

Yarmouth Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (CPSC)
 December 19, 2023
 7:00 PM
 Meeting Summary

Name	Attendance
John Auble	Y
Daniel Backman	Y
Crispin Bokota Bolese	N
Emily Bryson	Y
Judy Colby-George	N
Hildy Ginsberg, Co-Chair	Y
Kevin Hartnett	Y
Miriam Markowitz	Y
Tim McGonagle	Y
Tred McIntire	Y
Neena Panosso	N
Todd Rich	N
Bill Richards, Co-Chair	Y
Lynne Seeley	Y
Sophie Wentzell	N
Jamie Whittemore	N
Sarah Witte	N
Karin Orenstein, Town Council Liaison	Y
Erin Zwirko, Planning Director	Y
Julie Dubovsky, Assistant Planner	Y
Ben Smith, North Star Planning	Y
Kate Burch, North Star Planning	Y

I. Public Comment

None received. No members of the public were in attendance.

II. Review Meeting Summary from November 28

The Committee unanimously approved the meeting summary from November 28, 2023.

III. Small Group Work on Developing Goals and Policies

Ben and Kate reintroduced the connection to goals, policies and strategies discussed at the last meeting in November. The focus of the meeting was the higher-level goals and policies, and the next meeting will be focused on strategies and outcomes. The discussion will help to provide a framework for NSP to fill out the policies further and mockup the specific strategies. Kate explained the handout to facilitate the discussion around big ideas and outcome, and clarified that they can be place-based specific strategies.

IV. Discussion on Goals and Policies

a. Small group report out to full Committee

Group 1: Tred, Bill, Hildy, John and Erin

The group liked how Bill talked about managing change and proposed setting aside the Vision Statement and focus instead on the values. They found that the "big themes" were: Balance, Connectivity, Vibrancy, Resiliency at all scales of the community and for all stakeholders. Their outcomes were: a population that is culturally diverse and supported locally, housing that supports the whole economic spectrum (including Affordable Housing) while balancing open space preservation, economy that is more diverse and satisfies local needs "a business-friendly town," and enhanced pedestrian network for local connectivity and resiliency.

Group 2: Lynne, Emily, Miriam and Ben

The group's "big themes" were: Choices for All and included transportation, education/services, resiliency and connecting all. Specific outcomes would be Affordable Housing, walkable/bikeable streets, preserving and sharing history and multi-generational opportunities to come together in all seasons and in various places.

Group 3: Dan, Tim, Kevin and Kate

The group's "big themes" were: balancing open space and housing, that open space kept pace with growth and preservation of networks for humans and wildlife. (the aspect of wildlife corridors was agreed as a common element from public too). Specific outcomes would be: promoting small businesses on Main Street, enhancing Route One w/people centric design, and easier to build housing with greater choice of type and affordability.

b. Committee discussion and deliberation

The group discussed aspects of "resiliency" and whether that meant being strong or prepared or having more choices. It was also suggested that CPSC members re-read the inventory chapters prior to the January meeting to see if any other themes come up. The group also discussed how the current draft Vision Statement and Statements of Values reflect the themes heard during the public engagement process. The group liked the framing around the Future Land Use Workshops "preserve, enhance, and transform," and felt that the current draft language didn't have a call to action that would help the Town achieve the desired outcomes that have been expressed. Similar to the discussion in March 2023, around Ben's question of "Whether the statement is about Yarmouth today or Yarmouth of the future?," the group decided to revise these statements to be more concise and reflect the present values and themes, and future goals.

Town staff will work with NSP to revise the community values and vision statement to include actions and circulate that for revisions for the next meeting. Ben outlined a tentative timeframe moving forward: NSP will be polishing up the inventory chapters with the feedback previously received, all of the FLUW and CC information will be composed into a FLU map and narrative, and in:

January: more specifics on policies for the CPSC to respond to

February: a preliminary draft unformatted will be shared

March: Review

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.