

**MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
January 11, 2016**

**Attendees: Ralph O'Dell - Chair, Ted Mitchell -
Secretary, Roland Carter, Jim Pritchard,
Helen Schoppmeyer**

1. Call to Order: 7:00 pm

2. Approval of Minutes: December 14, 2015 : No Changes

3. Police Department:

**-- The 805 Motor Vehicle Warnings in 2013 was Primarily
Speeding, Headlights and Turn Signals Out.**

**-- Not Including Concord, Pittsfield has the Most Calls of
Any Municipality in the Region.**

**-- Chief Projects that in 2016 the Total Number of Calls will
be 11,000 with 400 Arrests (The Master Plan Committee
has no Way of Knowing How he Came up with These
Figures) 400 Arrests Would be 9-10% of Pittsfield's Total
Population.**

**-- 9 Full Time Officers (Some Towns Look for Volunteerism
to Cut Costs...Practical?)**

4. Physical Condition of Town Hall:

-- 3 Issues in Basement:

+ Wire Connections Exposed - Need to be in Junction Boxes.

+ Wires Need to be Hidden Behind a Drop Ceiling.

+ There are Three Heating Units for Building - Inefficient (Door to Furnace Room is Left Open to Ensure Proper Air to System - Code Does Not Allow).

Note: Over the Years Add-Ons with Wiring was Not to Code. Maintenance of Building has Not been Fastidious. Town Officials in Charge have been Inattentive. Food Pantry May Need to Move.

5. Annual Report - Draft from Master Plan Committee has been Written.

6. Welfare Department:

-- 12 Clients have Left Town.

-- 11-12 Clients Landed Jobs.

-- Top Requests are Money for Rent and Electricity.

-- Rental Properties in Town are 98% Full. People have Lost Their Homes and are Now in Rental Units.

-- Needy Families are Traveling from as Far Away as the North Country to Seek Assistance. Pittsfield is Unable to Help Them.

-- No Help for Homeless. Being Referred to Massachusetts and Connecticut.

-- 2 Things Will Help People in Need:

+ Help for Mental Health Issues.

+ Transportation to Concord so People Can Get Jobs.

Note: Concord has Only One Shelter for Homeless and that is for Single People. No Shelter for Families.

7. BCEP:

-- In 2014 Revenue was Over \$1,000,000.

-- Recycle Product Values Fluctuate - Unpredictable.

8. Parks & Recreation - Will Contact Them to Get Information.

9. Town Procedures:

- Lack of Standard Operating Procedures that Ensure Continuity When Personnel on Boards and Committees Change. This is Vital to Long Term Planning for Pittsfield!**
- Documents, Reports, Minutes, etc. have Not Been Properly Filed for Review, Referral, Freedom Of Information Requests and Use for Planning Purposes. (Recently There has Been a Real Effort to Correct This).**
- Budget:**
 - + \$1,333,000 (1/3 of Budget Without School Budget) is for Salaries. Town Officials Need to Do a Better Job at Setting Salaries for New Employees - Meaning, Starting Salaries Lower and Allowing Room for Increases Over the Years. This Would Save Taxpayers \$.**
- Downtown:**
 - + Overall Development of Depressed Areas May Need Urban Renewal Style Approach.**

10. Next Meetings: January 25, 2016 and February 15, 2016

11. Adjournment: 8:20 pm

Prepared by: Ted Mitchell, Secretary

Submitted: Ralph O'Dell, Chairman, Master Plan Committee