

North Yarmouth EDSC Minutes
Thursday, March 23, 2023; 6:30-8:00pm

EDSC Members Present

Kit Maloney
Rich Parenteau
Ian Acker
Alicia Dostilio
Maureen Lucey

Not Present

Byron Kern

Also Present

Kate Perrin, Select Board

Meeting Link

https://townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location_id=62&id=51506

6:30 - Call to order

- Pledge of allegiance and opening to the meeting
- No minutes to approve this meeting due to the previous meeting being a public forum.

Old Business

- General feedback on the meeting and presentation:
 - Feedback from the group generally was positive and felt like town residents were interested in the process and wanted to see it through to actual policies and actions.
 - All were impressed by the amount of feedback and interaction from members of the public
- Alicia gave an overview of the results of her discussion of Goal 2, which addressed connectivity, walkability, and civic life.
 - Overall residents showed an interest in being able to commute throughout town either walking or biking (without vehicles)
 - Lots of interest and support for strong civic life but some lack of understanding how it fit with the rest of the goal
 - Overall the goal was strongly supported in the group
 - General agreement over the goal, some difference in how it should be approached from a policy perspective
- Kit provided an overview of Goal 3, related to development of a mixed-use village center
 - There was lots of uncertainty around the meaning of “rural hamlet”

- There was generally a lack of understanding about what defines the “village center”
- Could be greater clarity around village center vs. Village Center, talking about a conceptual idea of a village vs a zoning district on a specific map
- There were differing opinions on whether to focus specifically on the current village triangle vs expanding and developing the village center up toward the planned “rural hamlet”
- Certain linkage to goal number 2, related specifically to connectivity and walkability—whatever is defined as the “village center” should inherently be walkable
- Concerns were raised about speed and traffic in the center of town with greater development
- Kit provided an overview of Byron’s summary of Goal 4, there were no further questions related to his notes.
- Ian provided an overview of goal 6
 - Generally the goal was strongly received and determined to be important.
 - There was some disagreement related to the actual thrust of the goal, whether it was related to controlling growth or whether it was related to balancing growth with the ability to provide services.
 - There was a suggestion to create a register of services the town can and can’t provide to keep track and be able to manage growth of the town against
 - There were certain suggestions to enhance wording and clarify general and unspecific wording
- Maureen provided an overview of goal 10
 - Again, broadly there was support.
 - There was disagreement about what “affordable” meant, and there was discussion of renovation vs. new construction
 - Some looked to have affordable housing in mixed use with commercial development as well
 - Lots of discussion related to the feeling of community and varieties of housing vs. specific styles/types of housing
 - Looking for greater connection with neighbors through greater connectivity of housing and places in town (greater walkability)
 - The average age of the homes in our town has generally decreased over the years
 - Overall there was strong interest in diversity broadly but uncertainty about how you incentivize the diversity of housing necessary
- Rich provided an overview of the remaining goals that he discussed with his table:
 - Generally there was agreement with Goal 1 related to preserving the water supply for the town
 - The responses to Goal 5, related to creating a fabrication district, was lukewarm—general concerns related to lack of specificity about how and why

- Goal 7 was deemed to be important but vague primarily due to it being related to goal 6 and not getting into specific intentions or purposes
- Other goals were discussed less significantly but there was no significant feedback on the remainders—
- Overall the feedback was consistent with our expectations: Goal 1 was extremely important and the remainders were relatively uncontroversial and broadly agreed to
- At the culmination, Kit provided a re-read of the charge from the select board.
 - Broadly, themes resonated with members of the community but the sample size was small
 - Discussion of a survey continued and whether it was time now or whether we should summarize the responses
 - General consensus was that we have completed our work at this point and are ready to provide some form of feedback up to the select board
 - We decided Byron will draft up some slides for us to review and approve at the next meeting
 - If there are any points of feedback and additional times that we met
- Committee appointment procedures update from Kit
 - Eliza was nominated as the alternate originally, while the position was nominated the Select Board reviewed procedures. Now that we have an open Full position, Eliza has applied to join as a Full Member of the committee.
 - Kit opened it for further questions related to Eliza's nomination—no questions noted.
 - Kit proposed a vote—5-0 in favor to nominate Eliza to the select board as a full member. We are all hopeful that Eliza will join us.
- 2023 budget overview
 - Given the timing of when we completed our proposal, Diane proposed our budget for us of \$5,000 for 2023. On April 15th, the select board will review budget requests, understanding any TIF related expenses could be applied for against the TIF. There were no concerns with the proposed budget.
- We are adjourned