



West Tisbury Community Visioning Report

April 26-27, 2024

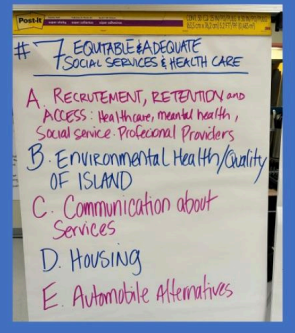
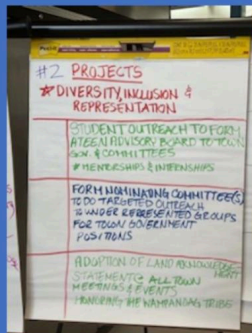
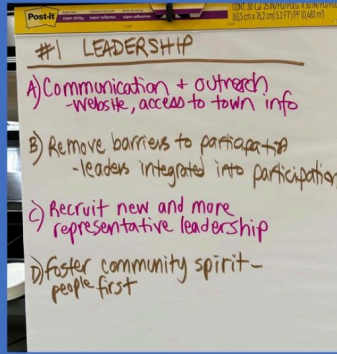
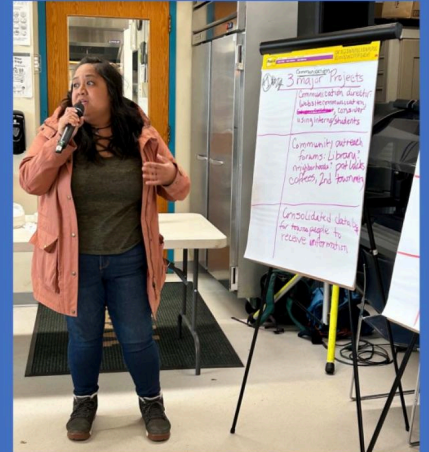


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Do you live in West Tisbury?



Painting by Ken Vincent

What's *YOUR* vision of our future?

25 years ago we conducted a Town Visioning to forecast where we wanted to be 25 years from now.

Your ideas and perspectives are needed to shape the Town's Strategic Plan.

What are *your* concerns?

*Housing availability & affordability? Water quality?
Climate Preparedness? Nature preservation?*

Let your voice be heard!

Please come to either or both sessions to share *your* vision.

West Tisbury School, Friday, April 26 5:30 - 8:30

Potluck dinner and issue identification.

West Tisbury School, Saturday, April 27 8:45am-3:00pm

Small group work to brainstorm and set priorities.

Transportation and childcare available.
Contact visioning@westtisbury-ma.gov for more info.



You have the power to help shape our future!

Você mora em West Tisbury?



Painting by Ken Vincent

Qual é a SUA visão do nosso futuro?

Há 25 anos realizamos uma pesquisa de visão para prever onde queríamos estar 25 anos adiante.

Suas ideias e perspectivas são necessárias para moldar Plano Estratégico da Cidade.

**Quais são as suas preocupações?
Disponibilidade e acessibilidade de habitação?
Qualidade da água? Preparação Climática?
Preservação da natureza?
Deixe sua voz ser ouvida!**

Por favor, compareça a uma ou ambas as sessões para compartilhar sua visão.

**W.T. Escola, Sexta-feira, 26 de abril, das 17h30 às 20h30
*Jantar festivo e discussão geral.***

**W.T. Escola, Sábado, 27 de abril, das 8h45 às 15h
*Trabalho em pequenos grupos para debater ideias e definir prioridades.***

Transporte e creche disponíveis.

Contate visioning@westtisbury-ma.gov para mais informações.



Você tem o poder para ajudar a moldar o nosso futuro!

West Tisbury Vision to Action Forum
April 26 – 27, 2024
Agenda

Friday, April 26

5:00	Doors Open for All Participants
5:30	Sign-In, Pot-Luck Supper Welcome West Tisbury History and Current Data Who's Here? - Community Builder Mosaic & Vision Presentation of Community Profile Components <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Effective Community Leadership</i> 2. <i>Informed Citizen Participation</i> 3. <i>Positive Intergroup Relations</i> 4. <i>Vibrant Arts and Cultural Heritage</i> 5. <i>High Quality Educational Opportunities for All Ages</i> 6. <i>Adequate Physical Infrastructure</i> 7. <i>Equitable and Adequate Social Services</i> 8. <i>High Quality Environment and Natural Resources</i> 9. <i>Strong and Stable Local Economy</i> 10. <i>Planned Growth and Development</i> Discussions of Components – Small Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengths and weaknesses of West Tisbury in each component area - Ideal future and key issues in each component area
8:30	Adjourn

Saturday, April 27

8:45	Breakfast, Coffee and Check-in
9:00	Selection of Key Issues Key Issue Discussion – Small Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify potential projects - Analyze potential impact and feasibility of each potential project - Select Projects to present to full group Lunch Project Selection Project Development - Small groups Where Do We Go from Here?
3:00	Adjourn

Creating the West Tisbury Visioning Gathering 2024

West Tisbury is a vibrant and changing community. Since our last Visioning session in 1997, our population has increased by almost 50%, has grown older, and has become more diverse. Town facilities – Town Hall, the Library, the school – have been renovated and enlarged to meet our needs. Many issues have become more controversial as the town has grown, including appropriate activities in residential neighborhoods, and what should be allowed in the Village Center. For example, there is disagreement about events in the Village Center that are not strictly permitted by the Zoning by-laws but have been allowed for years, with permits. The Planning Board proposed some additions to the Zoning Bylaws Use Table to help with this problem, but the conditions were not clear enough to ask approval at Town Meeting in 2023. We needed a wider discussion of these and other issues before bringing proposals to the entire community. In addition, it was time for a new Master Plan to help guide revisions to the Zoning Bylaws.

The 2023 Annual Town Meeting approved a budget item to fund a Visioning event, along the lines of the event in March of 1997. Delia Clark was selected as the Consultant to organize the event (as she had in 1997). A group of citizens met bi-weekly as a Steering Committee to plan for the Visioning. A core group met more frequently to organize the planning. Smaller groups began to plan for specific parts of the process: publicity, registration, data, food, setup, supplies, and facilitators.

Data and Maps: Bea Phear, Alexandra Pratt, Suzi Wasserman, Leah Smith
Food: Jane Rossi, Maribeth Macaisa, Nelia Decker, Jana Bertkau
Registration: Ginny Jones, Bea Phear, various helpful assistants
Set Up/ Clean Up: Jane Rossi, Jana Bertkau, Caroline Mayhew, Nicola Blake, Leah Smith
Child Care: Alexandra Pratt
Publicity: Jim Graham, Maribeth Macaisa, Nicola Blake, Jane Rossi
Trivia Quiz: Jim Graham, Ginny Jones
Supplies: Jane Rossi
Facilitator Organizing: Sue Hruby
Facilitators: Ollie Becker, Harriet Bernstein, Doug Brush, Judy Crawford, Dilly DeBlase, Arielle Faria, Paul Farrington, Caroline Flanders, Emily Fischer, James Graham, Nancy Hoffman, Rob Hauck, Paul Karasik, Elle Lash, Jessica Miller, Steve Nierenberg, Wendy Neirenberg, Phyllis Segal, Amelia Smith, Abbie Zell
Art for publicity: Ken Vincent
Poster/Flyer design: Paul Karasik
Core planning group: Jane Rossi, Leah Smith, Bea Phear, Beth Kramer, Sue Hruby, Nancy Hoffman
Steering Committee: Leah Smith, James Graham, Ginny Jones, Nicola Blake, Bea Phear, Bethany Hammond, Dan Waters, Rex Jarrell, Beth Kramer, Sue Hruby, Caroline Mayhew, Maribeth Macaisa, Alexandra Pratt, Nancy Hoffman, Harriet Bernstein, Arielle Faria, Susie Wasserman, Jane Rossi.

Facilitators

To support the Visioning weekend 20 facilitators were recruited from town residents. We attempted to find a good mix of age, ethnicity, experience, knowledge of the Vineyard, and background. Then Sue Hruby, Beth Kramer and Leah Smith called individuals and invited them to participate. Most agreed. Those who didn't participated fully as residents. Five additional facilitators were recruited as back-ups in case attendance was higher than expected. As it turned out, only one back-up needed to step in.

Facilitators worked in pairs — one to scribe and one to lead the group. They were introduced to each other in advance so they could talk and figure out which role was best for them. Reading material was distributed with more detail about the facilitation process as it is used for the Visioning sessions.

The actual training took place the day before the visioning meeting. About 30 people gathered at the Public Safety Building to enjoy a delicious meal together and to go through several mock sessions identifying our best and worst meeting experiences. It gave facilitators a chance to use their skills and see some examples of the best and worst meeting scenarios. Those who went through the process as facilitators felt it was a positive experience - they arrived curious and left feeling confident, prepared, and excited about the weekend ahead.

We gathered on April 26 and 27 to discuss what we want in our town as we move forward. The results are detailed below, and groups continue to meet to focus on issues that will inform a new Master Plan and decisions by the Select Board, the Planning Board, and the entire town. Major concerns that emerged included communication, affordable/accessible housing, protection of water and the environment, what should be allowed in the Village Center and the Mixed Business District, and what activities should be allowed in Residential Districts. Another aspect of the weekend was the opportunity to meet more of our neighbors and strengthen community ties. The Friday evening session included a delicious pot-luck dinner, informal talk around tables, and lively discussions of basic elements of a thriving community. These informal conversations continued during breaks and lunch on Saturday.



West Tisbury Visioning Gathering - Event Summary Friday Evening

The West Tisbury vision-to-action forum was conducted at the West Tisbury School over two days, Friday evening, April 26 and all day Saturday, April 27, 2024. Approximately 150 people attended the dinner and planning sessions Friday night.. Approximately 105 people returned to complete the work on Saturday, with six community action groups convening to carry on work after the event.

The event began with a community potluck dinner, with West Tisbury's excellent cooks turning out in great form. Lead facilitator Delia Clark led the first full-group activity where we spent a few minutes meeting each other and learning how long we had lived in town, where we worked, how many of us had attended or had children or grandchildren in the West Tisbury schools, where we got our local news, and other connections.

In the "Mosaic" activity, we were asked to offer descriptions of what our town is like right now; then in the "Vision" activity, how we would like West Tisbury to be in the future. Volunteers served as scribes as we called out descriptive phrases that were recorded on easels at the front of the room. Here are the results, listed in random order.



The Mosaic: What is West Tisbury like today?

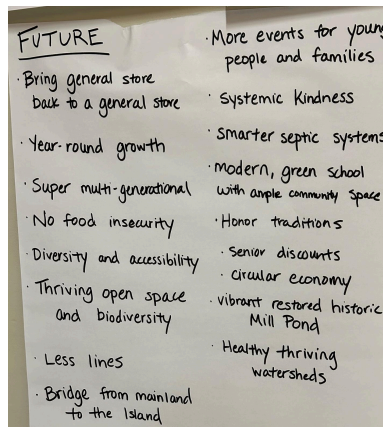
- Expensive
- Crowded
- Changing
- Friendly
- Smart
- Neighborly
- Culturally attuned
- Aging
- Some walkable, some not
- Liberal
- Historical
- People need to slow down
- Too much building
- Not enough pedestrian friendliness
- Exclusionary zoning
- Small town
- Beautiful
- Bucolic
- Peaceful
- Rural
- In transition
- Green
- Populated by children
- Agricultural
- Resilient
- Roads need attention
- Not enough affordable housing
- Great schools but need infrastructure
- Stuck in old ways
- Parking problems at the beach
- Best library on the planet
- Behind the times on purpose
- Best post office
- Growing out of our school
- Howes House is a great treasure
- Bumpy bike paths
- Need for mental health support
- Aging in place
- Vulnerable to fire
- Losing the dark night sky
- Steward of the aquifer
- No PFAs in the water
- Noise pollution from leaf blowers
- In need of young people in government
- Overworked town committees
- Limited beach access
- Needing a sense of one island, one town
- Most beautiful town center on the island
- Lacking diversity
- Adult children living with parents
- Vulnerable to storms
- Slowing down the rate of development
- Our ponds are in peril
- Very white
- Not enough resources for Portuguese
- Suburbanization
- Over fertilization
- 4-H

TODAY

Expensive	Liberal
Crowded	Historical
Changing	People need to Slow down
Friendly	Too much building
Smart	Not enough pedestrian Friendliness
Neighborly	Exclusionary Zoning
Culturally Attuned	
Aging	
Some walkable, some not	

The Vision: What do we want West Tisbury to be like in the future?

