

Walden Land Use Plan Committee  
Minutes for Meeting on April 8, 2020

The meeting began at 5:00 PM as advertised. The meeting was held in the Pumpkin Patch pavilion and a sign was posted on the front door of the adjacent Town Hall indicating that the meeting was being held in the pavilion to facilitate social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In attendance: Committee Members Dawson Wheeler, Andrew Hausler, and Steven Bush. No guests attended.

The committee requests direction from the Town Attorney regarding how the committee may work within the constraints of the Sunshine Law while facilitating sharing and editing of the draft committee documents. Can we share drafts among committee members? Do we need to post working copies / drafts in a publicly available folder on the town website along with comments between committee members regarding the changes to drafts? The committee understands that a refined Request for Proposal (RFP) draft will be presented to the Town Council for feedback, edits, and eventual approval before release.

In the process of developing the draft RFP, the committee may benefit from the short term input from others with specific expertise related to RFP creation and Land Use Planning. The committee requests guidance on the process for soliciting (volunteer / non-paid) expert assistance to the committee. Can the committee members reach out to request expert assistance? Should the request come from Town Council Members?

The Land Use Plan Committee believes that certain previous planning documents were well developed and provide sound input to the new Walden Land Use Plan, namely the Walden Town Center Plan from 1998, the Walden's Ridge Plateau Area Plan from 1995, and the Walden Zoning Ordinance.

As we begin the drafting process, we expect to update the introduction and background sections of the RFP. In order to limit the scope and cost of plan development, the committee advises that the planning effort be primarily focused on the Taft Highway corridor, with little focus on the R1 Residential areas outside of the Taft Highway corridor except for the guidance regarding improved connectivity as found in the previous planning documents. However the committee notes that during the community input phase, community members may have additional input regarding the residential areas.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 5:00 PM at the Walden Town Hall or Pumpkin Patch pavilion.