

SOMERSWORTH PLANNING BOARD
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP
March 20, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason Barry, Chris Horton, Bob Belmore-City Manager, David Witham, Doug Haberman-Alternate, Mark Richardson

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Ron LeHoullier, Jeremy Rhodes, & Paul Robidas

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Mears, Director of Development Services
Dana Crossley, Planning Technician
Anna Stockman, Planning Secretary

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Scott Orzechowski, Richard Brooks, Deborah Evans, Paul Goodwin, Autumn Scott, and Lisa Murphy

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

Autumn Scott and **Lisa Murphy** of Strafford Regional Planning Commission were in attendance. Scott stated they will facilitate a group exercise to gather ideas to guide the Land Use, Vision, and Natural Resources Master Plan chapters. She noted additional workshops will be held in the future with the Planning Board. Scott provided an overview of the activity handout provided to attendees.

Attendees dispersed into four groups based on four trends that consisted of Building Climate Readiness, Balancing Development Patterns, Connectivity, and Community Vibrancy. For the next thirty minutes, attendees discussed potential driving forces of their group's trend that could impact that trend positively or negatively. Each group had a staff facilitator to guide discussion. Next, attendees wrote down their discussion points on sticky notes and using a chart of four scenarios, identified which scenario that was most fitting. The four scenarios were as follows: (Scenario A: Well-balanced development, transportation options & connectivity, vulnerable to extreme weather & hazards, disengaged community), Scenario B: Well-balanced development, transportation options & connectivity, adaptive to extreme weather & hazards, close-knit community, Scenario C: Poorly planned development, disconnected transportation, vulnerable to extreme weather & hazards, disengaged community, and Scenario D: Poorly planned development, disconnected transportation, adaptive to extreme weather & hazards, close-knit community). For the last ten minutes of the meeting, group members applied their sticky notes to flip charts that were based on each of the four scenarios.

Scott and Murphy read aloud groups' discussion points that were based on the sticky notes on each of the four flip charts.

The Scenario A flip chart referenced the importance of public engagement, the City's need for a new treatment plant, and the significance of impervious surface coverage.

The Scenario B flip chart consisted of group discussion points regarding green space preservation, a reduction of pavement and impervious surfaces, traffic calming and community gathering

spaces in the downtown area, walkability and community vibrancy, and regional access to amenities.

The Scenario C flip chart covered road restrictions, sidewalk improvements, extreme weather impacts, ADA accessibility, and invasive species management.

The Scenario D flip chart highlighted the need for increased flood resilience planning.

Scott stated these discussion points would assist in informing future Planning Board workshop discussions.

The workshop meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Stockman, Planning Secretary