- Completely walkable/bikeable
- A small rural town where everyone continues to support each other
- Affordable universal pre-K
- Supporting agriculture and aquaculture
- Net Zero energy
- Chemical-free lawns
- Fun, free community events for all ages
- A model for preserving natural environmental beauty
- A town with ponds
- Swimmable non-toxic ponds
- Self-sustaining
- Bilingual or dual immersion schools
- Everyone has health care coverage
- Bring general store back to being a general store
- Year-round growth
- Super multi-generational
- No food insecurity
- Diversity and accessibility
- Thriving open space and biodiversity
- Fewer lines
- Bridge from mainland to the island
- More events for young people and families
- Systemic kindness
- Smart septic systems
- Modern green school with ample community space
- Honor traditions
- Senior discounts
- Circular economy
- Vibrant restored historic Mill Pond
- Healthy, thriving watersheds
- More use of the bus system
- A part of the town of Martha's Vineyard
- Solar on every rooftop
- Local thriving incentives
- Property tax rate that allows residents a conventional work life
- Part of an island that's resilient to climate change
- Welcoming to young families
- Baby bonds and support for children under 3
- More young people in town government
- Take back the Grange as a community center
- Minimize wildfire risk
- Community gardens
- Reinforcement/immediate enforcement of the town master plan
- Invest in Great Pond
- Better Wi-fi
- Selling lots in Great Plains for housing
- Year-round preschools



Ten Components of a Healthy Community

After we completed the “Mosaic and Vision” activities for West Tisbury, Delia Clark introduced us to the idea of discussing our town within the framework of ten qualities that can be used to profile a community. These topics are based on work from the National Civic League and Delia’s experience with over 70 vision-to-action forums, and were fine-tuned by the West Tisbury Visioning-2024 Steering Committee. The components describe communities that are working well and that sustain the cultural, economic, and environmental health and vitality for the long-term future.

Participants were divided randomly into ten groups. Each group was offered a statement of purpose describing their topic, and optional “questions to think about.” The group then discussed their topic in relation to West Tisbury: strengths, concerns/weaknesses, vision for the future, and West Tisbury’s five key issues in this topic area. The ten components were:

1. Effective Community Leadership
2. Informed Citizen Participation
3. Strong Social Capital
4. Vibrant Arts, Cultural Heritage and Recreation
5. High Quality Educational Opportunities for All Ages
6. Adequate Physical Infrastructure
7. Equitable and Adequate Social Services and Health Care
8. High Quality Environment and Natural Resources
9. Strong and Stable Local Economy
10. Planned Growth and Development

Group 1. Effective Community Leadership

Facilitators: Rob Hauck, Harriet Bernstein

Participants: Teri Mello, Karen Pratt, Amy Upton, Rachel Baumrin, Mia (Amelia) Esparini, Matt Coffey, Sheila Morse, Terre Young, Cleo Winsryg-Wild, Maribeth Macaissa, Rosemarie Confalone, Laurie Peter, Nicola Blake, Jennie Isbell, Prudence Burt

Statement and Optional Questions for the Group to Consider:

The public, private and non-governmental organizations sectors must all develop leaders who can cooperate with each other in enhancing the long-term future of the community. Leadership must be responsive, honest, efficient, enlightened, fair and accountable. Leaders should be representative of their community, and should have both a grasp of the community's issues/opportunities, and the ability to envision an economically secure, environmentally sound and socially viable future. Leaders should be attuned to the potential to build on opportunities and to solve problems of the community by cooperating with other neighboring communities.

- Is there active leadership in all three sectors of the community: public, private and non-governmental organizations?
- Do leaders seek out the interests and ideas of local citizens?
- Do they equally represent diverse community interests (age and gender groups, length of time they have resided in the community, etc.)

- Do leaders demonstrate knowledge, accountability, professionalism, and innovation?
- Is leadership results-oriented?
- Are leaders willing to take appropriate risks?
- Do leaders demonstrate long-range (20+ years) thinking? Do they understand the impacts of their actions on the long-term health and vitality of the community?
- Are leaders willing to consider and utilize alternative methods for delivering services, and to undertake regional solutions where appropriate?
- Do all three sectors actively recruit, train and empower new leaders?
- Do leaders have a common forum to discuss issues with other leaders in the region?
- How do region-wide policy conflicts get resolved?

Group Response: Effective Community Leadership - STRENGTHS

- People take care of each other
- Town has heart: everyone cares
- Strong non-profit leadership
- Many active community leaders from the business community
- Local leaders are available and responsive
- Boards are welcoming, actively seek new members
- Meetings are open
- Institutional memory is long - people have been in leadership roles long
- Information is there
- Don't throw baby out with the bath water ie: term limits can lead to loss of institutional memory
- Ag. Society is a good model
- Strong pool of volunteer leaders
- Great emergency system
- Lots of support for emergency services and recovery needs, including churches
- Library leadership is amazing
- Good school leadership
- Strong interest in making room for new leadership

Group Response: Effective Community Leadership - WEAKNESSES

- Town website needs work
- A lot of older affluent people are in positions of town leadership because financially, they are able to (eg, single parents working two jobs often can't donate the volunteer time)
- Communication: not everyone knows best ways to communicate (eg email alerts)
- Translation needed eg town meeting reports
- Leadership not representative of population
- Town pride has gone too far
- Term limits needed
- Small town issues eg, hard to run against your neighbor
- Have to make it possible for others to run for office
- Barriers to participation exist
- Need more points of entry into leadership roles
- Renters are not well represented

- More focus needed on benefits of regional cooperation eg, climate change
- Silos in community government - need to reach across department boundaries to realize efficiencies
- Not enough young people in leadership roles
- Not diverse enough leadership
- Not enough effort by town leadership to communicate to general public
- More nudging than leading
- Private leadership (private businesses, clubs, non-governmental) communication less public

Group Response: Effective Community Leadership - VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- There are available ways for everyone to know what's happening (not just word of mouth)
- Town website posts all meetings
- Select board and other town volunteer positions become paid positions

Group Response: Effective Community Leadership - KEY ISSUES

- Communication and outreach website, access to town info
- Remove barriers to participation
- Recruit new and more representative leadership
- Foster community spirit - people first

2. Informed Citizen Participation

Facilitators: Wendy Nierenberg, Elle Lash

Participants: Peter Nesser, Meg Carmen, Avril Espy, Liz Hirsh, Harvey Garneau, David Fielder, Sean Conley, Richard Andre, Susan Feller, Richard Bertkau, Susan Graham, Sanyuri Cunningham, Jennelle Gadowski, Chris Lyons, Jeff Pravda, Randi Baird, Tony Confalone

Statement and Optional Questions for the Group to Consider:

If a community is to be strong, local residents must participate through voting in local elections, serving on government boards, attending public hearings and being active in civic and non-governmental organizations. Philanthropy and volunteerism are very important elements in meeting community needs. All local residents need to develop knowledge and skills to contribute to community life. All sectors within a community--private, public and non-governmental organizations--must each take responsibility for the community's civic education and generate and share information with the public. Sharing in problem solving and planning together for the future increases pride in the community and can result in an ethic of giving and sharing as a way of life.

- Do local residents know how the community systems work?
- Is it easy for newcomers to learn how to get involved in the community?
- How do people find out what is going on in the community?
- What is the level of volunteerism and philanthropy in the community? Which are the best areas and which are the weaker areas?
- Do local residents volunteer to serve on local boards and committees?
- Is participation proactive or reactive?
- Do civic organizations and local businesses actively contribute to community functions?

- Do local residents have the information they need to make good decisions? Is this information shared equitably?
- Is there both adequate and balanced media coverage of local events and issues?
- How well do local committees and boards communicate with each other and the public and with other boards and committees throughout the region?
- Do civic education efforts involve the entire community?

Group response: Informed Citizen Participation - STRENGTHS

- Plethora of volunteer opportunities
- High voter registration and engagement
- Word of mouth
- Many committees to join: eager for participation
- Good media coverage of local events
- Townspeople take care of each other
- Good community gathering spaces
- Good farming/devotion to agricultural roots
- Proactive town participation
- Good use of social media
- Town website: good information
- Library is a good hub for community
- Howes House (Council on Aging) takes care of a lot of the island
- Town generosity
- Town pride
- Careful adherence to keeping meetings open
- Diversity of ways to get information
- Strong philanthropy

Group Response: Informed Citizen Participation - WEAKNESSES

- Understanding how town governance works
- Language Equity/Access (translation)
- Need younger people in town government/entice them
- Too many town officials run uncontested and unopposed
- Targeted outreach needed to improve participation
- No term limits for some committee members
- Seems like a cabal of people run town
- Lack of diversity in town government
- No term limits for the chairs of committees
- Need a feeder system for committees
- Need adjunct members for committees, non-voting/alternate members, a succession member
- Need for people involvement
- Don't know which committees need people
- Need a program/civics event educating people, giving information on committees
- Inequitable info sharing: need live translation/for hearing impaired
- How to get info to the public?
- Need greater accessibility.

- Informed participation of seasonal residents: they don't know how or whether they are invited
- Make it known that meetings are open
- Open question: can non-voting residents participate on committees and/or be elected?
- Need a list of opportunities for seasonal residents
- A lack of civic education
- Get youth involved (school)
- Streamlining municipal projects with local contractors

Group Response: Informed Citizen Participation – VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- Consider different timing of town meeting - earlier in year
- How and when articles for warrant are generated
- Island town meetings on different evenings
- High School internship/credit for participation in town government
- Pool of interested members to participate in committees
- More robust communication system
- All committees have a young cohort (members)
- Have a twice annual information session about how to get involved in committees – with good food
- Budget broken down
- Regionalization
- Explanation of warrant articles two weeks ahead with explanation plus video and food
- Better communication between committees and the general public
- Town website needs improving
- Frequent (monthly?) email to townspeople about work of committees
- Language access: paid, funded position
- Land acknowledgment - statement recognizing/honoring the Wampanoag Tribe/nation

Group Response: Informed Citizen Participation – KEY ISSUES

- Communication between town government and local residents: equitable language access, centralized accessible communication
- Civic education: semi-annual education meeting, how Civics works
- Outreach - cross generational, year-round and seasonal, emails to all residents and staff – and money to make it happen
- Civic engagement/participation to expand and open government to more people
- Diversity needed – Age and race diversity and access and functional needs in committee and town government.



3. Strong Social Capital

Facilitators: Emily Fischer and Paul Karasik

Participants: Philippe Jordi, Kathy Logue, Marc Rosenbaum, Ina Andre, Samantha Carrick, Larry Schubert, Skipper Manter, Kim Angell, Jo-Ann Taylor, Catherine Brennan, Nancy Dole, Paddy Moore, Julius Lowe

Statement and Optional Questions for the Group to Consider:

A community is made up of many different people with different interests, experiences and backgrounds. These characteristics may divide a community into natural groups but there must be communication and cooperation among them if the community is to work well. Increasing social complexity presents challenges to reaching consensus or resolving conflicts but also provides opportunities for cultural enrichment. As disagreements arise, neutral forums and processes are needed where all opinions can be heard and consensus encouraged. In addition, diverse formal and informal cultural, recreational, social and civic opportunities are needed to increase communication and understanding of different perspectives among groups and within the community as a whole.

- How much communication is there among diverse interest groups in the community?
- Are such groups involved in identifying community goals and in resolving community issues?
- Do all groups have the skills to become involved in the community?
- Do formal and informal forums exist for sharing ideas and resolving public issues?
- Are collective decisions that represent broad input reached and implemented?
- Do groups cooperate in resolving broad disputes?
- Does the community deal with critical issues before they become crises? How is this done?
- How would you define the self-image of the community? Is it a positive one?
- Are there ample opportunities for people to come together informally to share ideas, such as clubs, sports, cafés, choirs, and parks?

Group Response: Strong Social Capital - STRENGTHS

- Town gatherings/spaces – Library, 7A, Alleys
- Schools (Safe Havens)
- Post office
- Great Pond
- Places to meet, chat, and socialize
- Howes House, Conroys
- Ag Hall, Grange
- Town meeting, farmers' market
- Beach, Barn Raisers' Ball
- Opportunities to talk to others
- Safe and welcoming place to chat with strangers
- 3-acre zoning discourages neighborliness

Group Response: Strong Social Capital - WEAKNESSES

- Education about cultural acceptance, civic empowerment
- Communication: how are people learning about civic events?
- Expand social media
- Connect with youth
- More regularly scheduled community events.
- More effectively advertised events
- More forums with different focus topics
- Reaching cross-cultural and multi-age folks for interactions
- No Town Pub
- Covid impacted the community
- Paradox: community cares but has few opportunities to meet, socialize, discuss, and process
- Encourage outside developers to be part of the dialogue
- Language and cultural barriers
- Clannish Brazilian community
- Bridging cultural gaps
- Legal limitations for undocumented immigrants
- Two-way language barrier
- Limited opportunities for second language learning. Needs improvement.

