

Yarmouth Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (CPSC)

June 27, 2023

7:00 PM

Meeting Summary

Name	Attendance
John Auble	Y
Daniel Backman	Y
Crispin Bokota Bolese	N
Emily Bryson	Y
Judy Colby-George	Y
Hildy Ginsberg, Co-Chair	Y
Miriam Markowitz	Y
Tim McGonagle	N
Karin Orenstein	Y
Neena Panosso	Y
Todd Rich	N
Bill Richards, Co-Chair	Y
Lynne Seeley	Y
Sophie Wentzell	Y
Jamie Whittemore	N
Sarah Witte	N
Erin Zwirko, Planning Director	N
Scott LaFlamme, Economic Development Director	Y
Julie Dubovsky, Assistant Planner	Y
Ben Smith, North Star Planning	Y
Logan Capone, North Star Planning	Y

**I. Review Meeting Summary from May**

The Committee unanimously approved the meeting summary from May 25, 2023.

**II. Debrief Data Highlights Public Forum**

**a. Discuss major themes and takeaways**

Members felt the event went well, that the Menti exercises were very illuminating, as was the attendees' surprise over the existing Growth Area map. It was noted that many of the comments and dots on the maps conflict with each other, and are representative of the easy binaries to fall into. While these may be conversation starters, the challenge will be communicating these summarizing points without exacerbating the tensions of binaries like conservation vs. development.

It was suggested that the slide deck be added to the website, as well as bullet points summarizing the feedback from the public to show a balance of views. Data integrity was also discussed, and committee members suggested using consistent timeframes for comparisons and adding a note in the plan about the data constraints, including impact of COVID and the complexity of

estimates/projections. Noting that "all models are wrong and some are useful," it was also suggested that this section noted that data projections should be checked and adjusted as needed.

Ben and Logan shared the high-level themes appearing from the data gleaned so far that are shaping the listening session topics, and noted that Camoin's draft market study also answers some questions pertaining to housing and economic estimates. A summary of the feedback received at the Data Highlights public forum was attached to the meeting materials.

**b. Discuss subcommittee next steps**

The subcommittees will meet again mid-summer to review the feedback from the Data Highlights forum and identify trends emerging in their topic areas. Members agreed that outreach may need to be done to the Resident Advisory Committees or other stakeholder groups if it appears that data or balanced viewpoints are still missing from the draft inventory chapters. Resident Advisory Committees are also reviewing their respective chapters and providing feedback by August 21st.

Subcommittees were reconfigured due to some steering committee membership changes:

Housing: Daniel, Lynne and Tim

Marine Resources: Todd, Judy and Neena

Recreation & Natural Resources (*merged*): Emily, Hildy, Sophie and Sarah

Transportation: John, Bill and Sarah

Population & Demographics: Sarah

Historic & Archeological Resources: Miriam

Agriculture, Forestry & Land Use (*merged*): Jamie, Lynne, Judy, and Bill

Public Facilities & Services: Jamie and Bill

Economy: Lynne, Hildy, and Tim

Engagement (*new*): Lynne, Emily, Hildy, Judy, Neena, Sophie and John

**III. Summer and Fall Engagement**

**a. Discuss topics for fall listening sessions**

Ben and Logan provided an overview of the three topics coming together for the listening sessions:

- Housing with an added focus on transportation
- Economy with an added focus on fiscal capacity (taxes), Housing and transportation;
- Combined focus on Climate Change and Sustainability, Natural Resources and Open Space

The order of the sessions should tell a story and lead to the Future Land Use session, and the culmination of these integrating into a "sense of place."

CPSC members noted that it was important not to pit these topics against each other, but rather to show at each session how they're integrated. Noting that the CPIC tied into intense feelings around these topics, it was suggested that they be framed as questions stemming from the draft inventory chapters to make them relevant and relatable to the general public. The pros and cons of whether to include "character" was also discussed, since feelings are subjective. There was a

general consensus on the topics, including YCAT as a partner in the 3rd session, and agreement to change the title from "listening sessions" to a "forum" or "community conversation."

#### **b. Overview of summer popups and companion events**

Julie provided an overview of the companion events in development and created 3 virtual sign-ups for shifts at the summer pop-ups, putting up flyers throughout town, and to help with planning the companion events.

Flying: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CA4A92EA4FFCE9-comp1>

Planning Companion Events: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CA4A92EA4FFCE9-comp2>

Summer Pop-Ups: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CA4A92EA4FFCE9-comp>

The goals of the companion events are to:

- highlight the findings from the CP inventory chapters;
- highlight and support the resident advisory committees' projects/initiatives;
- highlight/advertise other departments' already planned programs/events;
- engage people more in town civics/programs and the comp plan; and,
- cross pollinate and empower current volunteers.

A new public engagement subcommittee was also formed to assist in strategizing outreach and engagement throughout the comp planning process, and to bolster the persistent engagement by NSP. A goal of the subcommittee is to reach the broader community with creative direct and indirect opportunities for engagement. Some strategies discussed include providing babysitting or holding an event at a playground so parents can participate, and working with the schools so that youth can earn community service credits. Neena and Sophie agreed to help focus on school-age population engagement.

#### **IV. Summer Meetings**

##### **a. July 25th Meeting**

Since there are no critical July agenda items, and light participation in July is anticipated, the CPSC determined that July 25th would be a social meeting. Bill and Hildy offered to host and a location will be determined based on capacity and availability.

##### **b. Joint Meetings with EDAB and CEES/YCAT**

Scott is following up with EDAB on the August meeting and with the Climate Action Taskforce.

#### **V. Public Comment**

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

#### **VI. Adjournment**