

# EASTON'S COMMUNITY VISION

JANUARY, 2011



**David Colton, Town Administrator**

## I. Process

In the fall of 2007, the Easton Board of Selectmen announced the initiation of a Community Visioning project, intended to promote individual and collective thinking about Easton's future. The goal of the project was to discover and build consensus for ways to preserve the Town's unique character, enhance Easton's quality of life, and manage future challenges.

*"What do you want the Town of Easton to be like in 20 years?"*

On October 27th, 2007 approximately forty community representatives met at the Oakes Ames Memorial Hall in Easton, Massachusetts as part of an effort to promote thinking about Easton's future. This visioning session sponsored by the Easton Board of Selectmen and facilitated by Madeline Snow sought to address the question, "What do you want the Town of Easton to be like in 20 years?"

After the initial meeting of community leaders and town officials, six focus groups were assigned to study the issues that had been identified as most important in that process. They were:

- Education;
- Public Facilities;
- Traffic & Transportation;
- Energy, Water, and Wastewater;
- Economic Development; and,
- Preservation.

The six focus groups, made up of residents and community leaders representing a broad spectrum of views and constituencies, met several times over the course of the year, culminating in a large community visioning presentation at the Olmsted-Richardson Elementary school in October 2008. Following is a summary of the recommendations of those task forces, and recommendations for next steps to implement the vision for Easton's future that emerged from the dialogue.

This summary builds on the previous work and makes recommendations for implementing the plan developed as part of the Community Visioning exercise, and includes questions where a responsible party has not been identified to implement an action step.

## II. Summary of Recommendations

Although the focus groups working on the Community Vision met separately over a period of months, there was a great deal of overlap between the recommendations of the group; occasionally, conflicting priorities or competing solutions were presented. Some of the common themes of the presentations were:

**Work regionally.** Easton can do more to partner with neighboring communities and regional non-governmental organizations to stretch scarce dollars and share information. Easton's tremendous success in preserving open space can be greatly enhanced, for example, by working with neighboring towns to ensure a continuous greenbelt that provides habitat for wildlife.



**Plan sustainably.** Easton's residents and community leaders in every group voiced a strong preference for reducing energy consumption, reducing vehicle dependency, conserving water and protecting water quality, and making continued and concerted efforts to increase the environmental sustainability of local operations.

**Preserve and enhance the traditional look of Easton.** Whether by preserving historic views along public ways, improving the look and feel of gateway intersections with landscaping and other design interventions, or revising the sign bylaw, Easton residents care about the way the town looks, and hope that it will continue to reflect the historic nature of the town.

**Improve communications between residents and local officials.** Every focus group mentioned outreach as an important component of any action plan. Residents want the Town to continue to improve communications using a variety of outlets, including the web, community calendars, emails, letters in the newspaper, and handouts at the public schools. Cost effectiveness is an important consideration in choosing the right mix of outreach measures.

## III. Preservation

### Key Recommendations

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#### Summary of Dialogue

The Preservation Task Force focused on the physical elements key to preserving Easton's unique character and quality of life, including historic buildings, housing and neighborhood centers, landscapes, commercial development, open space preservation, and recreational opportunities.

Rather than a single vision statement, the Preservation Task Force developed a number of vision statements for each of those elements and recommended action steps to be taken to make progress towards achieving each vision.



## Preservation Vision Statements

If the community vision of the Preservation Task Force is realized, the following statements will be true about Easton in 20 years time. Action steps designed to achieve each goal are listed under each vision statement.

### Vision 1

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Easton's character has been preserved by protecting major scenic landscapes, working farms, wildlife habitats, and water resources. All priority parcels have been acquired, creating a "greenbelt" which connects conservation land and provides wildlife corridors. Conservation and recreation facilities meet recreational needs of a diverse population.

#### Goal 1: Promote existing conservation properties

The Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) began working with the Department of Public Works and volunteers to map existing walking trails using GPS in the summer of 2009.

##### Action steps:

Update conservation land map, showing access points and key landscape features; Develop management area trail maps

1. Hold public outreach sessions to educate the public on the location of natural resources present and uses allowed on conservation land.
2. Conduct onsite walks and educational workshops.

