

**TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN RE-WRITE**

**Steering Committee Meeting Notes
July 15, 2015**

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

1. Keith Finck
2. Will King
3. Michael McGauvran
4. Harriet Powell
5. April Williams
6. Frank Fede
7. Jim Halley
8. Jim Ganung
9. Jan Hall-Stinson
10. Sandra Dobson
11. Chip Palmer
12. Kerry McKay
13. Greg Mancini

PLANNING TEAM:

1. Nicole LaFontaine (North Kingstown Dept. of Planning)
2. Rebecca Lamond (North Kingstown Dept. of Planning)
3. Maura Harrington (North Kingstown Dept. of Planning)
4. Scott Page (Interface Studio)
5. Stacey Chen (Interface Studio)
6. Yoona Ahn (Interface Studio)
7. Chris DiStasi (Interface Studio)

MEETING NOTES

Planning team previewed the presentation and activities for the July 16 public meeting.

I. WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Planning team reviewed why we are planning and what the last plan helped achieve.

- Regarding accomplishments of last plan, several committee members pointed out the need to be more specific especially for focused development in growth areas, open space preserved and positive impact of the Quonset development agreement which has funded a lot in the town. Interface Studio will revise presentation for public to mention specifics in these areas.
- One member mentioned the team could also mention negative things that have happened that might be avoided in the future by planning. This will be considered later in the process.

II. OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC KICK OFF PRESENTATION

Planning team reviewed town history and themes gathered in stakeholder interviews.

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- Committee members offered corrective comments regarding the omission of Route 4 in the maps of development in North Kingstown over time, the labeling of the Wickford Junction area, and the data on offices in the business types statistics. Interface studio will revise these items for the public presentation.
- Regarding stats on vacancy, one committee member asked if it is possible to get vacancy by square footage rather than storefront. Planning team will check to see if this data exists.
- A committee member asked whether planning team has historic data on business types and vacancy. This data does not exist. Current data was collected in the field by the planning team within the past few months.

III. BUILDING CONSENSUS

Planning team provided update on public outreach activities to date and a preview of public kick off activities for the following night.

- One committee member suggested another general comment board be added for any additional comments that do not fit into the existing activities.
- Some steering committee members discussed the goal of creating a positive vision for the future of the town among the public. The public kick off is just the first step in a process in which the planning team will assist the town as it crafts its vision for the future.

IV. NEXT STEPS

Planning team previewed summer/fall public events:

- Big idea speech bubble will be provided to the steering committee to take to public events like concerts, movies in the park, farmer's markets, etc. This activity asks people to write their "big idea" for town in chalk on the speech bubble and be photographed to record it. Two black "speech bubbles" and chalk will be available at the Planning Department for steering committee members to use over the summer.
- In the fall, functional groups will meet to have more in-depth discussions around topic areas. Steering committee members requested a list of people appointed to functional groups so that they might potentially recommend additional members.
- The purpose of the functional groups is to inform the planning team's work and outcomes will be integrated into planning team presentations and products. Functional groups can also report back to the steering committee if desired.