



MAGIC Minutes

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

9:00-10:30 am

Via Zoom

Attendees

Acton: David Martin, Nate Ryan

Bedford: John McClain, Catherine Perry

Bolton: Pamela Harding

Carlisle: Julie Mercier

Concord: Mimi Graney

Hudson: Kristina Johnson

Lexington: Bob Creech, Jill Hai

Lincoln: Jennifer Glass

Maynard: Bill Nemser (facilitator), Zoe Piel, Steve Silverstein

Stow: None

Sudbury: Adam Burney, Lisa Kouchakdjian, Ryan Poteat

Guests: Keith Bergman

MAPC Coordinators: Sarai Zelada, Rodoshi Sinha

MAPC Staff: Alexa DeRosa, Stephen Larrick

Welcome and Call to Order

- Roll call by Bill, quorum reached and meeting called to order at 9:06am. Meeting facilitation by Bill.
- Motion to approve January minutes made by Kristina, seconded by Jill, approved through roll call. Motion carried unanimously.
- Sarai passed meeting to MAPC Data Services Team for DataCommon presentation.

MAPC DataCommon Presentation (Stephen and Alexa)

- **Stephen and Alexa (MAPC)** presented **DataCommon**, MAPC's open data portal. DataCommon uses federal and state data and enriches, standardizes, and publicizes it.
- **Alexa** opened the session and asked for a show of hands regarding familiarity with DataCommon; **2-3 attendees indicated prior experience.**
- **Stephen** provided a walkthrough of the **DataCommon staging site.**

Questions, Feedback, and Discussion:

Bob

- Asked for a realistic example of how DataCommon could be applied in practice.
 - **Stephen** responded with a **digital equity example**, using census data on computer and internet subscriptions, noting users can select specific data rows and customize outputs.
- Asked whether the software is still being developed.
 - **Stephen** explained that MAPC develops initial models, which are then refined into prototypes by software engineers.
 - **Alexa** added that **grant management features** and enhanced **data visualizations** are currently in development.
- Asked whether other **Lexington** members are using the platform (directed to Jill).
- Asked why census data can be problematic or incomplete.
 - **Alexa** noted that census metadata is often **not well organized or clearly described** by the Census Bureau.

Catherine

- Commented positively on MAPC's **calendar format**, noting it has been a long time since a similar format has been used.

Jill

- Noted difficulty in comparing **2–3 municipalities** without including all **MAGIC communities**, particularly across a theme such as transportation.
 - **Stephen** said MAPC is considering features such as **split-screen views, geospatial comparisons**, or more **tabular comparison tools**.
 - Jill asked whether users could limit comparisons to a **selected subset of communities**, noting that MAGIC municipalities are similar in some ways but differ in others.

Jennifer

- Asked who towns should contact regarding **data consistency** at the municipal level.
 - **Stephen** said aggregation and consistency of data are still being explored.
- Asked whether DataCommon could expand to include additional data types needed to inform real-world practices (e.g., traffic data related to hospital access).
 - Stephen noted that DataCommon helps identify which datasets are most in demand.

Zoe

- Emphasized the importance of **clear documentation** on how to navigate the site, noting that it is not always intuitive.

- Suggested:
 - Filtering datasets by **municipality** to save time
 - Improving **usability and interface** for large datasets
 - Creating **unique URLs** for individual datasets or subsets to share across departments
 - Adding **text-based filtering** and indexing **metadata**, including column names, to improve search functionality

Stephen (Additional Notes)

- Noted that identifying and documenting **data gaps** or missing datasets could be valuable.
- Suggested a potential tab focused on **plans and their associated datasets**.
- DataCommon allows **feedback on data** and **error/bug reporting**.

Community Share

Lexington (Bob, Jill): The town is working with Pulte Homes on a 150-unit condominium building. Catherine shared that Bedford worked with Pulte Homes on the Hartwell Farms Condo project and had a good experience. Lexington is at HTC level for an MBTA Communities project; there's a lot of public feedback, has not made it to the PB. SB voted warrant for the Spring meeting, no significant zoning. Lots of citizen articles. Want more citizen committees, need to make data more accessible. Would love feedback on making data more accessible and getting feedback, such as using ClearGov.

Lincoln (Jennifer): closed warrant for town meeting in late March- one of the items is redoing HVAC system for library, have a proposal for a geothermal system, which requires committing to funding upfront with the belief that federal funding is available.

Carlisle (Julie): PB working on cluster of residential open space bylaws, potentially on spring town meeting warrant. Working on rules and regulations for protected-use ADUs, fire station renovation, library project, two historic projects (repurposing cranberry bog house to affordable housing). Conservation Commission is working on wetlands bylaw to add local buffer requirements. Demolition review bylaw is being put in place.

Bolton (Pamela): trying to expand commercially zoned properties without public water infrastructure. MAPC is working on a study on smaller communities with similar situations.

Rodoshi shared a status update: MAPC is still compiling information on the state of water infrastructure in the MAGIC region. The project is still in a preliminary phase, and will soon be having stakeholder conversations. By the spring, there will be a presentation and discussion at an upcoming meeting. Write to Rodoshi if you have concerns or questions.

Bedford: A comprehensive plan is underway: a public forum on plan goals, moving to strategies and present to PB. Working on a potential starter home type zoning district, possible cottage-type, smaller units; currently allowed under zoning, looking at chapter 40Y. Fire station is under construction.

Maynard (Bill): SB is voting to temporarily rename the town to Maye-Nard to support the Patriots. Housing choice community designation up this year, 6 units short to qualify this year. Waterwise-stay tuned.

Other Business Not Known at Time of Posting: None

Closing

Jennifer made a motion to adjourn meeting, seconded by Jill. Meeting closed by Bill through roll call at 10:23 am.