West Warwick Comprehensive Plan
Public Forum #3
July 12, 2016
Agenda

- Introductions
- Purpose, Process, and Overview
- Today’s Topics
  - Land Use
  - Goals and Implementation Program
- Questions and Answers
- Interactive Exercises
- Report Back and Next Steps
Purpose, Process, and Overview

**Purpose: State of Rhode Island**

- Provide for protection, development, use, and management of our land and natural resources;
- Promote the appropriate use of land;
- Provide for the coordination of growth and the intensity of development with provisions for services and facilities;
- Provide a basis for municipal and state initiatives to ensure all citizens have access to a range of housing choices, including the availability of affordable housing for all income levels and age groups; and
- Recognize and address potentially conflicting land uses as well as shared resources in contiguous municipalities and encourage cooperative planning efforts by municipalities.

*The Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act requires that municipalities in Rhode Island plan for their future development.*
Purpose: Local Comprehensive Plan

- Guide local decision making
  - Policy document
  - Vision
  - Goals, policies, and actions

- Goals of local comprehensive plans must be consistent with state goals (State Guide Plan and Rhode Island General Laws)

- Local land use regulations – zoning ordinance, subdivision and other land development regulations – must be consistent with the local comprehensive plan
Purpose, Process, and Overview

Process

- Steering Committee Meetings
  - Monthly Meetings
- Public Meetings
  - March 15
  - April 28
  - July 12
- Approval Process
  - Public hearing by Town Council and Planning Board
  - Adopted by Town Council as an ordinance
What is a Comprehensive Plan?

State Format

- 1. Executive Summary
- 2. Planning for Natural Resources
- 3. Planning for Recreation
- 4. Planning for Historic & Cultural Resources
- 5. Housing
- 6. Planning for Economic Development
- 7. Planning for Agriculture
- 8. Planning for Services and Facilities
- 9. Planning for Energy
- 10. Planning for Water Supply
- 11. Planning for Transportation
- 12. Planning for National Hazards & Climate Change
- 13. Planning for Land Use
- 14. The Implementation Program
Plan Elements

Public Forums

- 1. Executive Summary
- 2. Planning for Natural Resources (March 15)
- 3. Planning for Recreation
- 4. Planning for Historic & Cultural Resources (April 28)
- 5. Housing
- 6. Planning for Economic Development
- 7. Planning for Agriculture
- 8. Planning for Services and Facilities
- 9. Planning for Energy
- 10. Planning for Water Supply
- 11. Planning for Transportation
- 12. Planning for National Hazards & Climate Change
- 13. Planning for Land Use (Today)
- 14. The Implementation Program
Demographics

Population projected to decline by 800 persons (-3%) between 2015 and 2040 – State overall projected to grow by 2%

Projected Population, 2010-2040

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>West Warwick</th>
<th>% Δ, 5-year</th>
<th>State of RI</th>
<th>% Δ, 5-year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>29,191</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,052,567</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>28,720</td>
<td>-1.6%</td>
<td>1,046,327</td>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>28,502</td>
<td>-0.8%</td>
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<td>2025</td>
<td>28,548</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>1,061,796</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>28,496</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
<td>1,070,677</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2035</td>
<td>28,288</td>
<td>-0.7%</td>
<td>1,073,799</td>
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<td>2040</td>
<td>27,902</td>
<td>-1.4%</td>
<td>1,070,304</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
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Demographics: Trends

- Total households: 12,513
  - Households with school age children: 49.2%
  - Those with one or more people over 65 are 11.1% BUT…
  - Those with one or more people over 60 are 34.1%

The population is projected – based on current conditions – to both shrink in number (total population is declining) and age (the percentage of elderly in terms of the whole is increasing)
Land Use

- Current Zoning
- Future Land Use
- Future Residential Density
- Current and Future Land Use Inconsistency
- Zoning and Future Land Use Inconsistency
- Adjacent Municipal Future Land Use at Boundaries
Plan Elements

Land Use

- Questions:
  - Are there currently high quality places within the Town? If not, would you like to improve the quality of particular places?
  - Does the community wish to target growth to certain areas of the Town?
  - Does the community wish to create one or more growth centers?

Themes: Land Use

- Promote good design throughout the Town, especially in the village business centers
- Revise Zoning Ordinance to conform to future vision for the Town
- Develop Cluster Zoning to allow subdivisions to maintain open space to promote best use of land
- Limit intrusion of commercial and industrial uses in residential areas

New Structure

- Goals:
  - What is the Town trying to achieve?
  - Why is this important to the Town?
- Policies:
  - How will the Town achieve its goal?
  - Where in Town will the goal be effective?
- Actions:
  - Who is responsible?
  - When will it be completed?
  - How much will it cost?

Example

- **Goal:** The Town should protect its historic buildings and development patterns.
  - **Policy:** Establish a Historic District Commission.
    - **Action:** Town Council shall establish a Historic District Commission. Timeline 6 months. Estimated cost: none.
  - **Policy:** Identify historic assets needing protection.
    - **Action:** The new HDC shall hire a consultant to identify the status of each historic building with respect to the National Register of Historic Places and prepare nomination papers for buildings that meet the criteria. Timeline: 6-18 months. Estimated cost: $30-50,000.
  - **Policy:** Create local historic districts.
    - **Action:** The HDC shall evaluate the need for and propose local historic districts for to protect areas with significant historic assets. Timeline: 18-24 months. Estimated cost: None.
    - **Action:** The Town Council shall establish a historic district zone or zones, and the design review process for the HDC.
Interactive Session #1

- Data Review
  - Find a partner!
  - Discuss the land use maps and the related goals with your partner
  - If you think a goal is missing, add it to the board using the stickies
Interactive Session #2

- Mapping
  - Where should the Town encourage:
    - Commercial?
    - Mixed use?
    - Low-density residential?
    - High-density residential?
  - Where should the Town prioritize:
    - Active space for recreation?
    - Passive open space?
Interactive Session #3

- Prioritization
  - Review the Prioritization Boards
  - Add comments/actions/goals
# Next Steps

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<th>Summer 2016</th>
<th>Draft for Review by Town and State</th>
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<td>Approval Process including public hearings</td>
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