

Steven Borne
431 Wallis Rd
Rye NH

Planning Board
10 Central Rd
Rye NH

October 12, 2017

RE: Master Plan comments

Dear Planning Board,

The attached document has my comments and questions with the current master plan. This is a summary of my key points. A public hearing is a vetting session for the public, it is not the proper format for incorporating, discussing and deliberating inputs.

1. Provide Vision and Insights worthy of a great Town.

This Master Plan update is not ready to move forward. After reviewing these four chapters, the current Master Plan and then looking at the 2004 “Handbook for Planning Board Members, Planners and Volunteers” from the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission”, you will be doing a disservice to our town and in my opinion failing in your responsibilities if you once again push through an update to the Master Plan as presented.

I could quote ad nauseam from RSA 674:1 and the handbook about where the current Master Plan and proposed changes fall far short. There is a huge difference from the minimum actions to adhere to steps on a check list and due diligence when considering over \$2.2B in taxable property, never mind assets owned by the Town and State.

Rye could be at a major inflection point. This document needs to identify if we are there or almost there. Either way, once that point is reached – this document needs to set the vision for our expectations for Rye moving forward and the associated actions. The actions need to clearly identified with, who, how, and when and a process for monitoring progress. Planning is being ready for what will happen in the future and a Master Plan is not a history document or a vague guide.

Bottom Line: Stop this update and do it right, not ad hoc!!!!

2. Mandatory Addition to the Master Plan

While there are many challenges facing Rye and one of those is the absolute quagmire we find ourselves in respect to space needs, priorities and the financial planning to implement what needs to get done.

Currently, under the current chair of the Board of Selectmen I have no faith that this essential activity will ever get past the linear stumbling we have been enduring over the past decade. A way past that obstacle is to include language in the Master Plan to launch study circles, visioning activities and then debating on how to move forward. Currently this lack of Planning is forcing the Recreation Department, Library,

Department of Public Works, Schools and others to move ahead independently with no coordinated planning.

One of the recommendations from then Governor Judd Gregg's report on New Hampshire, My Responsibility, was for towns that don't have Town centers where residents interact, that they assure that the dump is designed to be a center of community interaction.

Action: Include a paragraph with time tables for initiating these town wide discussions around space needs, priorities, and financial limitations with regular (5 years or so) updates. I have had several discussions with NH Listens and they would be willing to engage with Rye, if asked.

3. Comments to the proposed chapters.

I have attached a spread sheet so that you can sort the comments, as some are corrections to mistakes, some are comments and others are improvements that can be made. I put in an excel document as you can sort, you colors and other tools to assure all points have been reviewed and actioned.

Note, we never heard from the Planning Board how we should submit comments to help make this process of capturing, deliberating and communicating how you are going to action all of the inputs as efficiently as possible.

I would like to hear more than, "thank you for your comments". I have spent a considerable amount of time reviewing and commenting on this document and would like to know that each point has been reviewed and deliberated.

Best Regards,

Steven