**Resources required:** staff support, volunteers (friends groups)

**Update:** The Conservation Commission recently updated and published its map of conservation land and is formalizing a process for collecting data points to create trail maps. The Conservation Commission and the Recreation Commission held a public outreach session in July 2010. Others are planned to be scheduled in 2011.

#### Goal 2: Protect remaining active agricultural land and put inactive agricultural land back into use.

##### Action steps:

1. Adopt an Agricultural Commission bylaw
2. Adopt a right-to-farm bylaw
3. Explore putting appropriate conservation land back into agricultural use.
4. Work with farmland owners to explore options for land preservation.
5. Promote agriculture as business.

**Resources required:** None.

**Update:** The Agricultural Steering Committee has been formed and is preparing the Agricultural Commission bylaw. The bylaw will be prepared in time for the Annual Town Meeting in May 2011.

### **Goal 3: Develop forest management program for Town-owned land.**

The DPCD has been working with the Conservation Commission to develop a Land Management Plan, which includes a forest management program for Town-owned land.

#### **Action steps:**

1. Complete Land Management Plan, identifying suitable areas for forest management
2. Develop forest management/stewardship plans

**Resources required:** None.

**Update:** The Land Management plan was completed in July 2009. The Commission, having received an award of matching funds from the Department of Conservation and Recreation, is in the process of developing a forest management/stewardship plan for the Clifford G. Grant Management Area.

### **Goal 4: Complete open space corridors, extending into neighboring communities**

#### **Action Steps:**

- Develop relationship with conservation groups in abutting communities.
- Sponsor workshops focused on regional corridor preservation.

### **Goal 5: Use resources wisely; explore funding options and alternatives to purchasing conservation land.**

Adopt a Land Acquisition Policy, which includes a toolkit of alternatives to purchasing property as a way to meet preservation goals. The policy should include guidance on when it is preferable to pursue a conservation/open space/agricultural deed restriction, under what circumstances the Town will accept a donation of land, and what criteria should be used in judging whether to purchase a parcel.

#### **Action steps:**

1. Ask that the Board of Selectmen convene an ad hoc committee on Land Acquisition, which will include an advocate of each of the policy purposes for which land might be acquired: conservation, housing, recreation, agriculture and municipal facilities. Task the committee with developing a unified Land Acquisition Policy.
2. (Optional) Seek outside assistance for the development of the plan.
3. Once developed, the Land Acquisition Policy will be outlined in a written plan. The plan is intended to serve as a tool to assist municipal entities which are involved in the acquisition of property, both through donations and purchases (Board of Selectmen, Affordable Housing Trust, Conservation Commission, and the Community Preservation Committee).
4. Draft resource guides for placing a conservation or historic deed restriction on a property. Include information on what a deed restriction is and why it is valuable and an inventory of properties with existing deed restrictions.

5. Develop relationships with land trust and land preservation organizations.

**Resources required:** Board of Selectmen authorization to form a committee to develop the Land Acquisition Policy; Staff to draft plan and resource guides.

**Update:** Representative from the Trust for Public Lands presented to CPC; Working on bylaw to establish an Agricultural Commission.

## Vision 2

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Neighborhoods and village centers, including affordable housing options, have been preserved.

### **Goal 1: Identify properties for purchase or tax-title taking for resale as affordable housing**

**Action steps:**

1. Identify staff or volunteers to draft criteria [Affordable Housing Trust or Community Housing Planner] for use in evaluating parcels.
2. Using criteria, evaluate test parcels, such as properties owing back taxes; refine criteria as necessary.
3. Submit criteria for adoption by Selectmen, Affordable Housing Trust, and Community Preservation Committee and/or inclusion in Land Acquisition Policy.
4. Identify staff or volunteers to generate list of properties for acquisition list, to be included in Housing Production Plan update and/or Land Acquisition Policy.

