

# Grand Isle Community Vision Event Summary of Comments

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Planning Commission Discussion 9/5/23

Comments on the current town plan vision were grouped into the following categories:



## Comments Related to Housing

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Several comments related to attracting diverse age groups.

- "Housing which uses 60% of income does not create conditions to attract many people, including elderly."
- "We need to also think about areas and conditions for affordable housing to truly attract younger people."
- "A designated town center would go far to attract younger people."
- "Create areas for denser affordable housing to grow while maintaining rural character in most areas."

"What can be done to attract young people to Grand Isle? Can it be affordable for them to live here?"

What can Grand Isle do to improve affordable housing options for residents?

## Comments Related to Recreation

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- Bike Paths
  - "Protected bike lanes."
  - "Dedicated bike path."
- Beach Access
  - "Town beach bigger than Mary Crest."
  - "Beach access (not boat launch), swimming, paddleboarding, and kayaking."
  - "Port-o-lets @ Mary Crest Beach."

## Comments Related to Commercial Development

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- "Café or breakfast diner etc."
- "New post office"
- "Can we incentivize locally-owned small businesses? Over big biz & chains"
- "Better define what "commercial recreation" is and reconsider this zoning designation"
- "A designated town center would go far to attract younger people"

## Comments Related to Energy Efficiency

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- "Charging station at town office."
- "Self-sufficient energy; "more solar""
- "Water & electric – do what we can to ensure continued service. Plan for weather extremes. Can Grand Isle be 100% self-sufficient?"

## Comments Related to Natural Resources and Conservation

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- "Town plan does a great job establishing character & natural beauty as important and needs specific language (examples & policy) to defend these assets in court for act 250 disputes."
- "How do we protect our #1 asset (water quality)?"
- "Wildlife corridors"

## Comments Related to Municipal Town Center

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- The word 'community' was mentioned frequently, along with gathering/bringing people together.
  - "Community space for social gatherings (weddings, dances, music, theater, films, etc.)."
  - "Create a center/sense of community."
  - "I think we need to focus on a multi-purpose venue to strengthen community."
  - "Multiuse space (is) essential for community building & affordability...Create outdoor spaces & lots of trees."
  - Incentivize "third spaces" for town gathering and cultural events

### Questions:

- "When planning/building the new Town Center, how can we prioritize creating a strong sense of community?"
- "How can we create a welcoming space for all types of social gatherings?"
- A few concerns for the Town Center.
  - "Develop a comprehensive site plan that places new structures & town green distant from Hyde Rd."
  - "Do not align new municipal structures along Hyde Rd."
  - "Has any other area been looked at for the town center? (Not Hyde Rd.)"
  - "We need a larger parcel of land for the town green; start with a bigger lot."
  - "Utilize some funds to purchase surrounding property to expand the potential community space to ensure the needs for generations vs. being limited to what is now owned."

## Other Miscellaneous Comments

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- Farming-focused mentoring & sharing info
- Expand fire & rescue to paid positions to not rely so heavily on volunteers
- Intentional focus on developing intergenerational relationships & support
- Create a main street parallel to Rt 2, make it look like a busy town book
- Cannabis cultivation
- Bus!!
- Bigger library