



# **2015 Roundtable**

# **Overview and Responses**

Town of Cape Elizabeth

Public Forum 9/17/15



# *General Comments*

- Good turnout (close to 50 people attended)
- Diverse demographic / representation of opinions and suggestions
- Gained feedback on town's overall strategic goals and objectives
- Heard Council can do better at communicating



# *16 Comment Categories:*

- Budget
- Cell Towers and Service
- Committee Work
- Communication
- Community Services
- Comprehensive Plan
- Development
- Fort Williams
- Infrastructure
- Open Space
- Public Safety
- Renewable Energy
- Schools/School Board
- Staffing
- Town Center
- Transportation



# ***1. Budget:***

- Encourage Council to do more long range planning



## *2. Cell Towers and Service:*

- JUST DO IT!



### ***3. Committees:***

- Better use of committees
- Better clarification of responsibilities
- More diverse representation on town council
- Committees need balance

## *4. Communication:*

- Public comment should be heard the month before a council vote
- Record TC Workshops on CETV
- Further use of social media for input
- Council must represent interests of all citizens regardless of socioeconomic status
- Do neighborhood meetings
- Tax Survey was great
- Need for more accountability/ communication of goals with timelines – projects and timelines develop over time

# *Communication Update:*

- Town Website has lots of info / RSS Feed available
- Public comment is available at the beginning of every meeting, at start of any item on the agenda, and at the end of each meeting.
- CETV carries meetings live, replays meetings throughout the month, video of regular meetings is available on the town website
- Senior Citizens advisory committee report – excellent ideas about involving seniors
- Need to update Communication Strategy to include social media as a priority



## *5. Community Services:*

- Do Pool study
- Chaperones need training on responsibilities with younger kids
- Note: Community Services reports to Superintendant and School Board and therefore is under their oversight.

## *6 Comprehensive Plan:*

- Time to revisit Comp Plan update
- Update 2005 Critical Insights study
- Review Charter to make sure it's still viable
- Note: Next year comp plan will be 10 years old

## *7. Development:*

- Focus on bottom up vs. top down development ideas
- Need affordable housing
- Balance development with green in town center
- Keep multiunit development in town center and on main roads
- Note: Comp Plan process will allow plenty of citizen participation. Process seeks to balance private property rights with development objectives

## ***8. Fort Williams:***

- Collaborate with Pickle Ball group for courts separate from tennis courts
- Look at community amphitheatre/ gathering space with for-profit and not-for-profit options
- Mixed views on demolishing or keeping Goddard Mansion

# *Fort Williams Update:*

- FW master plan established in 2003, updated in 2011
- Committee tasked with plan implementation
- Council approves FWAC plans prior to implementation
- FWAC has accomplished much of their tasks and may be time to revisit and update plan

## *9. Infrastructure:*

- Address facilities needs in a fiscally responsible manner
- Review 77/ Shore Rd intersection
- Look at Sewer connections at Kettle Cove and Crescent Beach
- Consider high speed broadband infrastructure for affordable and reliable network
- Publicize capital improvement plans and priorities



# *Infrastructure Update:*

- New/ updated Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) 2017-2026 available on Town Website
- Projects are approved by council, implemented and managed by Public Works and Facilities Department
- All projects with projected costs of 1 million or more goes to town vote requiring approval

# 10. *Open Space:*

- Implement recommendations from Open Space Committee Report
- Land Bank and local transfer tax for preservation
- Keep up/ maintain preserved trails and spaces
- Don't approve /change town center building ordinance for a Village Green
- Preserve Tarbox triangle
- Collaborate with CELT
- Consider bonding for land preservation
  
- Note: Town via the conservation commission is open to cooperation and collaboration with CELT
- Since 1988 town has spent 2 million on open space purchases including \$765,000 to CELT
- Through planning board review, the town has acquired over 350 acres of open space and has 1,200 acres open space/easement land



# *11. Public Safety:*

- Security at FT Williams and Crescent Beach
- Bicyclist not staying on side of roads.. Need more respect between runners, cyclists and cars
- Traffic speed needs enforcement on Shore Rd. and during school hours
- Note: Police are aware of these issues and held a meeting in October to address concerns.

## ***12. Renewable Energy:***

- Strongly Investigate renewable energy options/establish a committee
- Explore making town buildings more green and energy efficient

# *13. Schools/ School Board:*

- Establish joint SB/TC committee to assess budget and taxes
- Evaluate pay to play. All students should have access to sports and activities regardless of socioeconomic status
- TC need to work more closely with school board. Fund schools fully
- Improve transparency of school budget process, inclusive of outreach for all citizens (e.g. retirees)
- Strong schools deserve support
- Funding of school is a glaring omission in stated TC goals
- Note: Town charter states a clear and distinctive difference between the roles and responsibilities of school board versus town council.



## ***14. Staffing:***

- Share Town Planner with another community, as with the town Assessor.

# 15: *Town Center:*

- Seek public input / align with survey results
  - Seek external consultant to assist with town center concept and intersection safety
  - Concerns about town center development and town planning
  - Major safety issues at intersection near Cumberland Farms. Needs to be addressed as a priority
  - Lower speed limit and put in traffic light at town center to address traffic issues
  - Town Center vision with comprehensive plan reflecting town strengths (ex: no strip malls or offices lining route 77)
  - Revitalize; town green and deal with “abandoned” lot to the north of town hall
  - Strive to keep center rural
- Note: Many of these issue have been addressed in Town Center Plan. Complete plan available on town website.

## ***16: Transportation:***

- Walk ability and transportation, especially for elderly, especially Mitchell and Fowler Roads
- Make entire town walkable with sidewalks and paved paths
- Require sidewalks with home renovation or new development
- Connect the town for walkers with footpaths
- Provide public transportation to South Portland/Portland. No car = no mobility

# ***Recommendations and Results for Town Council ACTION***

## **Goal setting workshop December, 2015:**

- Cell Tower / Service
- Separate Public hearings from date votes taken
- Look into cost and availability of resources for video recording of every meeting
- Review Communication Strategy
- Communicate Schedule for revisiting/ updating Comprehensive Plan
- Consider Community Services reporting: Report to TC/town Mgr or SB/  
Superintendent
- Revisit FOSP Report recommendations
- Explore Renewable Energy options and look for update on Facilities efforts to  
be more green and energy efficient
- Determine future of Goddard Mansion / consider update of FWAC master plan
- Look into possibility of sharing Town Planner with another community as with  
Assessor
- Explore expanding paths / walkways in town.