

Recommended Community Actions

North Haven's Community Vision Priorities

Overview

During the North Haven Vision Process, the community identified three top priorities to address:

1. Access to Housing
2. Workforce Development and Economic Diversification
3. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts*

Below is a summary of recommendations to address Priorities 1 and 2. These recommendations were generated by Town working groups supported by housing and economic development consultants and Town staff.

**Work on Priority 3: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts is currently underway and recommended actions will be discussed with the community in the coming months.*



Access to Housing

Process

The Access to Housing Working Group was formed by the Town in April, 2022. The group included year-round and seasonal residents with housing interests and expertise, housing entrepreneurs, and members of North Haven Sustainable Housing.

With the support of Town staff and housing consultant Mary Terry, the group worked toward their goal “to identify barriers to accessing housing and the perceived gap in housing options to meet community housing needs.”

A Community Priorities Survey and stakeholder interviews were used to collect information regarding barriers to accessing housing on North Haven and to formulate recommendations to address these barriers. In addition, a North Haven housing inventory and real estate assessment were generated to provide an understanding of what type and state of housing exists on North Haven.

Recommendations

Based on local data, a Community Priorities Survey, stakeholder interviews, and with the support of Town Staff and housing consultant Mary Terry, the Housing Working Group generated the following recommendations:

1. Create a Working Group of Community Stakeholders to Develop and Oversee a Housing Action Plan
2. Preserve and Upgrade Existing Affordable Year-Round Housing
3. Identify Existing Rental Possibilities
4. Ensure Housing for Essential Community Workers
5. Support the Development of New Affordable Housing (Rental and Ownership)
6. Explore Funding Models and Tools to Preserve and Create Affordable Housing
7. Build Community Capacity to Reliably House Seasonal Workers

To learn about these recommendations in detail go to www.northhavenmaine.org and click on “Community Vision Hub”.

Key Findings

About Housing

from the Community Priorities Survey and stakeholder interviews:

- There is a lack of housing stock available for rent or ownership. Available homes that are reasonably priced need a lot of investment.
- Young people feel they will not be able to find housing on the island.
- Whether renting or owning, many community members feel they cannot afford ongoing housing costs (rent, mortgage, utilities, upkeep, etc.).
- Community members struggle to find year-round/long-term rental units at affordable prices.
- Housing for seasonal and year-round employees is needed. Employers struggle to help employees find adequate housing, both seasonally and year-round.
- Zoning is a potential challenge to the development of housing.

Town of North Haven Recommended Community Actions Summary January 2023

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Workforce Development & Economic Diversification

Process

To better understand the opportunities and challenges of North Haven's workforce and the barriers to and potential for diversifying the economy, the Town hired consulting firm Camoin Associates to collaborate with a community advisory committee, community members, and Town staff. Camoin Associates used economic and demographic data, local and regional studies, focused conversations with community members, and results from the Community Priorities Survey to develop Workforce Development and Economic Diversification recommendations that align with North Haven's Community Vision.



Recommendations

In order to support North Haven's Community Vision to sustain a thriving year-round economy, Camoin Associates recommended four prioritized focus areas for the Town to address. These are based on important themes that continually emerged during community conversations and in survey results and can be addressed by the Town with community collaboration and support.

1. Housing
2. Waterfront Infrastructure and Planning
3. Flow and Movement of Goods and People
4. Protection of the Natural Environment, Resources, and Related Ecosystems for Future Island Generations

These four focus areas are connected and critical to each other and support additional focus areas, which are more reliant on community rather than Town investment. These include:

5. Continuation of Critical Services
6. Education and Workforce
7. Communications Infrastructure
8. Economic/Business/Entrepreneurial Opportunities
9. Civic Infrastructure

To learn about these recommendations in detail go to www.northhavenmaine.org and click on "Community Vision Hub".

North Haven Community Vision

North Haven is a remarkable island community—resourceful, caring, safe, and inclusive—committed to sustaining a thriving year-round economy, stewarding our natural resources, and preserving scenic beauty for current and future generations.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for reading these recommended actions. The Select Board has approved both the Housing and the Workforce Development and Economic Diversification recommendations, and we are creating a budget and action plan to ensure this work will be carried forward in 2023. We can't accomplish any of these recommendations alone. Thank you to everyone who has been involved so far. We encourage the community to continue working with us, as you have been, to implement these recommendations.

On **Tuesday, January 24 at 5:30pm**, please join us online or in-person at Waterman's for a presentation of these recommendations and how we are putting them into action.

To participate online, **scan the QR code** to register and get a link sent directly to you **or use this link** to join without registering:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83280879281>



Thank you again.

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