**Resources needed:**

Staff; access to assessor's database and/or GIS resources to evaluate parcels

### **Goal 2: Identify town-owned parcels for low cost/affordable housing**

**Update:** This process began in the summer of 2008. All town-owned parcels greater than .5 acres were reviewed for their potential to be used for affordable housing. Of those properties taken for tax-title, two were identified as having enough potential to merit engineering review. In the summer of 2009, a feasibility study was prepared for 12A Highland Street and 249 Prospect Street, and 12A Highland Street was determined to be the feasible property. South Shore Habitat for Humanity took possession of the parcel in the fall of 2010 and will begin construction of an affordable unit in the spring of 2011.

### **Goal 3: Survey neighborhoods to identify historic homes and districts**

**Update:** The North Easton Village historic property survey was completed in July 2010.

### **Goal 4: Plaque program for historic neighborhoods, districts, and homes; install markers to identify locations of historical importance/major landmarks**

**Action Steps:**

1. Identify plaque program administrators [Easton Historical Commission].

2. Develop program guidelines/selection criteria.

**Resources needed:**

Responsible party; funding for plaques/markers; staff to install markers on Town property [DPW]

**Update:** The Historical Commission is in the process of developing a program where historic property owners can purchase plaques to mark their property.

## Vision 3

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Historical complexes, structures, districts and locations have been preserved; historical gardens, landscapes, scenic roads, cemeteries, and stone walls have been restored, maintained, and preserved. The Route 138, 106, 123 and Five Corners commercial gateways into Easton have been developed in character with the historic, semi-rural character of Easton.

### **Goal 1: Design resources available for new construction and remodeling**

**Action steps:**

1. Identify repository at Town Hall for information [DPCD].
2. Identify staff person/volunteer to make information available online.
3. (Long-term) Develop or identify design guidelines for historically sensitive construction and remodeling process and seek to incorporate into the Zoning Bylaw.



**Resources needed:**

Staff to update website; staff/volunteer to research and assemble available information; display/storage space at Town Hall for print information; (long-term) funding for development of design guidelines.

**Update:** The Department of Planning & Community Development updated the Town's website to include design resources and additional information on the Easton Historical Commission's website.

### **Goal 2: Designate Local Historical Districts**

Local Historical Districts provide review, approval and oversight of changes to historical structures.

**Action steps:**

1. Appoint a Local Historical District Study Committee.

**Resources needed: none**

**Update:** The Town adopted the Ames Historic District at 2010 ATM. The Historical Commission is working to expand the district for adoption at 2011 ATM.

### **Goal 3: Develop additional tools to ensure commercial development enhances the public sphere.**

**Specific recommended objectives include: zoning overlays at highly visible locations; commercial design review/construction material requirements; commercial landscaping requirements; human-scaled lighting requirements; revised sign controls**

### Action steps:

1. Identify Board responsible for implementation [Planning & Zoning Board. Historical Commission, or new subcommittee].
2. Identify goals of new guidelines.
3. Develop design guidelines and zoning overlay/commercial design review procedures, working with existing businesses and landowners; ideally, conduct design Charette to develop vision of development and work backwards to develop design guidelines.
4. Map new district boundaries where enhanced design controls will apply.
5. Conduct public hearings in accordance with zoning amendment process.

### Resources needed:

Staff and/or consultant to develop design guidelines and draft bylaw; staff/volunteer to research and assemble model bylaws; technical assistance with development of design/landscaping guidelines.

**Update:** The DPCD is currently working on a zoning overlay district for a portion of the Route 138 corridor with the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) and a consultant team. The new zoning would support complimentary mixed-uses and intensified uses in order to preserve undeveloped land in other areas of town. The new zoning is also intended promote a more pedestrian friendly environment and improve the public realm with enhanced public amenities (e.g., sidewalks, crosswalks, , etc.) and signage and landscaping design guidelines.

## IV. Public Facilities

### Key Recommendations

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#### Vision Statement

The vision of the Public Facilities Task Force is to create, centralize, and integrate accessible public facilities (defined as Recreation, Senior Services, Public Safety, Municipal Services, Library Services and Schools) for all the residents of our growing and active community.

#### Goal 1: Convert Frothingham Hall into a Community Center

**Update:** Frothingham Hall was purchased in 2009, and an architect has been selected for renovations. Additional funding is needed to complete the project to convert this historic structure into a recreation and senior center.

