

**Town of Freetown
Master Plan Committee**

Minutes of the Tuesday, August 8, 2023 Meeting
Held hybrid at the Police Station Community Room, 15 Memorial Drive, and Zoom

Present in Person: Nicolas Velozo, David Crose, and Keith Mello.

Present over Zoom: Trevor Matthews.

Absent: Charles Sullivan and Gregory Goodwin.

Call to Order: Trevor Matthews called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Note: As this meeting was conducted as a hybrid and a member participated remotely, all votes taken were by roll call.

Presentation of Draft Materials for Open House by SRPEDD

Phillip Hu, Principal Comprehensive Planner for the Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District (SRPEDD), explained that the point of the Open House is to get initial feedback from the public and hope to have a good turnout as they did as the Strawberry Festival. Chris Welch, Senior Comprehensive Planner for SRPEDD, stated there was 45 responses for the pre-survey. Mr. Hu explained that there will be a short presentation in the beginning and boards around the room where people can go at their own pace for the Open House. Mr. Velozo asked how people will hear about the survey. Mr. Hu responded that they will utilize official and unofficial Freetown Facebook groups and flyers posted around the community. Mr. Matthews mentioned that the Freetown Flash can send text messages out, although he is not sure if a link can be sent through it. Mr. Velozo mentioned there are four unofficial Freetown pages and they can reach out to the admins to see if they can post them.

Mr. Hu went over the draft presentation to present at the Open House including introductions, defining a Master Plan, key elements, project timeline, traveling workshop series, review, and the engagement process. Mr. Mello asked what the percentage of feedback is typically for the surveys. Mr. Hu responded that they are more concerned with the quality of feedback and ensuring they get a good cross section of demographics. For Plainville, with a population between 9,000-10,000 people, they received almost 800 responses and they consider that successful. Mr. Velozo suggested making an announcement at Town meeting to get this out there.

Daniel Kenis, Urban Design Planner for SRPEDD, asked for feedback regarding the draft boards for the Open House. Mr. Crose suggested bringing an example of a completed Master Plan from another town for people to view. Mr. Kenis went through the draft boards that will be presented at the Open House. Mr. Crose mentioned that there will be questions on the MBTA requirements and to be prepared for that. Mr. Velozo asked that in addition to the Bristol County comparisons, that a local community similar to Freetown, such as Lakeville, be added since residents are more familiar with Lakeville. Mr. Welch stated he could put something together. Mr. Hu explained that they are aiming for mid-September for the Open House. Mr. Crose suggested separating out state owned land on the open space board.

Mr. Kenis stated that once they finalized the traveling workshop dates, they will be added in at the end. Mr. Velozo asked where the traveling workshops will be. Mr. Hu responded that they could be at the library, churches, a COA event, generally where they are already things going on that they can join. Mr. Mello suggested handing out surveys at the Police & Fire charity baseball game. Mr. Crose suggested the Historical Society open house coming up. Mr. Matthews suggested Apponequet football games. Mr. Mello also mentioned that St. Bernard's harvest festival is coming up and there is also the touch-a-truck event for the Macomber Foundation. Mr. Welch asked if there are any information sessions for town meeting. Mr. Matthews stated that they don't typically hold those. Mr. Velozo suggested adding the percentage of owning vs renting on the housing board. Ms. Alfaro stated they received good feedback for the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan using an interactive map where people can add comments and suggested using something like this for feedback and/or a short informational video to post online with the survey link.

Minutes

A motion was made by Keith Mello, seconded by David Crose, to approve the minutes with amendments. The motion carried unanimously.

Set Next Meeting Date

Ms. Alfaro stated that mid-October would be good, after the Open House.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Nicolas Velozo, seconded by Keith Mello, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Deanna Hayes, Senior Clerk