

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, Process, and Overview

# 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**

## Purpose, Process, and Overview

# Demographics

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

### Projected Population, 2010-2040

	West Warwick	% $\Delta$ , 5-year	State of RI	% $\Delta$ , 5-year
<b>2010</b>	29,191		1,052,567	
<b>2015</b>	28,720	-1.6%	1,046,327	-0.6%
<b>2020</b>	28,502	-0.8%	1,049,177	0.3%
<b>2025</b>	28,548	0.2%	1,061,796	1.2%
<b>2030</b>	28,496	-0.2%	1,070,677	0.8%
<b>2035</b>	28,288	-0.7%	1,073,799	0.3%
<b>2040</b>	27,902	-1.4%	1,070,304	-0.3%

Source: Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program, Technical Paper 162, *Rhode Island Population Projections 2010-2040*, April 2013.

## 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)



Plan Elements

# 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

## 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?



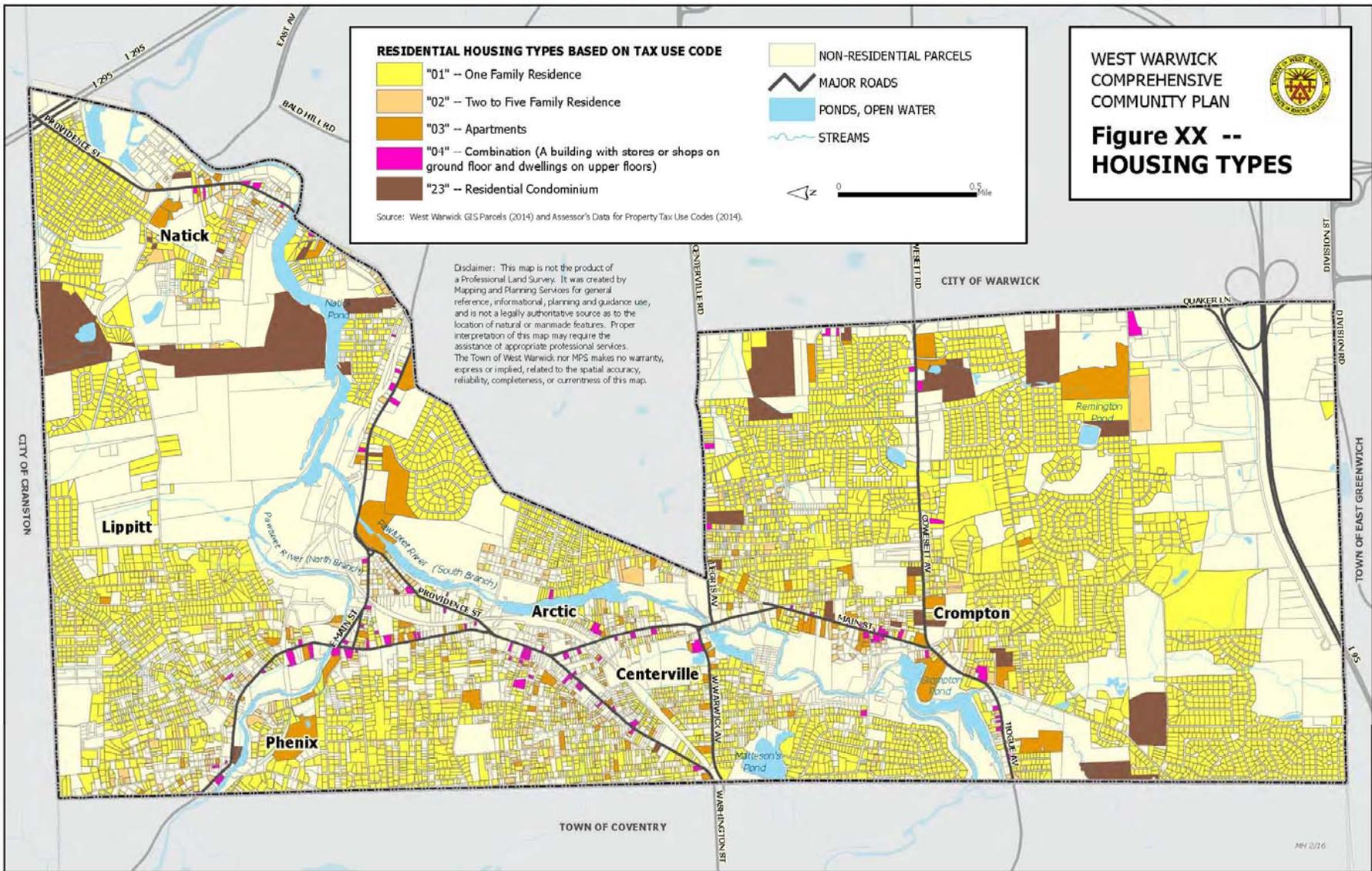
## Review of 1992/2005 Goals

# 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







## Review of 1992/2005 Goals

# 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?

## Review of 1992/2005 Goals

# 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

Summer 2016	Draft for Review by Town and State
Fall 2016	Approval Process including public hearings