



TOWN OF BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

P.O. BOX 360 – 1 Main Street
BROOKLINE, NH 03033-0360

<http://www.brooklinenh.us>

Minutes School & Town Services Study Committee (STSSC) June 3, 2021 at 6:24pm

Present:

Peter D'Agostino, Chair (voting)
Colleen Micavich, Vice Chair (voting)
Scott Grenier, Secretary, Planning Board Representative (voting)
Charlie Corey, Town Services representative (voting)
Ken Haag, School Board Representative (voting)
Michele Decoteau, Member (voting)

Peter called the meeting to order and noted that they are meeting remotely under the governor's Executive Order 2020-04 and Executive Orders #12 and #23. In following with these orders, he asked each Board member to state where they are, why they are there and who, if anyone, is in the room with them. All members responded.

CONSENT AGENDA (Requires unanimous approval. Individual items may be removed by any member for separate discussion and vote).

A. Approve Minutes – May 27, 2021

Ken made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 27th as amended. Charlie seconded. Roll call vote – Scott, Ken, Charlie and Peter all vote Yes.

REVIEW MAIL FOLDER

Received one email from the town administrator. Town Committee meetings will be moving to in-person for any meetings on June 12 and later. The Select Board approved a policy whereby masks are required for all unvaccinated individuals who attend public meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPDATES/PRESENTATION

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

A. Update on creation of Google Drive

Peter announced that he has created a google drive for the committee and asked if members can access the drive. No issues reported accessing the site. All documents received related to the committee have been added to google drive.

B. Update on posting of Charter/Planning Board Finding/ Special Town Meeting Results to STSSC webpage

Peter stated both documents are added to the google drive and the town website. The charter is not posted yet. The Planning Board needs to approve the minutes from the last meeting including the charter. Once the minutes are approved, we will post those as well.

C. Update on engagement with the following entities

a. SAU41 – Ken

Ken spoke with Business Administrator for the schools. They have a NESDEC file with information back to 2005 for historical enrollments which also projects out to 2025. He's asked for additional details on Moves-in and Moves-out, if available. Expecting an update next week. He also asked them to compare historical enrollment numbers with historical NESDEC projections to see how accurate they are for Brookline. He is working on more information about how the projections are calculated. Notes in the file indicate projections are based on current and projected birth rates for the area.

Peter asked if we could determine if we are close to the current NESDEC Projections based on the unexpected moves due to the pandemic., **Ken** said yes, he plans to do that.

b. Brookline Departments

- i. Police - Charlie/Colleen
- ii. Fire - Charlie/Colleen
- iii. Ambulance - Charlie/Colleen

Colleen has compiled some historical population numbers and building permit info from NRPC to help determine the increase in emergency calls to population growth. She will post the information to the google drive.

Charlie is compiling information for historical call volume and reached out to Chief Quigley for Police call numbers. **Peter** stated that in the last few years we have hires two or three new police offices in response to increased call volume. In speaking with the police chief, he mentioned they are seeing an increase in domestic violence calls which require two officers to respond, Charlie stated that some calls take longer or require multiple officers. **Scott** said if the departments can provide information about resources required for different call types he can create and analysis that factors in the effort required, so we can try to show the increase in resources needed for an increase in time or resource intensive calls.

iv. Brookline Public Works – Pete

Peter has a letter drafted by the DPW director that was drafted in response to the workforce housing development. Peter will ask him to revise the letter related it more toward general population growth. The letter indicated concerns about the transfer station to handle an increase in traffic, and an increase in cost as waste is removed more frequently. Also indicated a possible need for additional snow removal equipment. He also noted that the DPW is not yet fully equipped to service the town today.

v. Administration – Pete/Scott

Peter discussed impact on town administration. Consensus is there is not a lot of citizen engagement at town hall. Increase in population will not have a dramatic impact on the ability to provide services. Noted that the town is already looking to potentially hire additional town staff based on increased workload.

D. Update on review of Brookline's prior growth management process under RSA 674:22. – Michele/Scott

Michele is meeting with Valérie to review historical Planning Board minutes and Town ordinances. One challenge in collecting data is that Planning Board meeting minutes only go back to 2010 on the website. But the original moratorium on building goes back to 2008. Information on how the moratorium ended is lacking in the minutes as well.

Peter mentioned the discussion and vote on withdrawing from the growth management plan was town meeting discussion and vote, so the minutes may be available in a town report.

Michele said we entered the growth management ordinance in July, so may have been a special town meeting. Michele looking to track down former Planning Board members to get more of a backstory on the prior growth management ordinance process. Michele will post the information she has gathered to the google drive.

Colleen spoke earlier to Brenden Dennehy who was active in the prior growth management discussions and is available to discuss the process. May have an email from a prior conversation she can share.

E. Update on Priority Items

- a. Review Population growth related to emergency service needs. - Charlie, Colleen
 - i. Number of calls by dept in town report

Colleen put together a document of US Census data and the NRPC Projections, noticed there has been an increase in growth rate, were growing by about 50 people per year but in last year and a half started growing by about 200 people a year.

Colleen found a document showing the full build out of Brookline being 11,000 residents.

- b. Regulation of ADU's and number of new home builds - Peter, Scott
 - i. Reach out to Kristen

Peter spoke to Tad who indicated that Building Permit information is in the annual town reports. Michele asked if town reports are available at the library. **Charlie** said he thinks they do have them at the library.

- c. Data on Water issues – Colleen, Peter, Michele
 - i. Reach out to Well and Water committee and Jay Crystal

Peter reached out to the former chair of the well and water committee. The well and water committee did make a finding and recommendation to the Planning Board last year. The Planning Board said they would send it for legal review, but it was never reviewed, and no further discussion occurred. The well and water committee findings are available for review on the google drive. The new well and water committee has just been formed, so the October report with the committee's findings is our most current data.

MEMBER'S CONCERNS

OTHER BUSINESS

REVIEW NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

Charlie suggested that surrounding towns have 55+ housing ordinances but we seem to be at 62+. If there a way to make a recommendation to bring housing for older persons 55 to entice additional development that has less impact on schools.

Peter stated that there are 2 RSA's regarding housing for older persons, one for 55 + or one for 62+, either is permitted in Brookline. 55 + allows for up to 20% of the units to be occupied by minor children. 62+ allows 0% of the units to be occupied by minor children. Current Brookline regulations allow either. Charlie suggested it will be a good thing to encourage.

Michele shared that Wilton has a 62+ limit for age restricted housing and has fairly good size assisted living facilities, and Townsend has a number of large assisted living communities. Even though those facilities have limited impact on schools they do impact other town services.

Brookline's housing for older persons ordinance does not have the same limitations that a 62+ limit has, but there are other requirements to meet, meeting space and elevators for example. Housing for older persons is a need for southern new Hampshire and Brookline could do more to make it enticing for developers to bring these types of development to town.

Peter will provide the housing for older persons ordinance information for the group to review to see if we can make recommendations to make it more visible.

Charlie suggested looking at enticing development in apartments to give residence an option to remain in town.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

Next meeting scheduled for June 17th at 6pm in the Fire Station Conference room. (4 Bond St)

ADJOURNMENT

Michele motioned to adjourn. Scott seconded. Roll call vote Charlie, Ken, Scott, Michele, Colleen and Peter all voted yes.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:05pm