Group Response: Social Capital - VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- How can the town reach out and incorporate the Brazilian community?
- Churches as resource and nexus
- Organize a specifically Brazilian Visioning meeting
- Find opportunities to welcome new community members including Brazilians
- Housing insecurity for Brazilian families can be a huge barrier to integration.
- More town forums to discuss specific issues
- Coffee shop and town pub
- Zoning broadening for community engagement
- Ice cream shop or swimming pool
- Walking paths
- Dances/potlucks
- Return to old West Tisbury business feel
- Invest in infrastructure that promotes high density mixed use
- Immediate action needed in terms of curbing large development

Group Response: Strong Social Capital: KEY ISSUES

- Communication and outreach
- Intentional inclusivity (ethnic, age)
- More events: regular, recurring, fun, topical
- Zoning: intentional place-making
- Empowered citizenry

4. Vibrant Arts, Cultural Heritage and Recreation

Facilitators: Steve Nierenberg, Arielle Faria

Participants: Paddy Moore, John Abrams, Kate Warner, Ron Dagostino, Paul Mandelick, Christopher Carrick, Robin Moriarity, Matt Merry, Nevette Previd, Miguel de Braganca, Connie Toteanu

Statement and Optional Questions for the Group to Consider:

The cultural life of a community can be a strong source of pride for local residents. Arts, theater, local festivals and celebrations all reflect and build a community's positive sense of itself and strengthen the fabric of all social interactions within the community. Provision of opportunities for healthful, satisfying, positive recreation and leisure time activities serving all groups and interests in the community can help to define the character and general ambiance of a community and can help to build respect, cooperation and neighborliness.

- What ways does the community celebrate itself?
- What are the special cultural centers, events and festivals within the community?
- Are these events well known within the community? Outside the community?
- Does the community preserve and enhance what is special and unique about its cultural heritage? Its natural heritage?
- Are children encouraged to participate in cultural events?
- Are local residents a part of larger regional cultural events?
- Are there suitable recreation programs for all groups, young and old, athletic and non-athletic, outdoor and indoor?
- Are there publicly accessible outdoor parks, trails, and recreation areas? Is access equitable to all?

Group Response: Vibrant Arts, Cultural Heritage and Recreation – STRENGTHS

- Fair
- Artisans' Festival
- Farmers' Market
- Library
- Galleries
- Grange and Ag. Hall
- Films at the Grange
- Harvest Festival
- Ag Society
- Kids
- Polly Hill Arboretum
- Preservation Trust
- WT Holiday parties
- Equestrian/Misty Meadows
- Youth Soccer
- Plays and Performances at school
- Field Gallery
- Walking trails
- Lambert's Cove Beach
- Ice House and Seth's Pond
- James Pond Access
- Tisbury Great Pond
- Conservation Land
- School playground
- Bike paths and how they access all state forest lands
- Meat Ball
- Barn Raisers Ball
- Howes House/Up island COA
- Long Point
- Duarte's Pond
- Ice Skating
- Stocking fish at Mill Pond
- Foraging
- Fishing and hunting
- Dumptique
- State forest
- Town meeting

- Contra dancing
- Cinema Circus
- Agricultural preservation
- Recreation programs at library
- Barn Buddies @ Ag Hall
- Playground at Town Hall
- Tennis Courts
- Post Office gatherings
- Post Office staff
- 4H

Group Response: Vibrant Arts, Cultural Heritage and Recreation – WEAKNESSES

- Need more and better bike paths
- Bike paths not maintained
- Poor walkability
- Lack of equestrian paths
- Automobile dependent
- Difficult beach access and parking
- Public safety on Lambert's Cove
- Mill Pond needs restoration
- State Forest needs better management
- No community green space in the business district
- Tension between too many events and not enough parking space
- Conservation, limiting land for farming etc.
- Limited revenue for town and recreation: ie. cultural and arts uses
- Not enough PO Boxes, lack of coffee shop etc.
- No indoor cafe
- Not enough casual gathering spaces especially in winter
- Lack of outdoor accessibility for strollers and children on bikes
- Nightmare of pickup at WT school

Group Response: Vibrant Arts, Cultural Heritage and Recreation - VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- All year coffee shop
- Outdoor movies
- No need to have a car
- Totally accessible bike safely
- More frequent farmers' markets
- Shopping for practical things at Alley's
- Makers' Space
- Walkability throughout town
- Mill Pond restored
- Walkability around Lambert's Cove Beach
- WT school: more community events
- Bring community together for recreation
- More intergenerational activities
- Better infrastructure for activities
- Softened rules to accommodate cultural events
- Food trucks
- Community gardens

- Food forest
- Town Ombudsman
- Event email list
- Town digital bulletin board
- Additional funding for shellfish program

Committee Response: Vibrant Arts, Cultural Heritage and Recreation – KEY ISSUES

- Improve non-vehicular path system/infrastructure
- Curated digital bulletin board to improve rural communication
- Enhancing our natural resources (ponds’ water quality, hunting and fishing)
- Year round gathering spaces to build community (outdoor gathering spaces and indoor coffee house)
- Preserve and expand agricultural heritage (such as community gardens, food forests)

5. High Quality Educational Opportunities for All Ages

Facilitators: Abbie Zell and Jim Graham

Participants: Samantha Look, Daniel Mayhew, Jay Dubo, Suki de Braganca, Sherwood Ives, Chris Moore, Indaia Whitcombe, Joy Robinson-Lynch, Jonah Lipsky, Hallie Brevetti, Sue Hruby, Lisa Amols, Kanta Lipsky, Hugh Phear, Christina Saltmarsh (formerly Wiley)

Statement and Optional Questions for the Group to Consider:

All local residents have a need for the education of their children. In addition, life-long learning opportunities for adults can help increase the capacity of the local work force and contribute to a positive quality of life. Things like preschool programs, after-school extracurricular youth programs, professional and technological training and leisure time heritage, arts and crafts programs help to strengthen the social foundations of a community.

- What schools and other public educational facilities exist in the community?
- What educational facilities or services are needed?
- Are educational opportunities provided equitably?
- Are school programs adequate for the community's needs?
- Is school planning forward thinking and open to regional solutions?
- Does the town have a plan for financing the maintenance, expansion and replacement of its public schools and social service facilities?
- Are public educational facilities and buildings such as schools and parks adequate for our needs?
- Are they accessible to people with disabilities?
- Are they energy efficient?

Group Response: High Quality Educational Opportunities for All Ages – STRENGTHS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ● Library: all ages, free programming | ● Two schools |
| ● Island gymnastics | ● Polly Hill Arboretum |
| ● Howes House (Council on Aging) | ● Heritage Trail |
| ● Very committed educators | ● Everyone supports education |
| ● Glass works | ● Harvest Fest/Barn Raisers |

- Field & Granary Galleries
- Local business partnerships
- Island Autism
- Parental involvement
- PTA (struggling?)
- Access to nature
- Bright and creative local residents
- Film festival
- Farms
- Non-profits
- AG Hall
- 4H
- Horse farms

Group Response: High Quality Educational Opportunities for All Ages – WEAKNESSES

- Lack of movement on affordable housing for teachers
- Need better communication
- Better integration: Town mental health, community services
- Need to integrate Brazilian community
- Lack of cultural exchange
- Space for artists
- Safe routes to school
- More walking
- More Green focus
- Green transportation
- Green education for all
- Meshing the WT school style as students transition to Regional High School
- Lack of quality, comprehensive sex education
- Lack of space & quality of space
- Lack of indoor recreational space
- Lack of parental communication
- Need more funding?
- Lack of valuing education
- Lack of business acumen by school administration
- Intergenerational mentorship
- Youth - rep opportunities
- Educational opportunities beyond the classroom
- Dedicated space for educational programming/community meeting space
- Lack of adherence to standards
- Lack of computer education, engineering/ STEM
- Lack of local civic education
- Lack of transparency - oversight/communication (what are my kids learning/doing in school?)
- Lack of acceptance of new ways
- Calcified thinking (educators)
- Non Green facility
- Lack of Co-working spaces

Group Response: High Quality Educational Opportunities for All Ages – VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- Voter education, communication, attendance
- Collaboration between charter and elementary school/learning from each other
- Marry outdoor learning and movement
- Use the museum more

Group response: High Quality Educational Opportunities for All Ages – KEY ISSUES

- Space: more of it, different kinds, climate resilient, net-zero, low impact
- Transparency: communication about school to community; voter/civic, parent/school, available resources
- Affordable housing for families of educators and support staff
- Island as a laboratory
- Utilize MV museum, Carnegie, non-profits, business, trades, secede from the state standards
- Modern Agile Curriculum (MAC) and regular review (eg. Comprehensive quality sex education, coding, civic, STEM, intercultural)

6. Adequate Physical Infrastructure

Facilitators: Ollie Becker and Nancy Hoffman

Participants: Sebastian Hiatt, Josh Saltmarsh, Dan Waters, Gabriel Whitcombe, Cathlin Baker, Laura Murphy, Nova Smith, Rebecca Solway, Doug Ruskin

Statement and Optional Questions for the Group to Consider:

Public buildings, schools, sidewalks, sewers, roads, and the public water supply--are basic to the existence of a community. They absorb most municipal dollars and sharply influence the community's quality of life.

- What roads, buildings and other public facilities exist in the community?
- What facilities or services are needed?
- Are public water sources protected?
- How does the community handle disposal of its wastes?
- Does the community address stormwater runoff and toxic water pollutants?
- Does the town have a plan for financing the maintenance, expansion and replacement of its public facilities? Is it open to regional solutions for future infrastructural needs?
- Is there adequate housing available for elderly or disabled individuals? For people of lower income? For the local workforce?
- Are public buildings such as schools and town hall adequate for our needs? Are they accessible to people with disabilities? Are they energy efficient?
- Are officials professional and entrepreneurial in meeting public facility needs?
- Are appropriate physical connections being made, such as public transportation or safe pedestrian walkways, between housing, schools, work, or shopping sites?
- Are plans in place to lessen and mitigate the impacts of climate change?

Group Response: Adequate Physical Infrastructure – STRENGTHS

- Beaches
- Dumptique
- Athletic fields, tennis court, playgrounds
- Integrity of historic buildings
- Existing affordable housing
- Huge number of hiking trails/conservation land
- Ag Hall and Grange
- Newer public buildings, eg. school
- Good town center: historic and commercial
- Some shared use paths
- Bus system
- Most primary roads in good condition
- Fire House is excellent

Group Response: Adequate Physical Infrastructure: WEAKNESSES

- State road ownership causes problems; town has no control
- Drainage problems on well-used roads and parking lots
- Decentralized septic is costly and inefficient
- Also water system (individual wells)
- Plan for infrastructure maintenance is not adequate and not keeping up with growth
- Housing for teachers and others is not adequate
- Lack of small business incubator in town center
- Affordable housing is limited
- Maintenance of town recreation facilities is weak
- Airport PFAS issues, noise, but not under citizen control
- Aging school
- Sidewalks need upgrading and extension
- Street lights needed in town center

Group Response: Adequate Physical Infrastructure: VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- Town facilities management department
- Pedestrian friendly and connected paths
- Innovative stormwater and water supply management
- Commercial kitchen for town use
- Fresh water protection
- New/renovated school
- Community meeting space like Y lobby
- Community and affordable housing
- Pedestrian safety measures in place esp. Village center with kids getting off the bus
- Old County-Edgartown Road intersection redesign
- Bus shelters
- Afterschool programs
- Need a community facility to serve multiple needs: gathering place, child care
- After school enrichment
- Revitalize Mill Pond area

Group Response: Adequate Physical Infrastructure: KEY ISSUES

- Affordable Housing
- Centralized water and waste management
- Community center facilities, paths and sidewalks
- Maintenance and facilities management plan
- Capital planning (schools, etc): cohesive Proactive plan
- Public safety and pedestrian connectivity

7. Equitable and Adequate Social Services and Health Care

Facilitators: Caroline Flanders and Dilly DeBlase

Participants: Richard Knable, Sundy Smith, Marsha Winsryg, Suzan Bellincampi

Statement and Optional Questions for the Group to Consider:

Local residents have a need for decent food, clothing, shelter, and social services. Although some needs are met by local, state, and federal programs, caring communities still keep a neighborly eye on fellow local residents. Community vitality benefits from youth services, affordable and decent housing, after-school extracurricular youth programs, preventative health and substance abuse and other programs that serve social needs.

- What services does the community provide to its neediest local residents?
- Are social services provided equitably?
- Does the community, through its schools or other programs, offer counseling on parenting or family relationships?
- What local or regional programs or services are offered? What are needed? Are these services adequate? Are they well utilized? Under-utilized?
- Does local government address qualitative concerns about service?
- Does government consider and utilize alternative methods of service delivery?
- Is there adequate housing available for elderly or disabled individuals? For people of lower income? For the local workforce?

