LISTENING SESSION - AGENDA

Welcome:
Steven DiMasi, Chair Planning Board

Overview of Comprehensive Community Plan
James D. Rabbitt, AICP, Planning Director
Amy Goins, Special Legal Counsel

Listening Session:
Public Participation (Facilitated by Robert Zarnetske, Town Manager and James D. Rabbitt, Planning Director)

Next Steps
Amy Goins, Special Legal Counsel

Closing Remarks:
Maria Mack, Vice-Chair Planning Board
Steven DiMasi, Chair Planning Board
THE LAW: Every municipality in Rhode is required to adopt a Comprehensive Community - Rhode Island General Laws Chapter 45-22.2, the “Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act.”

A Comprehensive Community Plan is a valuable community tool, which can be used to:

- **Guide** local decision-making on important topics,
- **Provide** direction to private development, and
- **Encourage** economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable community growth.

A good plan with its thoughtful and comprehensive goals, policies, and actions, protects the community’s vision and strengthens its every step.
THE LAW: Rhode Island General Laws Chapter 45-22.2, the “Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act.”

Key features of the Act include:

- All municipalities are to prepare and adopt a single comprehensive plan that are to be updated and re-adopted not less than every ten years;
- Each plan is to include certain standard content, and that forecasts, goals, and policies must be formulated looking at a minimum 20-year planning horizon;
- Public input and comment is required during the comprehensive planning process;
- Comprehensive plans are to serve as the foundation for municipal zoning;
- Plans are to be reviewed by the State to assure they are consistent with the provisions of the Act; and
- State agencies are to conform their programs and projects to municipal plans that have State approval.
Efforts have been underway since January of 2017.

Over this time period, the Planning Board worked to prepare an update to the plan achieve the following:

- **Develop** new elements relative to the topics of natural hazards and climate change, and energy in accordance with new state guidelines;

- **Refine** the goals, policies and implementation actions identified in the 2014 Plan in order to identify new priorities, refine existing language, and remove completed actions;

- **Update** data points used throughout the old Plan with current information; and

- **Improve** the usability of the document by reformatting the document, standardizing the information including in each element, and identify themes.
Components of a Plan: 2014 - Comp Plan

- Introduction
- Land Use
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Natural and Cultural Resources
- Services and Facilities
- Open Space and Recreation
- Circulation
- University of Rhode Island
- Implementation Schedule
Components of a Plan (Elements): 2021 Draft - Comp Plan

- Introduction
- **Citizens**
- Land Use
- Housing
- Economic Development
- **Natural Hazards & Climate**
- Natural Resources & Open Space
- Cultural & Historic Resources
- Recreation
- Services and Facilities
- **Energy**
- Circulation
- University of Rhode Island
- Implementation

Each element now contains the following subsections:

- Vision Statement
- Goals
- Guiding Principles
- Current Practice/Baseline Information
- Needs and Opportunities
- Policies
- Action Plan
Comparison: 2014 verses 2021 Draft - Comp Plan

- Introduction
- Land Use
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Natural and Cultural Resources
- Services and Facilities
- Open Space and Recreation
- Circulation
- University of Rhode Island
- Implementation Schedule

- Introduction
- **Citizens** (Demographic, social/economical profile)
- Land Use
- Housing
- Economic Development
- **Natural Hazards & Climate**
- Natural Resources & Open Space
- Cultural & Historic Resources
- Recreation
- Services and Facilities
- **Energy**
- Circulation
- University of Rhode Island
- Implementation
New Components: Elements/Chapters

Three new elements were created as part of the 2021 Update:

- Citizens
- Natural Hazard & Climate Change
- Energy
New Components: Elements/Chapters

Citizens:

• Provides a picture of the people who live within South Kingstown.
• Details demographic data which affects how we assess the needs of the community, and what policies and actions are needed to make progress toward our goals.
• The chapter does not contain goals, policies, or action items and instead gives a summary of who makes up the community.
• 2017 population of South Kingstown was approximately 30,712 persons.
• Future projections developed by the RI Division of Planning anticipate the population to grow to approximately 38,573 persons by 2040, or nearly 25% percent.
• Population of South Kingstown is aging, that employment rates are relatively stable, and that the median household income in South Kingstown is significantly higher than that of the Rhode Island as a whole, and also modestly higher than surrounding Washington County towns.
Natural Hazards and Climate Change:

Assesses South Kingstown’s vulnerability to storm events and natural hazards
- Increased precipitation,
- Sea level rise,
- More intense and frequent storm events, and other symptoms of our changing climate and
- Designed to work with the Town’s Hazard Mitigation Plan.

This element establishes high level priorities for improving resilience and reducing the impact of events upon the people and resources of the Town based upon a community vulnerability assessment process.
New Components: Elements/Chapters

**Energy:**

- Evaluates South Kingstown’s municipal energy uses and opportunities to reduce energy consumption and utilize more sustainable energy sources.
- Vision for responsible and well-planned energy generation, including through renewable energy systems.
Future Land Use Map - continued:

- Develop Gateway Special Management District - A section of the Commercial Neighborhood (CN) zone located at the intersection of Route 138 and Route 1.

