

Vision 2025 Meeting Flip Chart NOTES

**October 27, 2011
5-7 p.m. Freeport Town Hall**

Facilitator: Mary Herman

Introduction, background, meeting purpose, wrap-up: Kate Arno, Peter Troast

Purpose of meeting: To gather suggestions from Freeport residents regarding areas, topics, and issues that should be included in a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a consultant to help our community develop Vision 2025. The main question under discussion: "What is going to make us a vital place to live, work and play in the future?"

The following is a record of the topics and ideas identified by participants at the October 27 meeting. These ideas have not been prioritized and there was no effort by the group to reach consensus on them. This list is a record of preliminary brainstorming as the Vision 2025 effort is launched.

Suggested areas of consideration for the project

Branding

- Outdoor brand
- Include opportunities at Wolfe's Neck Farm
- Recreation
- Education
- Coordinate with L.L.Bean

Local Business Development

- Foster new local businesses in downtown area
 - Lower rents in downtown
 - Incubator
 - Develop strategies for sharing local "gems"

Infrastructure Assessment

- Natural gas
- Transportation
 - Regional connections
 - Economic impact of fuel prices
- Physical infrastructure to support local growth

Arts and Culture

- Affordable venue for visual arts
- Establish co-op space for artists

Community Development not just economic development

- Include residents in the plan and the RFP process
- Partnership between businesses and residents

Process

- Transparent
- Greater community involvement
- Keep meetings open

Links/connections

- More bike and pedestrian trails on Route One North and South, Route 136 and Mallet Drive and in Village
- Pedestrian overpass over 295 with link to new fields
- Pedestrian overpass over Main Street
- Link to Bradbury Mountain for bike/ped

Winslow Park

- Promote as an amenity

Destination Strategies

- On-line marketing impact
- Consider the future of bricks and mortar retail especially for the next generation

Affordable housing

FEDC's future plans – Do they include property ownership?

Route One North and South

- Refer to previous plans
- Traffic bypass connection
- Encourage Route One South development to spread development throughout the town

Buffering

- Include sufficient buffers around commercial development to protect neighborhoods

Contract Zoning

- Restrict to commercial areas

Asset inventory

- Reveal hidden assets like Freeport Historical Society, Freeport Community Center
- Market community assets
- Include preservation

South Freeport

- Improve waterfront parking and access

- Shuttle service
- Protect working waterfront
- Maintain balance between the rights and needs of residents and visitors
- Develop a plan for visits to South Freeport

Use smart growth practices

- Review details of 2010
- Right-sized growth
- Review traffic flow
- Pay attention to in-fill

Balance between tourist and community needs and wants essential

Regional approach to planning

- Research other community models
- Communication

Impact of commercial tax base

Include neighborhood representatives in RFP development process

Other suggestions submitted separately

Consider bringing the sewer and water districts under municipal control

Protect natural, open spaces

Sustain natural habitat

Create trails and connections while protecting open space

“Support Freeport residents and what makes Freeport a great place to live”

Emphasis on bike paths, paving road shoulders, creating bike maps, bike rack at train platform, bike rental