#### Goal 2: Identify and evaluate property for purchase and development to meet Recreation needs

##### Action Steps:

1. Purchase and develop additional recreational fields.
2. Protect, maintain and enhance current open space and associated activities (e.g. bike paths, walking paths)

**Update:** The Recreation Commission is actively exploring land suitable to meet the town's general recreation needs.

### **Goal 3: Stadium renovation project**

**Update:** This goal has been realized!

### **Goal 4: Enhance Recreational Services**

#### **Action Steps:**

- Research “Rails to Trails” success stories in other communities.
- Review relevant documents (e.g. 2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan, Recreation Summit, etc.)
- Strengthen capacity of Recreation Commission to function as town-wide coordinating body

**Update:** The Recreation Commission is in the process of updating the recreation section of the Open Space plan.

### **Goal 5: Enhance Senior Services**

#### **Action Steps:**

- Promote programs and activities through increased public outreach.
- Identify needs for the next wave of our aging population.
- Make accommodations for future senior service needs (e.g. programs, space, activities).

#### **Resources required:**

- Federal, state, local and private funding sources for renovation and construction of Frothingham Hall.
- Demographic research and analysis, possibly completed with outside assistance.

### **Goal 6: Public Safety Needs: Evaluation and Planning**

#### **Action Steps:**

- Identify facility and program needs for additional police and fire services.
- Identify optimal locations for relocated police and fire facilities.
- Re-evaluate emergency evacuation process and center.

### **Goal 7: Municipal Services Needs: Evaluation and Planning**

#### **Action Steps:**

- Evaluate space needs of town offices, DPW and Water Dept. (incorporating past studies).
- Clearly identify storage needs.
- Decide on renovate vs. build new.
- Identify costs and financing options.
- Examine potential impacts of the train.
- Investigate centralized vs. decentralized site.
- Centralized storage facility to accommodate schools and DPW.

## Goal 8: Plan to Preserve Library Services

### Action Steps:

- Renovations of Library building, Queset House and gardens.
- Identify opportunities for increasing town support for building maintenance and capital needs

**Update:** Library renovations were completed and ADA compliance achieved (elevator, access, etc.).

## Goal 9: Promote Strong Public Schools by Meeting Learning Space Needs

### Action Steps:

- Use capital planning process to address facility maintenance (e.g. boilers and roof repairs as needed).
- Investigate, explore and implement energy efficiency options.
- Continue school building maintenance through capital planning process with increased focus on HHR/FLO in 5 years and the high school and middle school in 15 years.
- Explore need, feasibility and possible options for the expansion of Center School to provide classroom space for full day kindergarten and early childhood offerings.
- Comprehensive review and assessment of school facilities.
- Explore potential train impact on enrollment and facility needs.
- Facilities support 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.
- Continue to provide opportunities for community access and use of school facilities.

## V. Transportation

### Vision

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The Vision of the Transportation Task Force is provide safe and efficient transportation options by expanding public transportation, improving roadway conditions and traffic flow and providing additional bike paths connecting destinations throughout Town.

### Goal 1: Expand public transportation options

#### Action Steps:

- Work with regional transportation providers (e.g., BAT) to strengthen connections to existing public transit routes.
- Participate in planning process for the South Coast Rail project.

**Update:** The Town continues to participate in the planning process for the South Coast Rail project with MassDOT and OCPC. The project is currently evaluating several project alternatives for expanded public transportation in the region. In conjunction with the South Coast Rail project, MassDOT has awarded technical assistance grants to the Town to analyze impacts and opportunities associated with the project.

### Goal 2: Improve roadway conditions and traffic flow

#### Action Steps:

- Implement roadway improvement projects at key intersections to improve vehicular flow and pedestrian safety.

- Conduct traffic analyses to identify existing traffic issues.

**Update:** MassDOT is currently in the planning process for signal and intersection improvements at the Route 138 and Route 106 intersection. The Town will coordinate with MassDOT to ensure that these improvements enhance traffic operations and pedestrian and bicycle safety. OCPC recently conducted a traffic and parking analysis of North Easton Village.