Group Response: Equitable and Adequate Social Services and Health Care – STRENGTHS

- Amazing hospital
- Open space walking for health
- Council on Aging healthy living and care issues
- Access to farms and food
- WT Church connecting to gleaning program, using food for community suppers
- Police department on ground floor and approachable: great attitudes
- Large donors who support social services and get to know our community
- Community services
- Dumptique and Chicken Alley
- Dump/local refuse drop off center
- West Tisbury Library, food and seed swap
- Ag Society
- Fish donations during fishing derby
- Local business discounts and support
- Shell fishing/hunting/fishing/gathering
- Up Island Council on Aging: free lunches and yoga and exercise classes

Group Response: Equitable and Adequate Social Services and Health Care – WEAKNESSES

- Lack of vets for animals
- Cost to access services
- Getting boat reservations for medical appointments: problems with supervisors at SSA
- Small town where everyone knows your business
- No more Sunday Morning Softball
- Housing lack
- Less local control over our hospital
- Lack of local control
- Challenges with transportation to medical appointments
- Lack of activities/community center for youth
- Hard to get to resources for people with disabilities – not ADA compliant
- Mental health support is lacking
- Substance abuse support
- Lack of dental doctors

Group Response: Equitable and Adequate Social Services and Health Care – VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- Reduce short term rentals
- Less traffic/calmer speeds
- Safe for walkers and bikers
- More providers of health care
- Up island Council on Aging
- Building (Howes House) needs attention - - Appropriate for our town
- Gardens
- Community center
- Smaller houses incentivised
- Protection of the aquifer
- Climate change planned and considered for inevitable effects. Managed.
- Shelter for people during storms
- Retention of healthcare providers
- Year-round cultural vibrancy
- Stable health care system
- Strong regional school system
- Pre-care and daycare
- Maternity care
- Clean potable water
- Mental health support in town
- Reduction of consumption of everything/more simple sustainable life

Group Response: Equitable and Adequate Social Services and Health Care – KEY ISSUES

- Recruitment, retention and access: health care, mental health, social services, professional providers
- Environmental health/quality: water and food resources, public open space for walking, healthy ponds

- Housing overall
- Communication about available services
- Automobile alternatives

8. High Quality Environment and Natural Resources

Facilitators: Paul Farrington and Douglas Brush

Participants: Phyllis Meras Cocroft, Rose Willet, Thaw Malin, Matt Gebo

Statement and Optional Questions for the Group to Consider:

Natural resources are materials from nature that maintain and enhance a community. This includes food, fuel, and materials used in everyday life. The natural assets of a community also include the places of natural beauty and the working landscapes that contribute significantly to the quality of life of the residents and help determine a community's personality such as streams, rivers, forests, walking trails, working farms, clear air, pastures and open space. A sustainable community attempts to balance the rate at which renewable resources are consumed with the rate at which they are renewed. Dependence on nonrenewable resources is minimized as much as is feasible. A sustainable community attempts to rely on local sources of food and materials and also attempts to reduce the amount of waste and emissions produced by increasing energy efficiency, and tries to minimize the effect of wastes that are created.

- What are your community's special water and land assets?
- Is there broad community interest and participation in maintaining these?
- Are water supplies sufficient and are they used efficiently? Are they protected?
- What percent of the energy used by the community is renewable versus nonrenewable?
- What opportunities exist for local sources of renewable energy?
- What problems are associated with existing patterns of energy use?
- Do energy conservation programs exist within the community?
- To what extent does the local community rely on local sources of food, fuel, and materials?
- How does the community handle disposal of its wastes?
- What percent of waste generated is recyclable and recycled?
- What opportunities exist for reducing that amount of waste generated to begin with?
- What systems are in place or planned to lessen and mitigate the impacts of climate change?
- Does the community address stormwater runoff and toxic water pollutants?

Group Response: High Quality Environmental and Natural Resource - STRENGTHS

- Neighbors grow food
- We support one another with regard to food
- Composting at dumps
- More value-added products at farmers markets – viability depends on more value-added products
- WTFM: farmers' market
- Supportive of agriculture/ Ag society
- Oysters in Great Pond
- Fishing at North and South Shores

- Sustainable practices (agriculture)
- An acre or half an acre makes a difference in agriculture
- Almost 50% in conservation
- Natural beauty of the ponds
- Open land
- Robust agricultural community
- Light pollution not bad
- Glacial moraine versus outwash plain
- More and more solar

Group Response: High Quality Environmental and Natural Resource – WEAKNESSES

- Pond pollution
- Need nitrogen controls
- Septic system improvement
- More natural Vineyard lawns
- Noise pollution/Leaf blowers
- Traffic issues
- Disturbed roadsides
- Too much use of petroleum fuels
- Bad cell service
- Real recycling
- Poor beach access
- WT school food waste
- Too much packaging/transport waste
- Cardboard waste/reuse
- Ticks/Lyme
- Too many deer
- Poor public transport

Group Response: High Quality Environmental and Natural Resource – VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- Community kitchen: processing of food and avoiding composting
- Slaughter house
- Increase chicken processing
- Enough solar and wind to provide all electric needs
- Net Zero
- All electric fleet
- Speed limits enforced
- Noise pollution regulation
- No gas leaf blowers
- Enviro-friendly ferry
- Zero fertilizer on lawns, enhanced nitro capture of all septic
- No chem lawns
- Better bike lanes
- Lyme disease eliminated – all tick borne illness eliminated
- More aquaculture

- Utopian community kitchen
- More turn-arounds
- Restrictions on truck size
- Small electric buses
- More electric car battery chargers
- Public community gardens
- Clustered housing development surrounded by farms/nature
- Building moratorium
- State of the art waste and recycling center
- Recycling of construction materials

Group response: High Quality Environmental and Natural Resource – KEY ISSUES

- Support local food and farms
- More recreational trail access to beaches, green spaces and conservation lands
- Ecological health - pond and aquifer
- Investment in sustainable energy
- Recycling waste optimized

9. Strong and Stable Local Economy

Facilitators: Jess Miller and Phyllis Segal

Participants: Cynthia Bloomquist, Valerie Becker, Linda Vadusz, Suzi Wasserman

Statement and Optional Questions for the Group to Consider:

The need to maintain flourishing workplaces is of great importance to communities. A sustainable community includes a variety of businesses, industries, and institutions which are environmentally sound, financially viable, provide reasonable wages and benefits to workers, and provides those workers with opportunities to develop their skills through training, education, and other forms of assistance to prepare for the community's future needs. Government, businesses and public service organizations are all important in attracting new investment and in developing new businesses that suit the character of the community.

- What types of businesses, industries and institutions make up the economic base of the community? of the region?
- How diverse is the economic base? Is one sector or one employer dominant or is there a wide variety of sectors and employers?
- Are the existing businesses environmentally sound?
- Are there locally available education opportunities to provide residents with skills that match the needs of local businesses?
- What business services are lacking in the community?
- What types of jobs are available to residents in terms of security, wage levels, skill levels, and benefits?
- Do wages allow the majority of the population to enjoy a reasonable lifestyle?
- What can be done to improve the economic climate of the community?

Group Response: Strong and Stable Local Economy – STRENGTHS

- Part of island-wide economy
- A lot of artists and authors
- Support of the arts
- Zoning is supportive of home businesses
- Garden centers
- Polly Hill Arboretum
- Shellfish
- Agriculture
- Ag Hall - farmers' market and Circuit Arts
- Art galleries
- Low tax rate
- Seasonal owners contribute to the tax base

Group Response: Strong and Stable Local Economy – WEAKNESSES

- Lack of living wages
- Lack of affordable housing
- Not all businesses environmentally sound, eg leaf blowers
- Poor quality roads
- Lack of diversity in economy (construction and landscaping businesses dominate)
- Data gaps
- Lack of doctors
- Costs of renovation and new construction - eroding the fabric of community
- Short-term rentals as businesses are removing housing stock and driving up housing costs

Group Response: Strong and Stable Local Economy - VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- Remain small and rural
- Conservation of lands/waters
- Support for agriculture including farmers market
- Support artisans
- Building moratorium
- Increase affordable housing
- Subsidize accessory apartments - for affordable caregivers, family
- Provide housing for teachers, municipal workers, medical workers, town owned for rental to employees
- Accountability and transparency in development
- Support a vibrant intergenerational economy and housing
- Housing opportunities for families
- Affordable skilled nursing facilities
- Reduce redundancy of costly services to the town (eg building maintenance, police and schools, administrative costs)

Group Response: Strong and Stable Local Economy - KEY ISSUES

- Be better stewards of our environment to protect and restore our ponds and farmland
- Clarify and strengthen zoning bylaws related to home businesses
- Continue to support the arts and culture: consider creating a cultural district
- Support aging in place, eg by utilizing workforce development for islanders
- Increase available and accessible housing for essential workers, eg health-care and municipal employees, while maintaining the small, rural nature of our community (consider subsidizing accessory apartments and town ownership)

10. Planned Growth and Development

Facilitators: Judy Crawford and Amelia Smith

Participants: Nadine Pravda, Nicole Cabot, Beatrice Nessen, Nancy Cole, Jana Bertkau

Statement and Optional Questions for the Group to Consider:

Regulations affect how a town develops. They are meant to be a tool, not a set of restrictions. With them, you can guide how and where housing is developed, how and where commercial districts are developed and expanded, and how the town's center is utilized. These are all important topics when trying to allow for growth while maintaining the positive characteristics of the community.

- How do our regulations successfully guide how our housing is laid out?
- Is the density and placement of housing in keeping with the character we want to preserve?
- Are there parts of the town that should be encouraged to be duplicated?
- Does it encourage open space in ways that we want? In ways that are beneficial to preserving the character of the town?
- Do our methods of housing development and subdivision of land encourage patterns of transportation that seem in character with what we want for our town?
- Is our business district successful? Does it provide for a sense of community? Is that needed? Does it provide for our community in the ways that we want?
- Does it encourage patterns of transportation that are in character with what we want?
- Are our business districts appropriately placed? Are they an appropriate size?
- Do we want the old center of town to remain an active and pivotal center of town?
- Is planning and development managed in a cooperative way with neighboring towns?

Group Response: Planned Growth and Development - STRENGTHS

- Strong agricultural community
- Protecting the aquifer
- Protecting historic resources
- Historic district
- Great walking trails and bike paths
- Art galleries
- Vitality of village center (Alleys, Town Hall, etc)
- We have a business district
- Conservation land and open space
- Limited house size

Group Response: Planned Growth and Development – WEAKNESSES

- Too small business/industrial area
- Traffic too heavy
- Not enough affordable housing
- Limited ability to gain equity in existing affordable housing
- Not good access across private open space
- Few walkable neighborhoods
- More charging stations needed
- Increased aquifer protection needed
- Bike paths to meet transportation needs

Group Response: Planned Growth and Development – VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- More charging stations
- More walking and bike paths
- More affordable housing
- Development that maintains rural natural character
- More clustered housing
- Keep protecting the aquifer
- Emergency hub - climate resilience hub, including the Grange
- Regulations to reduce nitrogen (lawns and ponds)
- Continue to utilize the Grange as part of historic center
- More sustainable energy
- General store
- Walkable
- Easier to build affordable/accessory apartments with oversight
- Protect ponds

Group Response: Planned Growth and Development – KEY ISSUES

- Affordable housing
- Preserve waters and open spaces
- Additional zone designated business and industrial
- Set a point at which development stops
- More safe walking and biking, including walkable neighborhoods



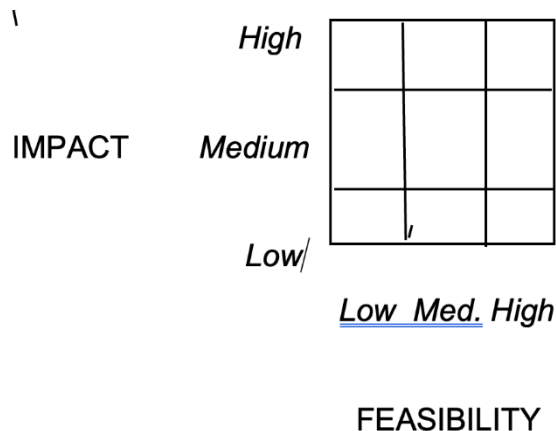
Saturday Morning

Townpeople reassembled back in the school cafeteria Saturday morning and were treated to coffee, tea, and pastries. The ten easels from the previous evening were arrayed across the front of the room, each bearing a list of the FIVE KEY ISSUES for that topic area, for a total of fifty. Our working day began with short presentations from a member of each group explaining their list. Delia Clark then presented a distillation of these fifty key issues into the common themes she and the group of facilitator/scribes had noticed across all groups. She then elicited feedback from the entire group until we honed the list and identified ten focus areas reflecting the most important issues facing West Tisbury today. Participants chose the topic that interested them most and gathered in their area of interest. Facilitators and scribes then led all interested participants to breakout rooms to conduct the discussions.

