

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

**Steering Committee Meeting Notes
September 17, 2015**

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

1. Kerry McKay
2. Meg Kerr
3. Frank Fede
4. Will King
5. Michael McGauvran
6. Sheila McGauvran
7. Harriet Powell
8. Chip Palmer
9. Sheila Brush
10. Jan Hall-Stinson
11. Greg Mancini
12. Sandra Dobson
13. April Williams
14. Jim Ganung
15. Palmer Beebe

PLANNING TEAM:

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

PUBLIC:

1. Teresa Crean (URI & Resident of North Kingstown)

MEETING NOTES

Scott Page and Stacey Chen of Interface Studio reviewed the survey results, data and analysis on the major topics (a larger set of slides with additional data was provided to the Steering Committee for review prior to the meeting), a visioning exercise, and next steps in the process.

I. SURVEY/MAPPING SUMMARY

- The survey results were largely aligned with the top issues in the survey conducted for the 2008 Comp Plan.
- Several Steering Committees took a tour of Quonset before the meeting and pointed out several areas in need of improvement related to Quonset:
 - Better communication especially with regard to Quonset but also in general within North Kingstown
 - Better connectivity: Existing buses stop right at the gate of Quonset Business Park and the struggle to connect Quonset with other parts of North Kingstown was brought up as an issue.

II. MAJOR ISSUES – RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Questions and discussion arose on the following issues:

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

- HOUSING – the steering committee discussed the absence of housing options for the middle who make too much for subsidized housing but too little for median priced housing. Examples include seniors and workers who commute in.
- POST ROAD –
Issues related to the infrastructure of Post Road included:
 - Safety
 - Attractiveness
 - Road diet shrinking it to two travel lanes and a turning lane
 - Bike lanes
 - Better signage
 - Pedestrian-friendly interventions
 Issues related to development of Post Road included:
 - Sewers
“Assessment is critical and once the sewers go in, all the Post Road properties will have greater density on their properties. Is this change in their favor?”
 - Providing incentives to business owners along Post Road for improvements on private property.
 - Flexibility and clear codes so that potential investments can happen quickly.
- SEA LEVEL RISE–
 - Addressing sea level rise is a requirement of the State for the comprehensive plan.
 - The recently completed Adaptation to Natural Hazards and Climate Change report will be folded into the Comprehensive Plan and provides scenarios that illustrate which properties can expect to have seawater inundation to help owners plan.
 - The cost of elevating a house may ultimately cost less than paying for higher flood insurance as rates increase to reflect risk.

III. TOWARD A VISION AND GOALS

Steering committee members worked in groups of three to work on a visioning exercise:

WHAT DO WE WANT NORTH KINGSTOWN TO BE? [Choose three and explain why]	WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT INVESTMENTS TO YOU TO HELP US ACHIEVE OUR VISION? [choose three]
Group 1: Vibrant, Diverse, Family-oriented (Why: Town needs diversity to support what we’re looking for. Really, we need all these keywords.)	Infrastructure, Jobs, Town Services
Group 2: Vibrant, Resilient, Connected (Why: Why didn’t you have Innovative ? I would like to see certain things happen because we’ve got a hierarchy of things happening. What if we could make a partner out of all the entities? DOT, RIDEM, Lafayette Village. Connectivity in terms of transportation but also connectivity among the communities.)	Thoughtful infrastructure, Arts Culture, & Tourism, Investment in Human Capacity (There is a lot of talent in the town and I think we need to capitalize on it. There is less communication happening in volunteering communities.)
Group 3: Vibrant, Safe, Connected (Why: North-South disconnection, Safety is critical and Vibrant applies to everything because future means vibrancy. Safe also includes walkable and bikable.)	Water/Sewer, Roads, Climate Adaptation (Keeping our water clean and Infrastructure is our top element. Constant fight to have enough budget to support roads)
Group 4: Vibrant (Why: high energy, growing), Safe (encompasses so many things including	Foster an environment for economic development, Roads/Infrastructure, Town

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

family-oriented), Resilient (withstand shocks from both environmental and economic aspects)	Services (Parks, schools, financial services)
Group 5: Authentic, Resilient, Vibrant (Why: Vibrant speaks to character, pride, and sense of place)	Development (Community and other, Infrastructure) Jobs, Education (this also includes Arts, Culture & Tourism, education meaning schools and community communication as a whole)

IV. NEXT STEPS

- Public Forum will be held on October 15, 2015. Steering Committee members are encouraged to email Becky with ideas for outreach.
- The next Steering Committee meeting will be October 14, 2015 and will be a brief meeting to preview the activities for the Public Forum.