### **Goal 3: Promote walking and bicycling as travel and exercise**

#### **Action Steps:**

- Identify obstacles to safe pedestrian and bicycle travel.
- Reduce number of or impact of obstacles.
- Develop alternate routes or paths.

**Update:** The Town received a “Safe Routes to School” grant from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to improve sidewalks near the Frederick Law Olmsted School. The DPCD is working with the Old Colony Planning Council on the 2011 Old Colony Bicycle and Pedestrian Study. The purpose of the study is to identify bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure opportunities and potential funding options.

### **Goal 4: Improve landscaped environment along Route 138**

#### **Action Steps:**

- Develop planting plan for Route 138.
- Develop and implement landscape design guidelines.

**Update:** As part of a rezoning effort for a portion of the Route 138 corridor, the Planning and Zoning Board is creating landscape and streetscape design guidelines.

## **VI. Energy, Water, & Wastewater**

### **Vision**

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In 20 years Easton will be a Clean, Green, Environmental Machine. Recognizing that sustainability and viability require not only economic feasibility, but also environmental healthiness, Easton will adopt an attitude and program balancing growth, preservation and environmental responsibility. A leader in water use and re-use, environmentally friendly energy generation, green building construction and re-use and waste management, Easton will remain one of the most desirable municipalities in which to live.

### **Goal 1: Resolve most significant wastewater problems**

#### **Action Steps:**

- Identify suitable locations for de-centralized treatment.
- Educate public on effective ways to reduce impacts on systems.

**Update:** A Sewer Commission, and Sewer District were established at 2010 ATM. The Town is currently in the permitting process for its first wastewater treatment plant which will service the Shovel Works site and a

portion of North Easton Village. The Town continues to investigate opportunities to address its wastewater needs for the remainder of the Sewer District with both in-town and regional solutions.

## **Goal 2: Reduce the Town's carbon and waste footprint**

### **Action Steps:**

- Implement suggestions made from the town building energy audits.
- Establish center for recycling used, but re-usable, household items.
- Become a Green Community.
- Form an ad hoc committee on electric vehicle planning, involving municipal staff and community stakeholders.

**Update:** The Town was officially designated a Green Community by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) in December 2010. This designation allows the Town to apply for a number of energy efficiency and environmental grant opportunities. In January 2011, the Town submitted a grant application to EEA to replace existing, inefficient boilers and HVAC units at municipal buildings.

## **VII. Education**

### **Key Recommendations**

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#### **Overall Vision Statement**

The Easton Public School System educates children to become motivated, lifelong learners who, as confident and creative individuals, function to their full potential, understand and value individual differences, and are contributing members of their community, able to meet the challenges of a global society.

#### **Vision Statements**

- Instructional programs and strategies emphasize the integration of learning skills and 21<sup>st</sup> Century tools. Students use the learning skills and tools to effectively build content knowledge. Using content knowledge in a contemporary context, students are able to access and communicate information, manage complexity, solve problems, as well as think critically and creatively. Students have on-demand use of technology and view it as a powerful learning tool to be used throughout their lives.
- All assessment is learner-centered, context-specific, ongoing, and rooted in effective teaching strategies. Teachers use assessments that demonstrate evidence of student performance in core subjects and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Teachers share information regarding student achievement/progress toward learning goals with students and parents. Assessments use 21<sup>st</sup> century technology tools to record and monitor student progress as a means of tracking progress over time.
- Teachers act as facilitators, resources, and partners in the teaching and learning process. In addition to core subject, 21<sup>st</sup> century interdisciplinary themes (global awareness as well as financial, civic, and health literacy) are integral parts of the instructional programs.
- Administrators promote and facilitate the development of broad and inclusive plans for curriculum and assessment that integrate 21<sup>st</sup> century skills into every aspect of teaching and learning. All

curriculum and educational objectives are aligned with state standards and assessments. Technology plays a major role in developing curriculum, delivering instruction, and assessing student progress.

