

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
APRIL 10, 2020, 11 AM

MINUTES

The Ipswich Community Development Plan (CDP) Steering Committee participated in this meeting remotely using <https://zoom.us/> in accordance with the Governor's March 12 Order suspending provisions of the Open Meeting Law to promote public health and safety and social distancing.

Members present: Gordon Harris, Chris Sandulli, Carolyn Britt, David Feldman, Andy Brengle, Willie Whitmore, Clark Zeigler, Jim Warner, Don Greenough, Ingrid Miles, Christopher Morse, Kerrie Bates, Carl Nysten, Jay Stanbury, Peter Eliot, Jacob Borgman

Planning Staff & Consultants present: Kristen Grubbs, Ethan Parsons, Jenn Goldson, Anna Callahan

11:00 a.m. Welcome and review of remote meeting guidelines/questions (Ipswich Planning)
11:10 am Presentation on CDP Goals, Vision, and Strategies (Goldson, LLC)
11:30 am Discussion on draft CDP Goals
12:15 pm Wrap Up, Next Steps

Ethan Parsons and Kristen Grubbs of the Planning Office and Consultants Jennifer Goldson and Anna Callahan, from JM Goldson LLC, welcomed attendees to the Zoom meeting. Attendees announced themselves and everyone talked through and resolved any technical issues.

Anna and Jenn reviewed the process of developing a vision, setting goals, and developing strategies involved in the process of Ipswich's CDP update. See the attached powerpoint slides for more illustration of the process.

Since Ipswich's Community Development Plan project began last spring, we have heard from residents on the community's key assets, concerns, and challenges—and how they envision the future of Ipswich over the next fifteen years. In the first phase's existing conditions analysis, we learned about the trends, challenges, and opportunities facing Ipswich today. Then, through a broad engagement and visioning process, including a community-wide survey and two community forums, the project team developed a draft vision statement for Ipswich tomorrow. This set of Draft Goals listed below draws from this engagement process and used the 2003 Community Development Plan as a foundation.

Committee members shared comments and questions about the draft goals, including the following points:

- goals pertaining to social & cultural responsibility seem to be missing, e.g. education and issues related to schools other than infrastructure/econ development, open space, recreation, culture. It will be important to clearly articulate how/why this is a CDP Update and not a master

plan, how these things like commitment to historic preservation and open space are the framework of our achieving the other goals - the character of our community is in open space, history, coastal values.

- goals should bring in more focus on electrification, zero carbon goals – Ipswich should strive to match the state goals on a local level
- housing - need to be careful about word "density" which can have a negative connotation, instead we can talk about walkable downtown neighborhoods, design is more important - much of these things will get discussed in the Housing Production Plan
- need to have consistency with town's other plans
- traffic safety is important transportation component but need to better articulate the desire to put pedestrians and bikes on an equal playing field with cars
- the new plan should include a status update of 2003/2008 strategies, which are being carried forward
- the new plan should highlight which goals are new

As next steps, the consultants will modify and revise the draft goals and incorporate them into the CDP Goal Prioritization Public Survey. The survey will be released to the public by the end of April and will be “live” through the end of May. Other outreach efforts and strategies will be taken by steering committee members, including posting on the town website news flashes, social media, with the town newspapers, sharing among community networks, etc.

Minutes approved and adopted: June 23, 2020