- Considerations have also been made for how to determine the allowable future uses of land owned by the Town as it transitions out of the public realm due to obsolescence.
Land Use - Future Land Use Map:

- Industrial Mixed-Use (IND-MU) areas on the Future Land Use Map were modified in order to acknowledge the diversity of uses occurring within these districts and to encourage their future use as dynamic spaces for manufacturing, recreation, offices, etc.

- Commercial Neighborhood (CN)
  - A section of the R-20 Residential Zone located to the south of Old Tower Hill Road’s Commercial Highway area is identified as an area where small scale commercial uses could be allowed.
  - A section of the R-20 Residential Zone located along Route 138 in West Kingston is depicted on the Future Land Use Map as Commercial Neighborhood.
  - The area contains a number of existing commercial businesses that operate as non-conforming uses. This change could allow for some expansion and/or flexibility for those businesses and provide opportunities for the development of arts-based industry discussed in the West Kingston Village Plan.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Content Development and Review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public Workshop and Open House: January</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 Planning Board Work Sessions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Planning Board Sub-committee Meetings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Advisory Reviews</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Affordable Housing Collaborative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Economic Development Commission</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historic District Commission</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Content Development and Review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 Planning Board Work Sessions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Planning Board Sub-committee Meetings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Advisory Reviews</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 2018 new Interim Planning Director (Chelsea Siefert resigns for position at Quonset Point Development Corp.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Format and Design Review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 Day Written Public Comment Period</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Planning Board Public Hearing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 2019 New Planning Director Kaela Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Time Line

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Format and Design Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Covid- 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer (edits and formatting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 2020 new interim Planning Director (Kaela Gray resigns for position in Burlington Vermont)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September 2020 New Planning Director - Jamie Rabbitt, AICP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November 2020 - Planning Board Approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December (2020) -February (2021) Final Edits and referral to Town Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Format and Design Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February - Final 2021 Draft for Town Council Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February - Final 2021 Draft for Town Council Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March - Joint meeting between Town Council and Planning Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April - Town Council holds Public Hearing on Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May - Planning Department/Planning Board Listening Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 24 - Second Town Council Public Hearing scheduled.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Time Line (Public Participation/Access)

- 15 + Public Meetings
- Over 240 people subscribed to Planning Department – Comprehensive Community Plan page
- Approximately 50 people attended kick off meeting in 2017
- Over 100 people attended open house on Comprehensive Community Plan (Spring 2017)
- Over 50 people attended the public workshop (June 2018)
- Public Comment period was keep open in November of 2019 to allow additional time for residents to provide input.
- Planning Department maintained a web page for the Plan throughout the process.
- Recent presentations (Video Clips) to the Town Council have been posted to the Planning Departments Web page.
- Power Point presentations have been posted to the Planning Departments Web page.
- Draft Plan has been posted on Planning Departments Web page since November of 2019.
- Final Draft Plan was posted on Planning Departments Web page in February of 2021.
LISTENING SESSION - AGENDA

Welcome:
Steven DiMasi, Chair Planning Board

Overview of Comprehensive Community Plan
James D. Rabbitt, AICP, Planning Director
Amy Goins, Special Legal Counsel

Listening Session:
Public Participation (Facilitated by Robert Zarnetske, Town Manager and James D. Rabbitt, Planning Director)

Next Steps
Amy Goins, Special Legal Counsel

Closing Remarks:
Maria Mack, Vice-Chair Planning Board
Steven DiMasi, Chair Planning Board
LISTENING SESSION - AGENDA

Welcome:
Steven DiMasi, Chair Planning Board

Overview of Comprehensive Community Plan
James D. Rabbitt, AICP, Planning Director
Amy Goins, Special Legal Counsel

Listening Session:
Public Participation (Facilitated by Robert Zarnetske, Town Manager and James D. Rabbitt, Planning Director)

Next Steps
Amy Goins, Special Legal Counsel

Closing Remarks:
Maria Mack, Vice-Chair Planning Board
Steven DiMasi, Chair Planning Board
Next Steps
Amy Goins, Special Legal Counsel

• The Planning Department will provide a synopsis of comments/questions from tonight’s Listening Session and forward to Town Council.

• Town Council will conduct its second Public Hearing on Draft 2021 Comprehensive Community Plan at their May 24, 2021 Council Meeting. The initially Public Hearing was held on April 12 and continued to May 24, 2021.

• Once a Comprehensive Community Plan is approved by Town Council it needs to be forwarded to Statewide Planning for review and approval as required by Rhode Island Law.

• The Comprehensive Community Plan does not become effective until the Town receives its approval from the State.
LISTENING SESSION - AGENDA

Welcome:
Steven DiMasi, Chair Planning Board

Overview of Comprehensive Community Plan
James D. Rabbitt, AICP, Planning Director
Amy Goins, Special Legal Counsel

Listening Session:
Public Participation (Facilitated by Robert Zarnetske, Town Manager and James D. Rabbitt, Planning Director)

Next Steps
Amy Goins, Special Legal Counsel

Closing Remarks:
Maria Mack, Vice-Chair Planning Board
Steven DiMasi, Chair Planning Board
Thank You for your time and input:
Thank You for your time and input.

Strong communities bring people together – Public Square, CNU Journal
The Planning Board has ended their meeting associated with the scheduled LISTENING SESSION (May 6, 2021)

Draft 2021 Comprehensive Community Plan

If you were unable to attend this evening, please forward comments to:

Jamie Rabbitt, AICP, Planning Director
jrabbitt@southkingstownri.com