- Professional development supports the application of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in teaching and learning strategies and classroom management practices. Teachers have optimal time to reinforce their content competency, investigate contemporary teaching practices, and collaborate with their colleagues. All teachers are skilled in using Information Communication Technology (ICT) that is designed to meet students' 21<sup>st</sup> century learning needs.
- ❖ A thoughtful action plan was adopted by the School Committee, which is attached.

## Acknowledgments

### Education Task Force Members

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Jane Martin, Bill Simmons, Bill Braun, Allen Duarte and Judy Frederick.

### Energy, Water, & Wastewater Task Force Members

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- Tricia Haederle, chair
- Chuck King, Selectman
- Mark Barlett
- Carol Symmons, Planning & Zoning Board
- Jack Marsh, Water Division
- Ken Carlson
- Stephanie Danielson, staff liaison

### Economic Development Task Force Members

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- Marc Rousseau, Director of Planning and Community Development
- Selectmen Irwin Cohen
- Gregory Strange, Planning & Zoning Board
- Aaron Wluka

### Traffic & Transportation Task Force Members

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- Board of Selectman Chair Colleen Corona, Task Force Chair
- Wayne Southworth, DPW
- Donna Abelli (Lopolito), Finance Committee
- Kyla Bennett, Conservation Commission
- Charles Kilmer, Old Colony Planning Council

### Preservation Task Force Members

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- Selectman Ellen Barlow, Task Force Chair
- Patricia Hunt, Community Preservation Committee Chair;
- Alexander Maller, Planning & Zoning Board member
- David Ames
- Kay Fulcher, Easton Garden Club
- Melanie Deware, Easton Historical Commission Chair
- Alice Savage, staff liaison

## Public Facilities Task Force Members

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- Selectman John Haederle, Task Force Chair
- Mike Conley, Babe Ruth Baseball
- Paul DeCouto, Commission on Disabilities
- Mike Green, School Department
- Del Kent, Council on Aging
- Tom Kominsky, Police Chief
- Christine Santoro, Planning Board
- Jane Martin, School Committee
- Jennifer Hruniak, staff liaison

# Appendix A

## Comments at Community Visioning Session

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- Can we require all new development to use high efficiency building materials/appliances? Ex:
- Dual Flush/Low flow
- Informational flyers for septic care to reduce failure rate – lower water use = longer septic life
- Garbage collection/Recycling:
- Recycling bins same size as trash, similar to other towns. Cost is \$40,000
- But need a town-wide vendor
- Go farther – solarize the schools/ biomass
- Get out accurate Information about replacement windows - old windows more energy efficient than new Anderson's
- Brockton de-sal plant – yes will get 10?
- Maintaining aquifer means using local water
- Pumping allowance per person – educate community on irrigation issues
- Waste facility treatment facility at high school. Currently only 30% capacity being used. Past resistance to allow hook up of neighboring homes at risk for septic failure. Now good time to revisit issue.
- Buy local program for efficient lights, plumbing etc. - i.e. a list of what to buy, where to find it in Easton

## VIII. Appendix A Notes from Community Visioning Session

### Economic Comments at Community Visioning Session

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- Shop in Easton – promote as helping your neighbor & saving gas, etc.
- Ex: Local currency – “Berkshares”
- Schumacher Institute – has annual conference on shop local program
- Green Committee should be formed; initial task begin with list of cheapest things you can do
- Agricultural Land – value is going up; farming is a growth industry
- Inventory current farmland; protect farmland from development
- Agricultural commission
- Grown your own food; promote home gardens
- Green building fair event similar to Sharon event
- Town Hall is doing its part to conserve; town gov’t should lead greening & conservation efforts
- Buy Easton program has worked in past (Chamber of Commerce)
- Need for Whole Foods Store. Currently Easton and others from other communities are travelling far for whole foods. Trader Joe’s
- Home show/ Craft Fair for local
- How do we get info to the public
- Papers/web people – town crier
- Can we send flyers home with kids
- Town should facilitate hazardous waste collection. Year round hazardous waste drop off location (fluorescent lights)
- Expand F.O.R.E. (Friends for Easton)
- Page on Town site to have local volunteer opportunities
- Peer pressure works – buy local so your friends will too
- Architectural Tourism HH Richardson buildings, open space, film festival
- Make connections

