have questions specific to digital engagement, please contact Alicia Rouault, Digital Services Manager, at arouault@mapc.org)
* Informal, social, charrette-style events are preferred
* Some subregions can be engaged together (e.g. SWAP and TRIC)
* Templates are a very useful component of the plan (e.g. HPP templates, highlighting resources available through Data Services)

Eric, Lizzie, and others from MAPC will continue to engage with SWAP and all of the subregions on the update to MetroFuture. If you have questions or comments about the process, they can be contacted at:

Eric Hove: ehove@mapc.org | 617-933-0737

Lizzie Grobbel: lgrobbel@mapc.org | 617-933-0762

**SWAP 2018-2019 Work Planning**

Below is a list of ideas that were discussed for monthly meeting topics for the 2018-2019 program year:

* More regular updates from the MPO on the TIP
* Transportation challenges and opportunities in SWAP
	+ How can transportation investments keep pace with housing development
	+ Reverse commuting
* Mass Housing Partnership: 40B implementation and oversight
	+ Monitoring affordable units (a regional approach)
* Living Little update
* Housing Choice
* MS4 permits
* MetroFuture update
* Complete Streets
* Mass Housing Partnership 40B education/advocacy
* Arts and culture in SWAP (Franklin cultural district)
* Business incubators; industry diversity

Additional ideas discussed at the April SWAP meeting include:

* Aging in place; planning for an aging population
* Update on Suburban Edge Commission work from 495 Partnership

We will be voting on the 2018-2019 workplan at the June SWAP meeting, so if you have any ideas before then, please let me know!

**Next Meeting**

The next regular SWAP meeting will be on Tuesday, May 8 from 9:30am-11:00am at Norfolk Town Hall. Provided that we have good weather, we will be doing a walk of the rail trail right of way with David Loutzenheiser, Senior Transportation Planner at MAPC and coordinator of the Land Line initiative.

Respectfully submitted as draft

Kasia Hart

Transportation Policy Associate and SWAP Coordinator