

Small Group Discussion Meeting Notes
Public Forum 2
June 6, 2018

Recreation & Open Space

- The town should continue to purchase land to reserve for open space but it should depend on the type of land and where the land is located
- Purchasing land that is already adjacent to open space is preferable
- Having a fund separate from the general fund in order to purchase land is best
- Purchasing land of historical or cultural significance is important (i.e. Fort Williams)
- The town needs to have a fund to ensure part of Fort Williams is not carved up and sold
- Any funds generated at Fort Williams should remain in a fund separate from the general fund, with its sole purpose being to fund the needs of the park
- All people should pay to park at Fort Williams
- People without a town dump sticker should pay to park at Fort Williams
- Increase current fees at Fort Williams
- Have more events with entry fees
- Add more parking
- Restrict one area of parking to only town members
- Farmland and shoreland should be protected from development
- Some pay to display thing at Fort Williams?
- Add small playgrounds, community gardens, and pickle ball courts to open spaces
- Have separate trails for snowmobiles and skiers
- Add trails around condos
- Look into permanent protection of all town land

Agriculture & Forestry

- The town needs to address the infestations that are impacting oaks and poplar trees (mitigation, tree replacement, etc...)
- Increase funding for the tree warden
- Preserve old growth forest
- **Maintain current ordinances that protect farmland**
- Increase the amount of farmland
- Give financial incentives to preserve farmland
- Create community awareness about local farms
- Create connections between local farm produce and school food
- Encourage healthy tree growth practices
- Farmers could sell easements to the town
- Promote community gardens
- Three retail farms
- Develop an in-town farmers market

Water & Natural Resources

- Maintain existing protections for wetlands
- Expand sewer in developments that have septic systems
- Incentivize people to keep septic system in good condition
- Assess potential effects of climate change on town

Fiscal Capacity

- Now could be a good time to borrow money because interest rates are low
- **Money must be spent on both infrastructure and schools**
- The level of bonds is too low
- Senior citizens do not want to raise taxes
- Finance manager needs to be more strategic about managing finances, needs to take advantage of funding opportunities
- There is room for a little more debt
- Other needs (including capital improvements) should be forgone until infrastructure and schools are taken care of
- **Earmark money for land acquisition**

(Green notes represent comments made in multiple groups)