

Board of
Selectmen
Recommendation

September 30, 2019



Chatham 365 Background

- Chatham Board of Selectmen recognized there is in Chatham a:
 - Demographic imbalance
 - Disparity of wealth
 - Shortage of attainable year-round housing
- In response Chatham 365 Task Force was created

Chatham 365 Mission

To identify the problem and help the town shift its policies and planning to help preserve the character and heart of the town.

Chatham 365 Task Force Members

- Lindsay Bierwirth
 - Bill Bystrom
 - Peter Cocolis
 - Shareen Davis
 - Christopher Hercun
 - Katie Nickerson
 - Brad Schiff
 - Tracy Shields
 - Alysia Sweeney
 - Brett Tolley
 - Danielle Tolley
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- Katie Donovan – Staff

Chatham 365 Process

- Team began meeting in January 2019
- Brainstormed team's expected outcomes:
 - How to capture the energy of the community?
 - What questions are we trying to answer?
 - Why are we asking these questions?
 - Who are we targeting?
 - What is the best way to get public feedback?
- Utilized group decision making technique to determine priorities
- Decided to host Public Forum

Public Forum...Why?

- To understand the problem
- Need input for solutions
- To strengthen the community
- To develop a plan of action
- Determined who to invite, what questions to ask, the logistics, and method to communicate the forum

Public Forum Method

- Held two forums in April 2019
- Invited all:
 - Town residents
 - Tax payers
 - Who work in Chatham
 - Grew up in Chatham
 - Wish to live in Chatham
- Utilized meeting facilitation to ask questions in a non-evaluative atmosphere
- Took place at Chatham Community Center
- Had 140 participate in forum
- Offered participation via email as alternate

Public Forum Questions

- How did we get to the place where it is so hard to live in Chatham year-round?
- What are the challenges to live in Chatham year-round?
- What would move Chatham to become a thriving, vibrant community?

Public Forum Results

- Will summarize Questions 1/2 tonight
- Have provided ALL result summaries in written report to Board of Selectmen for Questions 1, 2, 3
- Have provided detailed written recommendations including the rationale, examples from other Towns and the benefits for Chatham
- Question 3 is the Task Force members' recommendations, which is based upon the public comment

Public Forum Question 1 Results

- How did we get to this place?
 - Second home market
 - Income disparity
 - Lack of affordable housing
 - Zoning is too strict
 - Focused marketing on tourism
 - Outstanding fiscal management/low tax rate
 - New/summer residents unaware of economic diversity

Public Forum Question 2 Results

- What are the challenges?
 - High cost of living
 - Lack of employment/ year-round jobs
 - Affordable/Attainable housing is not available
 - Sense of community is lacking
 - Not enough community services
 - Not just for one demographic group
 - Business owner issues

Current Initiatives Underway that Chatham 365 Supports

- Limiting size of residential construction
- Bringing an academic institution to Chatham
- Dredging for fishing fleet

Chatham 365 Recommendations

- Economic Empowerment
- Dynamic Zoning
- Community Buoyancy
- Civic Vibrancy

Economic Empowerment

Fostering Job Opportunities

- Get high speed internet
- Incentive for remote businesses/Explore remote worker program
- Increase minimum wage town wide at \$15
- Incentivize childcare providers
- Encourage a seafood processing plant to open

Dynamic Zoning

Adapting to changing needs in our community

- Change zoning bylaws
- Need more apartments, townhouses, cluster housing
- Allow high density zoning
- Have a new CHOP style neighborhood for all
- Stop developers from tearing down homes
- Revise Mandatory Affordable Units section of the bylaw

Community Buoyancy

Mitigating costs to live here

- Mitigate sewer hookup costs for year-round working families
- Have residential tax exemption
- Give tax breaks for property owners who offer year-round rentals
- Have more childcare assistance for all ages/Town funded Universal Pre-K
- Make sure elementary schools maintain district boundaries
- Allow for intra-district school choice
- Offer joint Chatham/Harwich beach stickers for year-round residents
- Increase subsidies for home modifications
- Have banks work with realtors
- Offer down payment assistance program

Civic Vibrancy

The power of engagement

- Have Committee to re-vision Town Meetings
- Have more young people involved
- Change Town Meeting to Saturday for larger turnout
- Build senior center to help connect kids with seniors
- Have a community pool
- Have year-round residents/merchant's forum
- Portal to streamline communication, efficient website, universal calendar
- Create community awareness for summer residents
- Keep talking about issues and holding forums

To the Future

- Have a formal Town Vision which includes a Strategic Plan for sustaining year-round residents with strict accountability measures
- Have a quantifiable goal to close the gap between housing and wages
- When changing policy, look at how the change will affect the demographic we are focusing on
- Establish semi-annual Chatham 365 Task Force
- BOS should consider what can be accomplished in both short and long-term when setting it's 2020 Goals and Objectives

Comments and Questions?