### Public Facilities Comments at Community Visioning Session

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- Senior Services; more needed
- Switch Center School and policy station locations
- Library Center for life-long learning; should provide programs for seniors
- Frothingham Hall space limited – need organization of programming
- Better use of both public/private facilities and existing facilities in town center
- Work together to better use our existing resources “cultural necklace” could supply space needed for existing educational/recreation demand
- Percent of seniors growing (currently 17%)
- Is there a need for space or home-based services for seniors?
- Maybe both; meals on wheels needs a kitchen
- Need to educate public about what has been done and why
- Need a plan to get buy-in for capital projects
- Think outside the box – 20 years goes by fast

## Preservation Presentation Comments

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- How aggressive is the open space plan? Very!
- Does the public have access to the list? – yes (see OSR plan)
- Presentation on open space
- CPC presents plan to BOS every year – CPC has list of priority parcels, talk to
- ConCom follows the plan; don't want to jeopardize bargaining positions
- People don't know location of facilities; what options are
- Public event to get out information
- Review parcels see where deed restrictions are – part of management plan
- DPCD has looked at Design Standards could move quickly if desired by community
- Grade 2 has local history program; looking into High School program
- When developers donate land, what can be there?
- What's in the town dump? What's safe?
- Currently ongoing tests, ongoing monitoring, DEP monitors
- Are we paying attention to our neighbors?
- Coordination w/ surrounding communities on roads, i.e. Stoughton/Sharon Bay Rd widening
- Smith Farmhouse at Borderland (\$250K)
- Cable access – Easton doesn't have a dedicated channel or Corp.
- Studio/Cable Access Corporation – needs people

## Education Presentation Comments

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- Start languages earlier (at least French/Spanish)
- Money – K or 1<sup>st</sup> cost factor is obstacle
- Class size especially honors classes but all Easton kids are gifted!
- Tension between class size and
- Class size wins
- Life Skill training incorporated
- Communicating with parents on web/email; very helpful for working parents
- Can we have all notices/newsletter by email
- Teachers – half have websites; working towards all
- Outreach to get volunteers in schools other than parents
- Have 1 volunteer for every 4 kids
- NEC has 5 year enrollment projections – can't be sure until we know re: train, impact?
- Could be up to 20% increase
- Technology is greatly expanded at schools.
- Music program very strong – working on art teachers
- AutoCad; Music Studio; Foreign language lab; Library media center; Web design

## Traffic and Transportation Comments

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- Sloped sidewalk/Cape Cod berms: lowers amphibian mortality rate
- Don't yet know the demand for bike racks yet
- Need for bike racks downtown
- What's available now? (School, private property, plazas)
- Where should we locate new racks?

- Safety at library an issue; is it safe to bike there; need of storage for bike helmets
- Current low accident rate; will it remain low
- Greenway can be privately funded but is it possible to find a grant/low interest loan program for Rt. 138 improvements and other greening
- Low maintenance plantings should be a priority
- Sidewalk bylaw to require private mowing of sidewalk grass strips
- Sell maps of trail/website; can link to town website
- Can there be a X-country route in town forest; involve cross country team
- If train doesn't come through Easton, create mountain bike/trail where train tracks are; incorporate Stonehill?
- What is N. Easton Village like in 5 years?
- Confusion makes for fewer accidents
- Is the intersection at Main/Center safe?
- Try 1 ½ miles radius from schools as first priority to add sidewalks
- Activate Easton Committee

## General Comments

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- What visions are we supporting? We need to motivate community to participate
- Action plan too far along when vision is still undefined
- I.e. schools - what are we preparing students for?
- What kind of cultural are we trying to create?
- How will departments implement these goals/incorporate vision into goals & objectives
- Web 2.0 gives ability to gather collective intelligence/translates to bottom-up broader process
- Need a master plan – use of professionals:
- Creates priorities, professional input
- Can be cheaper in current market
- Build on this visioning process
- New building technologies: exciting, not always prudent
- This process helps create demand for master plan
- Educate public on master plan