West Tisbury's Current Key Issues

- Communication and Outreach
- Diversity, Inclusion and Representation
- Community Center, Community Spirit
- Rural Character
- Non-Motorized Access
- Pond and Water Quality
- Development, Planning, Housing
- Climate mitigation and Adaptation
- Education for All Ages
- Health Care and Social Services

Participants chose which key issue felt most important to them personally, and joined that group's discussion. The mission of these groups was to formulate a goal statement and identify concerns/issues, then brainstorm possible solutions. Each group evaluated its list of solutions based on potential impact (how much will it matter?) and feasibility (how possible is it?), plotting them on an "Impact-Feasibility grid (below). They then identified 3 specific projects that they felt would support the group's goals best and brought those back to the main group.



Group 1 Communication and Outreach

Facilitators: Jess Miller, Wendy Nierenberg

Participants: Susan Wasserman, Marybeth Macaisa, Doug Ruskin, Woollcott Smith, Michael Accinno, Rachel Baumrin, Amy Upton, Mia (Amelia) Esparini, Terre Young

Goals

- Develop digital Bulletin Board
- Establish communication group or czar
- Create a clearing house for committee openings
- Improve website (enable two way communication)
- Facilitate communication and info sharing
- Incorporate community presence
- West Tisbury Watch, facebook page and web page

Possible Projects and Solutions

- Orientation program so population is more aware of what goes on in town government
- Contact info for all local residents, eg email, texts, facebook
- Publicize using the full power of the website
- Hold open house neighborhood events connecting folks with government folks also present
- Regionalize to improve our town's websites
- Consider a second town meeting
- Monthly coffee house with guest presenters
- Physical bulletin board about town events and concerns
- Don't reinvent the wheel, learn from other towns
- Remove language barriers

Project Evaluation

High Impact/High Feasibility: QR code to sign up for town communication, actively direct people to the website, improve the website.

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility: Connect database with all forms of contact: a wide communications platform, create a dedicated communication position, student volunteer internship to assist with research, monthly coffee hours presented by different committees

High Feasibility/Moderate Impact: Forum for prospective committee members, outreach to other towns, curated town bulletin boards

Communication and Outreach – Top Three Projects

- Invest in communication! Eg, hire a communications director; develop a website; use interns/students.
- Hold more community events: eg, outreach forums, library gatherings, neighborhood potlucks, coffees, second town meeting.
- Consolidate database for towns to receive announcements and information.

Group 2 Diversity, Inclusion and Representation

Facilitators: Arielle Faria and Elle Lash

Participants: Jennelle Gadowski, Daniel Mayhew, Joy Robinson-Lynch, Roberta Kirn, Marc Rosenbaum, Nova Smith, Alexandra Pratt

Goal Statement

- All encompassing diverse representation in town government leadership, committees and subcommittees

Possible Projects and Solutions

- Automatic stewardship seat at the table in various town offices for a tribal member
- Holding meetings that are hybrid and during a time more folks can participate (with child care and snacks)
- Make things more fun and safe and welcoming
- Training in facilitation, meeting etiquette, sensitivity training/bias.
- New flag policy
- Forming regular community meetings for coalition building and DEI issues and solutions
- Translators/Interpreters at every town meeting including outreach to these communities (including ASL and closed caption)
- Multilingual staff in town government including libraries
- Equitable language access to town resources (documents, etc.)
- Identify diversity, education on pronouns, pride events.
- Identify community liaisons
- Tribal outreach and communication
- Offer tribe reparations
- Truth and Reconciliation committee
- Adoption of land acknowledgement statement, read at every meeting
- Term limits
- Nominating committee focused on diversity, inclusion and welcoming
- Specific outreach to Brazilian churches
- Teen advisory board
- Internships and Mentorships
- Student outreach and school credit
- As a town, lower the voting age to 16 for town issues
- Non-citizens allowed to vote on town issues
- Bias and disability training
- For town officials and boards, Allyship training
- Improve accessibility (vision, physical, hearing, egress, appropriate tech)
- Pronoun pins
- West Tisbury pride events
- Re-examine flag policy

Project Evaluation

High Impact/High Feasibility: teen advisory council, identify community liaisons, student outreach, student internship/mentorship, adoption of land acknowledgement, establish nominating committee

High Impact/Moderate feasibility: multilingual communication, respecting identity (eg pronouns and gender neutral bathrooms), Wampanoag Tribe reparations, funding budget line item for equitable language access (translators/interpreters), bias and sensitivity training, lower town voting age to 16

High Impact/low feasibility: create safe spaces/active integration, non-citizen voting on town issues, term limits, more tribal outreach and communication

Moderate Impact/Low feasibility: Improved accessibility (eg vision, movement, hearing), Invest in tech/labor, Truth and Reconciliation Committee.

Moderate Feasibility/Low Impact: new flag policy

Diversity, Inclusion and Representation – Top Three Projects

- Student outreach: create a teen advisory board to town governance and committees
- Form a nominating committee to do targeted outreach to underrepresented groups for town government positions
- Adopt a land acknowledgement statement that honors the Wampanoag Tribe, to be read at all town meetings and events.

Group 3 Community Center, Community Spirit

Facilitators: Judy Crawford and Douglas Brush

Participants: Terry Mello, Nancy Dole, Randi Baird, Avril Espy, Sheila Morse, Bea Phear, Leah Smith

Goal Statement

- Bolster Our Sense of Community with better use of our public places and spaces

Possible Projects and Solutions

Events

- Better and more events
- Diverse and multigenerational
- Fun and free
- Better use of town center
- Town party expansion
- Daytime events
- Annual event-planning expo
- Weekly events
- Music and poetry and food
- Three per year - spring, fall and winter
- Running event
- Our Chilmark Road Race
- Speed dating singles night

Places and spaces:

- Howes House
- Library
- Village as hub
- Euro town center
- Alley's
- School Field
- Grange Hall
- Field Gallery Field
- 7A - allow seating and ice cream window
- Food trucks

Project Evaluation

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility: make food trucks happen

High Impact/High Feasibility: Spring and Fall Town Parties

Medium Impact/Medium Feasibility: MV walk/running event and party

Community Center, Community Spirit – Top Three Projects

- Spring and Fall town-wide party/event. Eg. Run/walk, with party held at the end
- Village Center reimaged (town square) - beginning with more outdoor seating
- Enable food trucks!

Group 4 Rural Character

Facilitators: Rob Hauck, Harriet Bernstein

Participants: Jo-Ann Taylor, Beatrice Nessen, Valerie Becker, Christopher Lyons, Rosemary Confalone, Skipper Manter, Victoria Phillips, Constance Toreanu

Goals

- Maintain Rural Character - Balancing rural character and growth
- Solve regional issue of traffic congestion

Possible Projects and Solutions

- Mowing
- Changes to Zoning (most of town zoned RU)
- Affordable farmland - make it a priority, town subsidized, town purchased
- Municipal purchase of agricultural land and ecologically significant lands
- Recognize current feudal social system that is growing
- Evaluate tax system: Increase tax rates for large houses, create ag. exemptions
- Adapt roads: more bikeways to reduce congestion
- Connect paths to businesses and schools
- Building moratorium
- Subsidize farmers
- Educate new residents to the nature of rural character (include in real estate closing docs)
- Ag society helps current and would be farmers
- Town go-between
- More paths and crosswalks
- Local oversight of state projects

Project Evaluation

High Impact/Medium Feasibility: conservation of marshes and ag society lands; collaborate with town to protect, promote and increase farmed land; protect important farmlands and marshlands

High Impact/High Feasibility: creative zoning for specific residents – service personnel, farmers and farming

High feasibility/medium impact: Farming and agriculture acknowledgment in closing real estate documents

Rural Character - Top Three Projects

- Conservation organizations, Ag Society and town collaborate to protect, promote, and increase land for farming, and community gardens. Publicize!
- Creative zoning aimed specifically at year round residents such as service personnel and farm families.
- Acknowledge in real estate closing documents that we are a farming, agricultural, rural community.

Group 5 Non-Motorized Access

Facilitators: Amelia Smith, Steve Niernberg

Participants: Miguel de Braganca, Susan Graham, Christina Saltmarsh, David Small, Marsha Winsryg, Ron Dagostino

Goal Statement

- Create, publicize, and maintain a safe network of interconnected paths for multiple uses that provide safe access to hubs as well as recreational areas using desired modality.

Possible Projects and Solutions

- Create town paths map and app
- Bike path from WT School to both ends of Old County Road
- Hubs: Alley's/historic district, N. Tisbury business district and Charter School, Lambert's Cove Beach, Ag Hall, Airport, Chilmark and Vineyard Haven- State Road, neighboring towns. Include the maintenance of paths, consider dog walking and equestrian use, take current usage into account in planning as well as defining and enforcing rules, paved paths the length of State Road, Old County Road and road to Lambert's Cove Beach, include in planning signage scheme.

Project Evaluation

High Impact/Medium Feasibility: Paved path State Road and Lambert's Cove Beach

High Feasibility/Medium Impact: Connecting existing paths, paved path on Old County Road, improved sidewalks and pedestrian access in Hubs, improved Wayfinding (signage and app)

Non Motorized Access – Top Three Projects

- Create, publicize and maintain a network of accessible, interconnected and multi-use paths that provide safe non-motorized access to business hubs as well as recreational spots.
- Improve walkability in hubs, including N. Tisbury business district, historic town center, to create or increase social capital and sense of community in these places.
- Connect existing paths and improve wayfinding - maps and signage.

Group 6 Pond and Water Quality

Facilitators: Caroline Mayhew and Dilly Deblase

Participants: Ina Andre, Phyllis N., Richard Knabel, Suki (Barbara) de Braganca, Benjamin Reeve, Prudence Burt, Nancy Cole, Laura Murphy, Sean Conley, Nelia Decker

Goals

- Define the PFAS problem with clear and transparent facts. Provide support for wells that have been damaged due to contaminants of PFAS with more testing
- Protect water quality of ponds and take aggressive action to restore and protect
- Promote and restore fisheries health of fin and shellfish
- Clean and potable drinking water free of contaminants; incentives for responsible use by farms
- Continue to protect watershed lands
- Better education about ponds, watersheds and water health
- Retain the beauty of ponds as the centerpieces of the town

Possible Projects and Solutions

- Create committee to develop regulations regarding nutrients and toxins in ponds
- Enforce fertilizer regs
- Address the source of nitrogen issues - old septic systems (also farms)
- Town sponsored PFAS testing group and what we use on roads
- Ban road salt, find alternatives
- Ban nitrogen on lawns
- What effects do wildlife have on ponds? (swans, deer, geese, turkey, other?)
- Dip goose eggs in oil?
- Shellfish and herring status? Stay active and in touch with Constables
- Millbrook data soon (from Millbrook management group)
- Umbrella watershed committee?
- Investigate public septic systems - upgrade systems wherever possible
- Vegetation filling in our ponds - over enrichment?

Project Evaluation

High Impact/Low Feasibility: PRBs (permeable reactive barriers) for pond health

High Impact/Medium Feasibility: Investigate pocket septic systems

High Impact/High Feasibility: Create PFAS testing group, ban road salt - find alternatives, identify the product put on roads, ban fertilizer - bylaw not enforced by town regulations - educate people about the danger

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility: Review of BOH and animal control and enforce regulations, farm committee, better communication and utilization of the information and enforcement, more resources - Board of Health was overwhelmed by Covid-created enforcement.

High Feasibility/Low Impact: Deer population excessive. How that affects water quality (waterfowl too) in vegetated wetlands

Ponds and Water Quality – Top Three Projects

- Set up umbrella committee to develop regulations to protect surface water and aquifers (PFAS)
- Ban road salt and ban lawn fertilizer
- Septic systems: investigate existing systems, upgrade options, investigate pocket treatment sewage treatment plants.

