



City of Greenfield, Massachusetts  
Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee (SGIC)  
February 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes

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**Committee Members Present:**

Hannah Rechtschaffen, Greenfield Business Association  
George Touloumtzis, Vice Chair, Planning Board Rep  
Mary Chicoine, Chair  
Nancy Hazard, public member  
Jonah Keane, public member  
Greta Shwachman, Public Schools Food Service Director  
Marlo Warner, Director of Public Works

**Others Present:**

Amy Cahillane, Community & Economic Director

**Committee Members Absent:**

Eric Twarog, Director of Planning and Development

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--- George called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm ---

1. **Introductions:** A round of introductions was offered by SGIC members - three member slots remain vacant, including one public member, City Council designee and Energy and Sustainability Director or designee. We anticipate having the City Council designee in place by our next meeting.
2. **Master Plan Update:** Mary led a discussion of the results from the public engagement meeting, affording SGIC members and others in attendance at this meeting to offer thoughts, suggestions and perspectives on what these results might mean for the two chapters of the Master Plan being revised (Land Use, and Natural, Cultural and Historic Resources).

**Topic 1: Top Three Development Priorities (Housing, Renewable Energy, Culture)**

- **Reaction to results:** General consensus of surprise that outdoor recreation did not appear higher on this list, and surprise at how much of an outlier housing was - but that may have been related to the demographics of those who were in attendance at the public meeting; the wording of the question (using the phrase 'development priorities') also doesn't conjure outdoor space.
- **Possible implications for the Master Plan revisions:** given top 3 priorities from this meeting (housing, renewable energy, culture): questions of land use (where are the empty spaces or existing buildings that might hold more housing; what code changes and other Planning Board tools might facilitate more housing of different sorts and sizes); concern about exorbitant development costs and the need for creative financing; development hinges on agreeing on a direction for Greenfield; any housing development that is not traditional can be threatening to the public

**Topic 2: Food Hub**

- **Reaction to results:** Interesting to see food and restaurant variety show up as both what is loved and what is missing; lots of highlighting of the local food scene. At the meeting (but not

reflected in this slide) there was conversation around evening options and places to gather that are (a) not ticketed (i.e. not shows), and/or (b) not bars

- **Possible implications for Master Plan revisions:** Protection of agricultural land (e.g. ways to incentivize APR land; district overlays); emphasis on what Greenfield already has for food processing and making this a driver for more food processing and related business in Greenfield.

### **Topic 3: Wild Greenfield**

- **Reaction to results:** A sense from the public meeting that it was hard to pick only 3 - people cared about all of these things. Would love more community feedback and discussion on these topics. Also a recognition of the importance of not only protecting these sorts of spaces, but encouraging people to develop a kinship with the land. Surprise over how high 'water' ranked - especially when as we talk about what Greenfield has to offer, the rivers rarely seem to be a big part of that conversation.
- **Possible implications for Master Plan revisions:** Encourage finding ways to increase how people are able to interact with / see the river: bike trails, identification of lots that might have designated viewpoints or a restaurant with a river overlook; map(s) that would show all of these places - and ready access to the map(s) that highlight scenic spots on river; encourage promotion or other incorporation of the river into the story of Greenfield. Need for a kinship with the land and water including invasive plant management. *Potential Action item:* Conduct a really detailed assessment of possible places where we could (re)connect with the rivers. *Potential Action item:* Coordinate with neighboring towns to map and prioritize protection of wildlife corridors (including the value of ecosystem services.)
  - Lots of conversation around bike paths - creating a cycling ecosystem / network that allows for all age ranges and abilities, including re-examination of off-road trail to get from Greenfield to Deerfield, and Greenfield to Turners Falls; keep universal accessibility in natural settings in mind.

### **Topic 4: Cultural Heritage**

- **Reaction to results:** Hard to know what people are aware of re: Greenfield's cultural heritage, so that might skew choices identified re: what to preserve or let go – education around Greenfield's cultural heritage might be important. Lots of conversation especially around indigenous history - connecting with indigenous populations; how much of this history is highlighted or honored in the existing Master Plan? Would be important to highlight in any updates. Do we want to include a land acknowledgement - and if so, it should come with real, meaningful actions - what would a landback agreement mean in this context / with the City? What would rights of nature look like for our rivers? Love seeing mention of community; surprised there wasn't more mention of nature / outdoor space.
- **Possible implications for Master Plan revisions:** Surprised that Court Square was listed at the top, but feels like a good opportunity to revisit an option that includes planned events and gathering spaces while also allowing for access of City Hall; pleased that public transportation was prioritized - that people are both embracing it and wanting to see continued improvements

and expansion. Encourage businesses / developments / spaces that are unique to Greenfield; explore enterprises outside of non-profit or profit (e.g. share economy - repair library); smaller-scale, walkable development (e.g. neighborhood-centric businesses / offerings); seasonal activities, similar to how wildlife use landscapes - could provide a layered way of thinking about how we use spaces. Address fear of change and encourage conversation related to large retail businesses.

Next Steps:

- Conway students will take these comments and incorporate into their work.
  - Tomorrow (Feb. 23, 2024) they have an 'in-progress' presentation
  - Another public presentation happening in early March with opportunity for public input; details still being finalized.
3. Public Comment: Public comment was interspersed with Agenda Item 2.
  4. Approval of January Meeting Minutes: Minor edits made; George moved to approve the minutes; Hannah seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously (Marlo abstained).
  5. Nomination of SGIC Clerk: Mary tabled nomination of SGIC Clerk until our next meeting when we hope to have a fuller membership.
  6. Announcements:
    - GCC Event - The Kwinitekw/Quonektikut: Rights of Nature for the Long River 7-9pm at GCC
    - No other announcements.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

Next meeting: March 28, 2024 - hybrid - 4-5:30pm