Group 7 Development

Facilitator: Emily Fischer and Paul Karasik

Participants: Kim Angell, John Abrams, Josh Saltmarsh, Susan Feller, Samanthan Look, Nicola Blake, Laura Silber, Matt Merry, Julius Lowe, Caroline Mayhew, Bob Johnston, Philippe Jordi

Goals

- Imagine growth limit
- Analyze hard data to assess level of growth
- Reassess 3-acre zoning
- Prioritize types of growth with greater needed specificity
- Determine infrastructure needed to support development
- Density to support community
- Optimize opportunities for utilization of open space
- Determine needs of changing population
- Review out of the box toward to a preferred future
- Address key problems and issues:
 - How much more growth to tolerate?
 - Conflicting growth desires
 - Potential to exceed carrying capacity
 - What do we think are our limits to growth
 - More housing needed for support services
 - Current spot zoning restrictions
 - How to rezone fairly without spot zoning

Possible Projects and Solutions

- Housing development revenue to generate revenue to aid affordable housing solutions,
- Toll booth for essential workers paid by clients
- Prioritize West Tisbury needs regarding open space and new development
- Identify redundant services on-island, expand mixed business district to create higher density
- Covenant Home zoning like Nantucket
- Multi-family homes
- Focus on under-sized lots in residential districts
- Look at other models including Jackson Hole-like tiered development
- Protect sensitive environments through zoning in light of climate change
- Net zero implemented
- Create more year round housing
- Evaluate and designate areas of density
- Create shelter spaces in unused vacant housing
- Incentives for low cost housing development opportunities/inventory from existing houses
- Short term rental tax for housing solutions
- Educate people about development prior to town meeting
- Form based zoning - finding models

Project Evaluation

High Impact/Low Feasibility: Invest in water and sewer infrastructure for areas proposed for high density

Medium Impact/Low Feasibility: pinpoint redundant town infrastructure, thinking regionally

High impact/Medium Feasibility: Increase tax rate on second homes, Net zero, zoning to protect sensitive ecosystems, tax exemption for year round residents, lease to locals on ongoing basis, education

High Impact/High Feasibility: Housing bank, Covenant Program re: ADUs, Duplexes for year round housing, look at successful models elsewhere, form-based zoning - find models elsewhere, focus on undersized lots in existing communities for year round housing development, expand mixed business district and encourage development of more density there, mixed use development in existing developed areas such as North Tisbury

Low Impact/Low Feasibility: toll booth for essential workers, buying year round restrictions from people who rent seasonally (1 time payment)

Medium Impact/Medium Feasibility: town participatory budgeting

Development – Top Three Projects

- Redesign the “mixed business” district (around Cronigs) to create a village center
- Zoning reform project: for year round housing. Reduce lot size requirement for secondary and tertiary dwellings, make undersized lots usable, create a managed growth bylaw
- Educate to inform citizenry and discuss development (food and child care provided)

Group 8 Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

Facilitators: Ollie Becker and Nancy Hoffman

Participants: Richard Andre, Zada Clark, Kate Warner, Rose Willet, Sue Harvey, Matt Coffey, Jana Bertkau, Whit Griswold, Louis de Geofroy

Goals

- Identify actions the town can take to address, adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- Clarify and define issues including:
 - Metering, charging availability
 - Charging at home versus public
 - Community’s ability to respond to emergencies
 - Forest management and proactive fire prevention
 - Communication about incentives available

Project Evaluation

High Impact/Low Feasibility: forest management, neighborhood FireWise

Medium Impact/Low Feasibility: large (walk in) freezer for emergencies

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility: develop a community emergency response plan, develop a neighborhood network and road association and HOA list

High Impact/High Feasibility: food waste solutions and islandwide composting, communicate current fire and police emergency management plans, climate line item in budget

Medium Impact/Medium Feasibility: rain tanks and cisterns for water collection

High Feasibility/Moderate Impact: Island food production for self sufficiency and less importing, micro gardens and community gardens

Climate Mitigation and Adaptation - Top Three Projects

- Help police and fire communicate to develop a community emergency response plan
- Food waste management to reduce exports and increase self-sufficiency
- Add line item in town budget for climate related adaptation and mitigation projects

Group 9 Education for all Ages

Facilitator: Abbie Zell and Phyllis Segal

Participants: Robin Friedrichs-Moriarity, Alex Buller Coutts, Hugh Phear

Goal Statement

- To create an informed, competent, and engaged multi-generational, diverse and inclusive citizenry.

Possible Projects and Solutions

- Catalog resources
- Define competency
- Discuss regionalizing the school system
- Needs assessment: identify gaps (regionally) eg arts, STEM, sex ed.
- Support universal pre-K, year round child care
- Consider regional schools
- Create community learning spaces: large, accessible, year-round
- Consider a community school model
- Consider town grants/foundation grants/scholarships (multi-generational lifelong learning), create a curriculum feedback forum

Project Evaluation

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility: Community learning spaces, consider a community school, consider regional schools, create a mission statement, define competency

High Impact/High Feasibility: Catalog resources, identify service gaps and needs, consider a town/multigenerational/regional foundation to raise \$, support universal pre-K

Medium Impact/High Feasibility: Expand and strengthen school advisory board

Education for all Ages - Top Three Projects

- Establish a committee to advance innovation and inclusive lifelong multigenerational learning as a town and regional priority
- Conduct needs assessment of space, educators and programs. Catalog resources, identify groups, propose solutions
- Create and catalog dedicated community learning spaces: accessible, inclusive, easy to book

Group 10 Health Care and Social Services

Facilitators: Paul Farrington and Jim Graham

Participants: Jennie Isabell Shin, Peter Nessen, Sundy Smith, Cynthia Mitchell, Bethany Hammond, Gabrielle Whitcombe

Goal

- Affordable, equitable health care, including mental health services accessible to all while filling all the service gaps at the local level and beyond

Possible Projects and Solutions

- Health promotion, affordability
- Include treatment of Homelessness
- Provide Access to healthy food
- Baked-in patient advocacy and patient feedback
- Free-flowing communication and participation back and forth between providers and community
- Guidance and wayfinding - ease of access
- Conduct inventory of services available/services needed
- Educating and supporting
- Transportation even off island
- Address childcare issues: lack of, expense
- Deal with the ticks – mobile tick truck?
- Revisit the tick study
- Look at other models of certified community health systems - eg Houston model
- Strong public health leadership needed a la Covid response
- Must be economically viable

Project Evaluation

High Impact/High Feasibility: Health resource clearing house

High Impact/Medium Feasibility: Develop a community health worker network, create a dedicated tick-borne disease clinic

Health Care and Social Services – Top Three Projects

- Develop a community health care worker network
- Create a health resource clearing house
- Create a dedicated tick-borne disease clinic



Saturday Afternoon

Project Selection

We returned to the large group for lunch. Volunteers from each morning group described the projects generated by the morning discussions and facilitator Delia Clark led a short session where we looked for overlapping or closely related ideas, and combined them where appropriate. Once the final project list was determined, each participant received three colored dots to place beside the projects of their first, second, and third choice/preference (red, green and yellow, respectively.) Red dots were worth 3 points, green were worth 2 points, and yellow were worth 1 point. Here are the results of the voting:

1. Communication

- 1) Invest in communication! Eg. Hire a communications director; develop website; use interns/students. (Projects 1, 2, and 3 under communication have been consolidated into one communication department.) Total dot count merged 1,2,& 3. [17 red, 8 green, 12 yellow: 79 points]
- 2) Hold more community events: eg: outreach forums, library gatherings, neighborhood potlucks, coffees, second town meeting.
- 3) Consolidate database for towns to receive announcements and information.

2. Diversity, Inclusion, Representation

1. Student outreach: for a teen advisory board to town governance and committees. [1 green, one yellow: 4 points]
2. Form a nominating committee to do targeted outreach to underrepresented groups for town government positions. [two red, two yellow: 8 points]
3. Adopt a land acknowledgement statement that honors the Wampanoag Tribe, to be read at all town meetings and events. [3 red, 3 green, 2 yellow: 17 points]

3. Community Building

1. Spring and Fall town-wide party/event. Eg. Run/walk, with a party held at the end. [1 yellow: 1 point]
2. Village Center reimaged (town square) - beginning with more outdoor seating. [9 red, 10 green, 11 yellow: 58 points]
3. Enable food trucks [1 green, 1 yellow: 3 points]

4. Rural Character

1. Conservation organizations, Ag Society and town collaborate to protect, promote, and increase land for farming, and community gardens. Publicize! [One red, 2 green, 1 yellow: 8 points]
2. Creative zoning aimed specifically at year round residents such as service personnel and farm families. [Merged points with 7-2]
3. Acknowledge in real estate closing documents that we are a farming, agricultural, rural community. [2 yellow: 2 points]

5. Non-Motorized Access

1. Create, publicize and maintain a network of accessible, interconnected and multi-use paths that provide safe non-motorized access to business hubs as well as recreational spots. [4 red, 9 green, 3 yellow: 33 points]
2. Improve walkability in hubs, including N. Tisbury business district, historic town center, to create or increase social capital and sense of community in these places. [dots moved to 3-2 or 7-1]
3. Connect existing paths and improve wayfinding - maps and signage. [1 yellow: 1 point]

6. Ponds and Water Quality

1. Set up an umbrella committee to develop regulations to protect surface water and aquifers (PFAS). [7 red, 6 green, 8 yellow: 49 points]
2. Ban road salt and ban lawn fertilizer [dots moved to 6.1]
3. Septic systems: investigate existing systems, upgrade options, investigate pocket treatment sewage treatment plants. [1 green:2 points]

7. Development

1. Redesign the “mixed business” district (around Cronigs) to create a village center. [8 red, 11 green, 3 yellow: 49 points]
2. Zoning reform project: For year round housing: reduce lot size requirement for secondary and tertiary dwellings, make undersized lots usable, create a managed growth bylaw. [10 red, 11 green, 4 yellow: 56 points]
3. Educate to inform citizenry and discuss development (food and child care provided). [dots moved to 1-1]

8. Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

1. Help police and fire communicate to develop a community emergency response plan. [3 red, 1 green, 4 yellow: 15 points]
2. Food waste management to reduce exports and increase self-sufficiency. [1 red, 3 green: 9 points]
3. Add line item in town budget for climate related adaptation and mitigation projects. [1 red, 2 yellow: 5 points]

9. Education for all Ages

1. Establish a committee to advance innovation and inclusive lifelong multigenerational learning as a town and regional priority. [2 red, 1 green, 9 yellow: 17 points]
2. Conduct needs assessment of space, educators and programs. Catalog resources, identify groups, propose solutions. [dots moved to 1 above]
3. Create and catalog dedicated community learning spaces: accessible, inclusive, easy to book. [dots moved to 1 above]

10. Health Care and Social Services

1. Develop a community health care worker network. [4 red, 2 green, 3 yellow: 19 points]
2. Create a health resource clearing house. [1 green 3 yellow: 5 points]
3. Create a dedicated tick-borne disease clinic. [3 red, 2 green 3 yellow: 16 points]

Action Groups

After the points were tallied, the group discussed those with the most interest, and consolidated the ideas into six “projects” that would begin immediate work through the formation of committees drawn from those present. Those receiving the highest number of points were:

- **Communications Department** [79 points]
- **Protection of Surface Waters and Aquifers** [49 points]
- **Paths for Non-Vehicular Use** [33 points]
- **Development Group Project A – Zoning Reform** [56 points]
- **Development Group Project B – Mixed Business Project** [49 points]
- **Village Center Reimagined** – [58 points]

Participants again self-selected which action group held the most interest for them and reconvened for a final session, where they were charged with planning viable action steps, including one concrete action to be completed before the first meeting. A meeting time within a few weeks, the meeting location, and a volunteer “convener” were to be specified to build on the momentum created by this West Tisbury Visioning Gathering.

Group 1 – Communications Director/ Communications Department

Facilitators: Caroline Flanders and Dilly Deblase

Participants: Maribeth Macaisa, Mia (Amelia) Esparini, Ron Dagostino, Amy Upton, Rachel Baumrin, Wendy Nierenberg, Bea Phear, Doug Ruskin, Jennelle Gadowski

Action Steps

- Establish guidelines for what the committee can do
- Create job description for position of communications director and a job description for the department
- Think creatively and outside the box
- Communicate with public via newsletter
- A communications department that is multi-lingual and ADA equitable
- Identify why a communication department is needed and what the benefits would be
- Create avenues that invite participation
- Create reminders of how to opt into town website information
- Use communication tools to advance all of the town’s interests... build social capital
- Meetings – coffee house style
- Make space for public forums
- Content has stated goal (temporary)
- Paid position

- Mechanisms/technology: using both press media and social media tools to get information out there
- Opt in system with town website
- Hold a town sponsored event

Next Meeting

- Project Convener: Jennelle Gadowski
- Date and time of the next meeting: TBD but SOON

Group 2 – Protection of Surface Waters and Aquifers

Facilitators: Abbie Zell and Elle Lash

Participants: Laura Murphy, Valerie Becker, Prudy Burt, Sue Hruby, Jana Bertkau, Jim Graham, Matt Merry, Nelia Decker, Ginny Jones

Goal

- Set up a committee to develop and regulate surface H2O and aquifer

Action Steps

Why Needed?

- Ponds are dying
- Only 1 aquifer
- Safety and well-being
- Beauty, Recreation, Tourism
- Fishing and shellfishing
- Preservation and Restoration
- For future generations

How?

- West Tisbury Great Pond Riparian owners
- More Pond openings (flushing) – not enough budget (regulated by state, height requirements)
- Salinity regulations
- Dredging is a solution? Permits needed
- Modify permitting around sand for revetments
- Ban fertilizers and road salts
- Improve Septic Systems
- Putting out oysters - propagation

Who?

- Education needed
- Conservation Commission BOH
- Great Pond Foundation
- Shellfish Advisory Committee
- Landscapers
- Real Estate Agents
- Sheriffs Meadow Foundation

- Nature Conservancy
- Vineyard Conservation Society
- Andrew Jacobs
- Riparian owners
- Homeowners with pond frontage
- Mill Brook Watershed Committee

Next Meeting

- Project Meeting Convener: Nelia Decker
- Meeting Date: May 22
- Time: 5:30pm
- Place: Library, big conference room, or outside

Group 3 – Paths for Non-Vehicular Use

Facilitators: Harriet Bernstein and Paul Farrington

Participants: Marc Rosenbaum, Jennie Isbell Shinn, Rose Willet, Nicola Blake, Josh Saltmarsh

Action Steps

Bike and Pedestrian Committee of MV Commission

Get Complete Streets going again/ make contact

Talk with West Tisbury police dept.

Paul: Complete Streets/ Bill Veno

Nicola: on agenda for Complete Streets

Josh: contact MV Commission

Address all Safety concerns (unsafe near N. Tisbury business district)

Connect and sign all non-vehicular paths including business district connections without a car

Regulate e-bikes and scooters, etc. and enforce regulations

Transportation Committee on MV Commission

Signage on steamships

Policy, enforcement, practice and education

Determine who maintains paths

Bike path VH to Aquinnah

Next Meeting

- Convener: Paul Farrington (508) 737-6066
- Date: Sat. September 28
- Time: 10:00 am

Group 4 – Development Group

Facilitators: Amelia Smith and Paul Karasik

Participants: Terre Young, Daniel Mayhew, Laurie Peter, John Abrams, Sebastian Hiatt, Paul Mandalik, Julius Lowe, Constance Toreanu, Emily Fischer, Leah Smith, Roberta Kirn, Beatrice Nessen, Susan Feller, Kim Angell, Steve Nierenberg, Woollcott Smith, Joy Robinson-Lynch, Jess Miller, Caroline Mayhew

Project A - Zoning Reform

Action Plan Summary:

- Public Visioning meeting similar to Visioning Sessions held this weekend that would include both a presentation about present town zoning regulations and how zoning works as well as general brainstorming.
- 1st draft of Plan created over several following meetings.
- Impact study to collect/analyze supplementary data and gauge impact on infrastructure and resources.
- Communicate plan and solicit public feedback.
- Eventually form Warrant Article to present to Town Meeting.

Next Meeting

- Project Conveners: Julius Lowe and Emily Fischer
- Project Meeting Location: WT Library
- Date: Mid-May

Project B: Mixed Business Project

Action Plan Summary

- Several years ago, South Mountain created a plan for revisioning the North Tisbury area around Cronig's Market. John will bring this plan to the meeting as a starting point for the discussion of how to transform that area into a Village Center conducive to townspeople meeting, socializing, shopping, strolling, etc. Included will be a vision for new housing opportunities and businesses in the area while retaining the small towns virtues.

Next Meeting

- Project Convener: John Abrams
- Project Meeting Location: South Mountain Co.
- Date: Saturday, July 20, 2024

Group 5 - Village Center Reimagined

Facilitators: Nancy Hoffman, Arielle Faria

Participants: Terri Mello, Nova Smith, Sheila Morse, Avril Espy, Sean Conley, Nancy Dole, Marsha Winsryg, Indaia Whitcombe, Jo-Ann Taylor, Christina Saltmarsh, Gabrielle Whitcombe

Goals

- Better use of Spaces and Places
- Identify, map, and connect places and spaces
- Currently located in the West Tisbury Historic District, the goal is to create spaces for community gatherings using current and new spaces
- Create a ‘Village Square’
- Create inclusive events to draw the community together in the ‘hub’ of our town
- Focus on multi-generational, diverse, and all-inclusive events

- Bolster our sense of community with public and private spaces in the village
- Fun & free events
- Better use of town center - Village Center/Square

Places & Spaces - owned by the town & privately owned

- Library
- Library Grounds
- Grange Hall
- Ag Hall
- 7A
- Town Hall
- Howes House
- Field at the Field Gallery
- Mill Pond
- Mill Pond House
- Alleys
- West Tisbury School

Ideas for Better and More Events

- Make food trucks happen
- Event Expo - an annual event planning Expo. In the fall/early winter, anyone interested in having an event the following year would fill out an application with event information. A committee would be set up to review applications. Event schedule would be set up by January 1 for the year.
- Music & Poetry & Food
- 7A - permission to allow seating for gathering
- Ice Cream Window
- West Tisbury Running Event (our Chilmark Road Race)
- Speed Dating/Singles Night
- More/Expansion of seasonal town parties
- West Tisbury PotLuck Event
- Three Consistent Events a Year - Spring, Winter, Fall
- Daytime Events
- Coffee shop - gathering space - location
- Tea Room/Salon
- 'Euro' Town center - Village as a hub
- Current town parties - be more welcoming

Obstacles/Barriers

- Parking and Access
- Preservation Trust
- Cost, buildings, land, maintenance
- Traffic, congestion, main road
- Lack of walking paths
- Restricted access/hours
- Residential and existing Zoning

Solutions

- Picnic Benches
- Shade
- Identify Parking needs
- Howes House used for multiple generations and uses
- Field Gallery Land - town owned park
- Fix sidewalks and bikeability
- Identify green spaces that have public access
- Change zoning by-laws (permission for food trucks)
- Dedicating public funds
- Working relationships with private and town organizations

Leadership for Group

- Avril Epsy - 508-274-9213 - Fearless Leader
- Sheila Morse - 508-627-0715 - Assistant to Avril
- Committee: Nova Smith, Teri Mello, Cristina Saltmarsh

Resources for Group

- No open meeting requirements at this time
- First meeting will take place at the Howes House Library on May 14th at 5pm
- Meetings will be once per month



Appendix 1: Promotional Articles

Vineyard Gazette

West Tisbury Envisions Its Future

Thomas Humphrey

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 - 11:35am

West Tisbury residents will get a chance this week to weigh in on what path their town should take in the coming decades at a series of public visioning sessions put on as part of the town's Master Plan development process.

The series will kick-off with a potluck dinner on Friday, April 26 at the West Tisbury school from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., followed by a community brainstorming session from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, also at the school, where breakfast and lunch will be served.

It is the first time in 25 years that the town has embarked on the process, said visioning committee member and Vineyard Conservation Society director Samantha Look, and could prove critical for future town planning and advocacy.

"It's an opportunity that's put to everyone in the town, to have a voice in thinking about what our aspirations are for the future of our community," Ms. Look said, in an interview with the Gazette.

The results of the previous visioning process, Ms. Look said, have become a key tool in achieving Island conservation goals for the last quarter century.

"In my own experience, working on bylaw changes, or initiatives that were going to impact the town, we literally pointed to language that came out of that process," she said. "As someone advocating for something, that was really, really meaningful and powerful."

This current round of visioning, Ms. Look said, gives residents an opportunity to weigh in during a critical inflection point for the Island and town.

"I do feel like the Vineyard, and West Tisbury as part of the Vineyard, are at a really pivotal moment," she said. "It's an incredibly important time for people to come out and speak up about these things...I think we really need to put our best minds on being creative and stretching to think of what innovations we have out there that protect our community."

The visioning process will inform the creation of a town-wide master plan. A master plan provides guidance for future land use, economic development, housing and other matters of public policies for Massachusetts municipalities.

More information on the visioning event can be found at the West Tisbury town website, or by emailing visioning@westtisbury-ma.gov; childcare and transportation options are available.

Envisioning West Tisbury's Future

A town planning board member encourages the younger generation to bring ideas.

By **Funki Seonwoo**

April 17, 2024

West Tisbury is bringing residents together this month to ask a simple yet difficult question: What do you want for your town's future?

More than two decades ago, West Tisbury residents gathered together to determine a path forward for their community. Now residents will now have a similar opportunity to voice how they want to shape the up-Island town.

West Tisbury will be hosting a “visioning session” at West Tisbury School on Friday, April 26, from 5 pm to 8:30 pm, and Saturday, April 27, from 8:45 am to 3 pm. Part brainstorming effort and part community event, Friday will consist of a potluck dinner, trivia, and the compilation of ideas and topics, while on Saturday the town will continue the discussion and formalize ideas, while also serving breakfast and lunch. “This event will be a collaborative effort by all members of the community, seasonal and year-round, to identify what is important to us as a community and to document our shared priorities,” an [announcement for the event](#) reads. “The data collected — your ideas, opinions, comments and questions — will be an integral part of a new master plan for the town. The visioning results may also influence decisions made by town leaders about bylaws, regulations, and enforcement.”

Last year, West Tisbury voters approved the [use of \\$25,000 to hire consultant](#) Delia Clark to help with the visioning process. Clark, who is from Vermont, has been working with the town through Zoom, according to West Tisbury planning board administrator Jane Rossi. Clark also conducted the visioning process for the town 25 years ago, by compiling data and facilitating the visioning sessions. In preparation for next week's visioning session, the town also established a 23-person visioning committee.

West Tisbury planning board member Matt Merry, who participated in the earlier visioning session in his mid-twenties, encouraged all people who want to see change or provide ideas for the town to participate in the sessions. “If people don't participate, then you really don't know what people want,” he said. Merry said the gathered information will help steer the planning board for the next 25

years, and to address changes in the near future.

When asked whether people's priorities have shifted over the years, Merry said town residents really wanted to preserve the rural character of West Tisbury during the visioning process 25 years ago.

"I think in the last 25 years, the planning board has honored that," he said, adding that it was beneficial to understand what his neighbors wanted. "For planning, it's certainly better to hear from your constituents than it is to directly govern." While Merry can't be exactly sure what kind of issues residents would want the town to address this time, he expects housing to be brought up, particularly regarding affordability and whether denser neighborhoods were needed in West Tisbury to address the housing supply.

Although everyone in town is invited to attend, Merry said he particularly hopes the younger generation of West Tisbury residents will help in developing "a road map for their future.

"I was 25 years old ... and I think it was important as a young person to be there," he said. "I encourage other younger people to join us this time around." For those who may need transportation or childcare services for visioning session, contact West Tisbury planning board administrator Jane Rossi at visioning@westtisbury-ma.gov, or 508-696-0149, with further questions.

West Tisbury Statistics



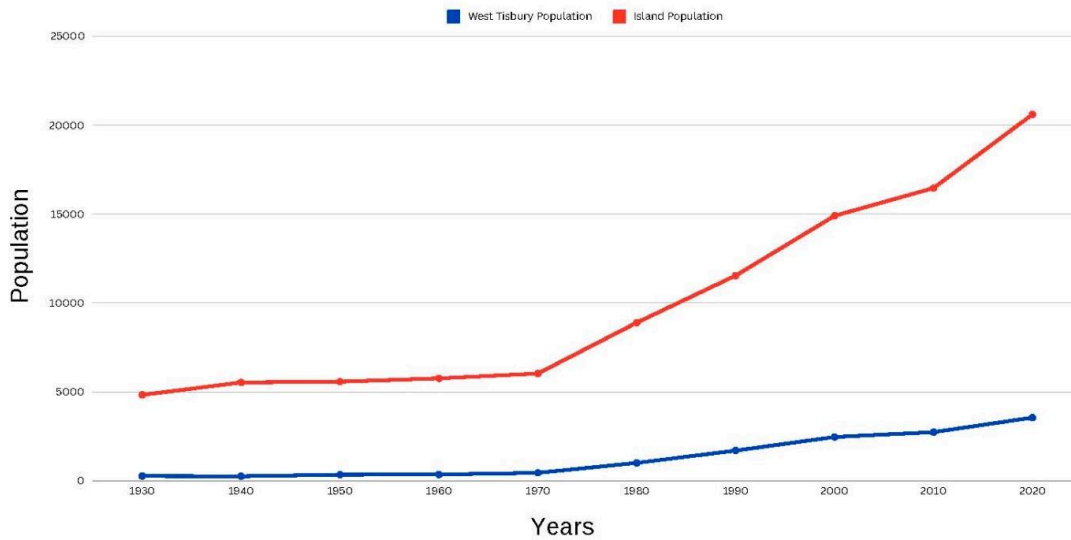
Total Population

After holding steady for most of the 1900s, our population exploded from the 70s onward.

	Aquinnah	Chilmark	Edgartown	Oak Bluffs	Tisbury	W. Tisbury	MV
1930	161	252	1276	1333	1541	270	4833
1940	127	226	1370	1584	1966	260	5533
1950	88	183	1508	1521	1930	347	5577
1960	103	238	147	1419	2169	360	5763
1970	118	340	1481	1385	2257	453	6034
1980	220	489	2204	1984	2972	1010	8897
1990	201	650	3062	2804	3120	1704	11541
2000	344	843	3779	3713	3755	2467	14901
2010	311	864	4067	4524	3952	2740	16460
2020	439	1212	5168	5341	4815	3555	20530
Town street list 2022*	496	1195	4835	5123	4274	3059	18982

Source: US Census Bureau (Decennial Census Count), town street list

*age 16+



Racial and ethnic diversity by town 2020 (percentage of total population)

	Aquinnah	Chilmark	Edg.	O.B.	Tisbury	W. Tis.	MV	State
White	62.6	91.6	82.2	73.4	74.2	85.6	78.79	69.65
Black or African-America	1.8	1	2.2	7.2	4.2	2	3.86	7.03
American Indian and Alaska Native	21.9	0.2	0.3	1	0.5	0.3	0.98	0.34
Asian	0.9	0.7	0.9	1	1	0.6	0.89	7.23
Native Hawaiian, other pacific Islander	0	0	0.02	0.13	0	0.06	0.04	0.03
Another Race	0.5	1	3	4.2	3.9	3.4	4.03	7.07
Two of more races	6.6	3.8	8.6	10.6	12.9	6.6	10.81	4.67
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	5.7	1.7	2.8	2.5	3.2	1.5	2.59	12.63

Source: US Census Decennial Counts

According to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in 2023 16.4% of students at the West Tisbury School speak a “language other than English” at home or are “English language learners.”

An Aging Population

In 2016, the median age in Dukes County (46.5) was seven years higher than in the state (39.4), according to the American Community Survey. People ages 65–74 are the fastest growing age group in the state and the country.

In keeping with the overall pattern in Dukes County, every Island town in 2021 was estimated to have a higher percentage of people ages 65–74 than in 2016, especially Chilmark, West Tisbury, and Aquinnah.

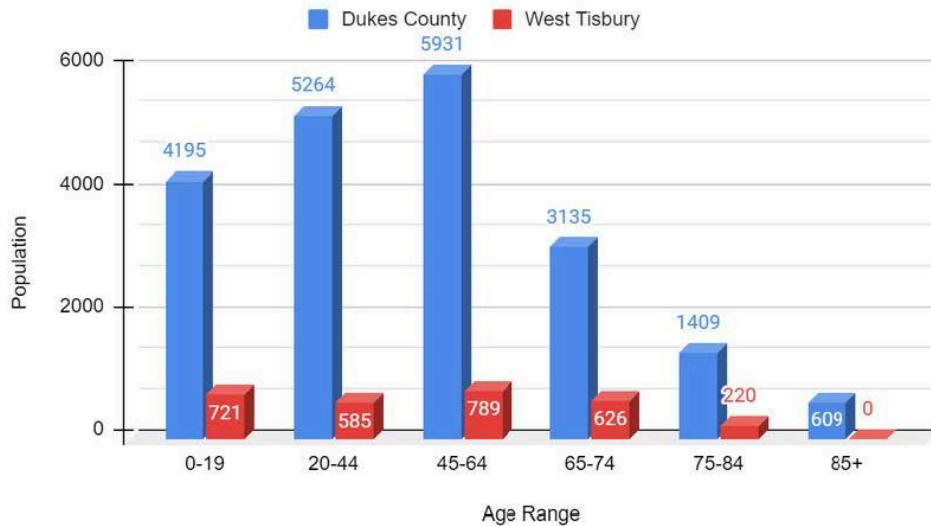
Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Estimated percent of population 65 and older:

	Aquinnah	Chilmark	Edgartown	Oak Bluffs	Tisbury	W. Tisbury	Dukes County
65 to 69	5.5	10.9	4.5	6.3	8.3	9.9	7.1
70 to 74	16.5	9.2	5.1	6.7	6.2	16.1	8.1
75 to 79	2.5	6.8	3.6	3.2	3	6.6	4
80 to 84	0.9	4.2	0.7	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.8
85 and over	1.2	2.1	5	1.2	5.2	0.8	3

Data from the MV Commission Statistical Profile and the Up-Island Council on Aging, 2023.

Dukes County and West Tisbury



Status

S = Seasonal
YR = Year Round

Use type

NR = Non Residential
R = Residential

Structures in town

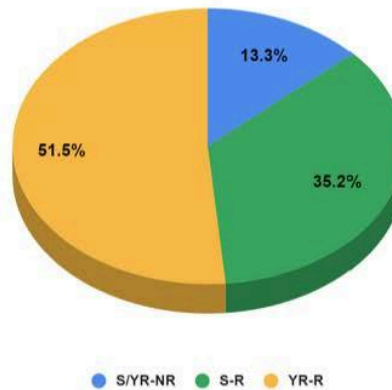
Data from the MV Commission Statistical Profile, 2023.

	Aquinnah	Chilmark	Edgartown	Oak Bluffs	Tisbury	West Tisbury	MV Total
S-NR	5	11	173	58	86	60	393
S-R	354	1366	3701	2381	1302	1152	10256
YR-NR	66	103	380	309	389	349	1596
YR-R	188	788	2235	2041	1838	1683	8773
Total	613	2,268	6489	4789	3615	3244	21018

Aquinnah	204
Chilmark	538
Gosnold	35
Edgartown	2191
Oak Bluffs	2316
Tisbury	2139
W. Tisbury	1509
County	8932

Occupied housing units by town, Dec. 2020

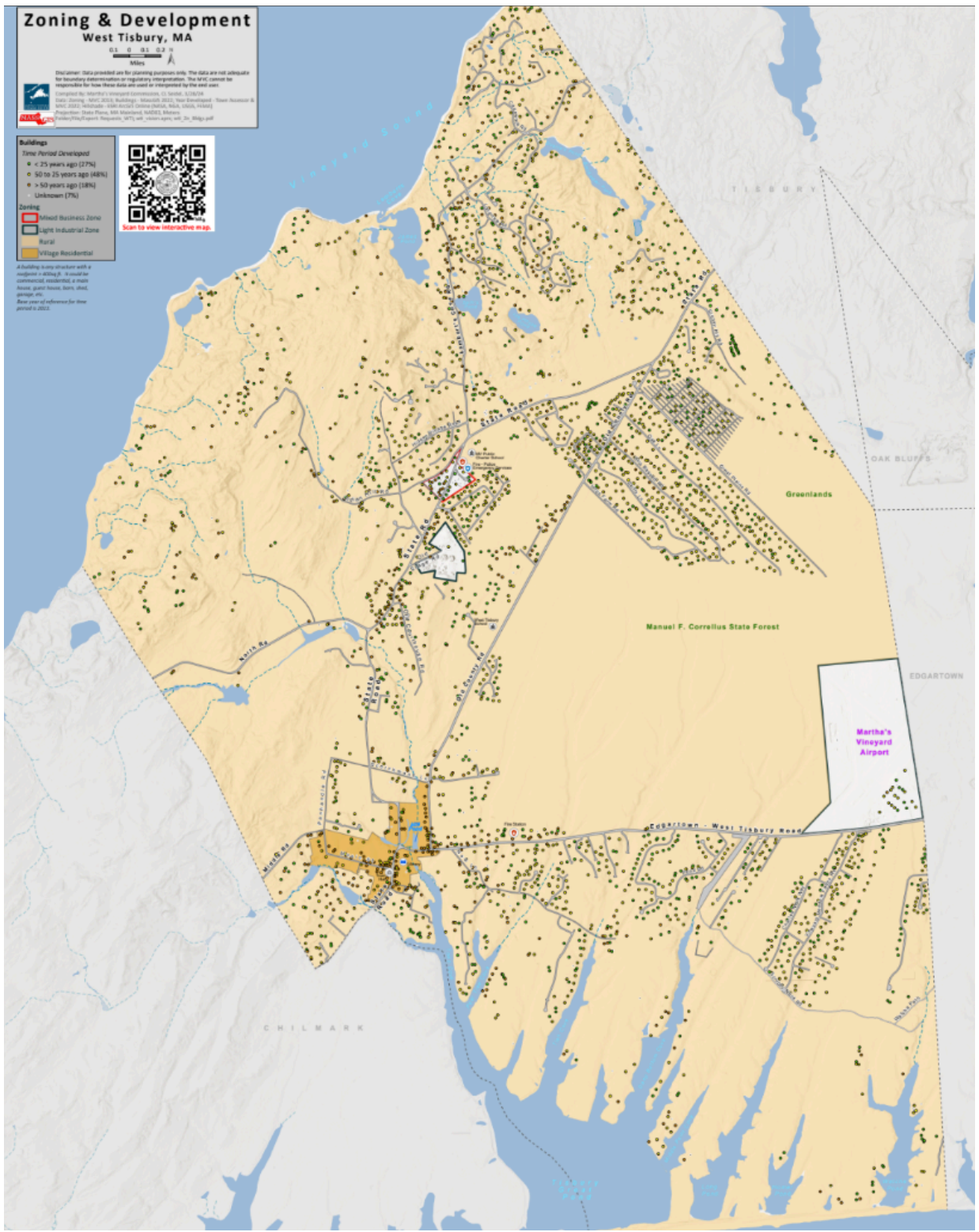
Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates (DP04), DEC



West Tisbury

Some unknowns:

- Home businesses
- Number affordable housing units
- Short term rentals
- Maintenance of town buildings
- Future technological changes
- Cultural needs/norms



Appendix 4 – List of Participants

Thank you to all that participated in some or all of the event:

John Abrams	Barbara deBraganca	Elle Lash
Michael Accinno	Miguel deBraganca	Kanta Lipsky
Lisa Amols	Nelia Decker	Jonah Lipsky
Ina Andre	Louis deGeofroy	Kathy Logue
Richard Andre	Nancy Dole	Samantha Look
Kim Angell	Liza Duke	Milena Lowe
Simon Athearn	Amelia Espy	Julius Lowe
Randi Baird	Avril Espy	Christopher Lyons
Cathlin Baker	Arielle Faria	Chris Lyons
Rachel Baumrin	Paul Farrington	Maribeth Macaisa
Ollie Becker	Susan Feller	Thaw Malin
Valerie Becker	David Fielder	Skipper Manter
Suzan Bellincampi	Caroline Flanders	Daniel Mayhew
Harriet Bernstein	David Foster	Caroline Mayhew
Jana Bertkau	Jennie Gadowski	Teri Mello
Richard Bertkau	Jennelle Gadowski	Paul Mandelik
Nicola Blake	Harvey Garneau	Laura Mandelik
Cynthia Bloomquist	Matt Gebo	Matt Merry
Tess Bramhall	Susan Graham	Jessica Miller
Catherine Brennan	Jim Graham	Cynthia Mitchell
Hallie Brevetti	Whit Griswold	Paddy Moore
Alexandra Bullen Coutts	Bethany Hammond	Robin Moriarty
Nicole Cabot	Rob Hauck	Sheila Morse
Meg Carmen	Elizabeth Hirsch	Chris Morse
Samantha Carrick	Chuck Hodgkinson	Laura Murphy
Christopher Carrick	Nancy Hoffman	Peter Nessen
Zada Clarke	Sue Hruby	Beatrice Nessen
Phyllis Meras Cocroft	D. Jared Hull	Victoria Nessen
Matt Coffey	Jennie Isbell Shinn	Mark Nichol
Nancy Cole	Sherwood Ives	Wendy Nierenberg
Tony Confalone	Ty Johnston	Steve Nierenberg
Sean Conley	Bob Johnston	Oliver Osnoss
Alex Buller Coutts	Philippe Jordi	Greg Pachico
Sanyuri Cunningham	Paul Karasik	Laurie Peta
Ron Dagostino	Roberta Kirn	Beatrice Phear
Diana Dilly Deblase	Richard Knabel	Hugh Phear

Victoria Phillips
Alexandra Pratt
Nadine Pravda
Jeff Pravda
Nevette Previd
Benjamin Reeve
Joy Robinson-Lynch
Marc Rosenbaum
Cristina Saltmarsh
Josh Saltmarsh
Larry Schubert
Doug Ruskin
Ben Scott

Lainey Fink Scott
Phyllis Segal
Laura Silber
David Small
Sundy Smith
Woollcott Smith
Christopher Smith
Nova Smith
Amelia Smith
Leah Smith
Rebecca Soloway
Jo-Ann Taylor
Gail Tipton

Constance Tozeanu
Amy Upton
Linda Vadasz
Kate Warner
Suzi Wasserman
Bob Wasserman
Dan Waters
Cleo Wild
Rose Willett
Marsha Winsryg
Terre Young
Abbie Zell

In addition thank you to:

Delia Clark - Consultant

Ken Vincent - Artist

The West Tisbury School and their dedicated custodial staff.

Tisbury Printer - Posters and Fliers

Cash & Carry Food - Utensils and Drinks

Stop & Shop - Sandwiches and Fruit

The Scottish Bakehouse - Breakfast and Coffee

Steve McCullough - Sound Engineer