

North Haven Focus Priority Updates

This is a working document that houses all updates from the working and advisory groups, as well as any other progress made towards addressing North Haven's Focus Priorities. Check back periodically for updates or to view past work that has been done since the creation of the Priorities in January 2022.

October 2022

Priority 1: Access to Housing

- We continue our monthly Working Group meetings. This month's meeting focused on refining the recommendations Mary Terry, our housing consultant, drafted based on the survey responses and interviews conducted the previous month. These recommendations will be presented to the Select Board at the November 16th meeting.
- Mia Colloredo-Mansfeld, our Island Institute Fellow, and Mary Terry are working on a Housing Report to accompany the recommendations. The report will provide an overview of the process, survey results, and recommendations.
- The Housing Working Group held an additional optional meeting to plan a second Community Education Event on accessory dwelling units (ADU). The event will be held at the beginning of November and focus on ADU design, construction, and municipal ordinances.

Priority 2: Workforce Development & Economic Diversification

- Camoin Associates continues to work on their recommendations based on the feedback they received during their September site visit. These recommendations will be presented to the Select Board at the November 16th meeting.
- We meet weekly with the Camoin team to ensure their recommendations align with North Haven's Vision and the other two Community Priorities. Mary Terry, our housing consultant, has joined in several of these weekly meetings to make sure our Housing recommendations and Workforce Development & Economic Diversification action items are well integrated.

Priority 3: Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Impacts

- The Climate Working Group had its first regular fall meeting. The meeting included an overview of the enrollment process and timeline for the Community Resilience Partnership. We plan to be enrolled and apply for the next round of Climate Action Grant funding in March. The Working Group began the process of identifying climate threats and assets on and around North Haven. The Working Group will meet 1-2 times per month.
- Rick Lattimer, Town Administrator, continues to coordinate with Ransom Engineering, the firm hired with our Capacity Development Grant to assess North Haven's freshwater resources. Mia Colloredo-Mansfeld is collecting information on private wells on the island to help create a database for Ransom Engineering and the Town as part of this study.

August & September 2022

Priority 1: Access to Housing

- We worked to promote the Community Priorities Survey throughout the month of August, closing it on September 12, 2022. We had a total of 210 responses to the survey, with 110 respondents indicating they live on island year-round.
- The Housing Working Group and North Haven Sustainable Housing (NHSH) hosted a community education event. The hybrid event featured speakers from NHSH, Alexander Local, LLC, the Town of North Haven, MaineHousing, and Genesis Community Loan Fund. Between zoom and our in-person attendees, forty people joined us to learn more about why housing matters to the year-round viability of North Haven. Topics included the status of the Town's Land Use and Shoreland Zone Ordinances; how Alexander Local, LLC and North Haven Sustainable Housing are working to address housing on a local scale; the challenges private entrepreneurs and nonprofits face in creating housing opportunities; and resources available from MaineHousing and Genesis Community Loan Fund to help finance housing projects from multi-unit ideas to programs for first-time home buyers and home upgrades for energy efficiency and aging in place.
- Mia and Mary Terry, our housing consultant, conducted interviews with island employers who have had to solve the question of employee housing, landlords and owners of short term or long term rentals, and community members who are currently or have recently sought housing. These interviews will be used alongside the survey findings to help inform the recommendations the Housing Working Group will present to the Select Board.

Priority 2: Workforce Development & Economic Diversification

- The Camoin Associates team processed and analyzed the results of the Community Priorities Survey, providing the collated data to the Housing Working Group and using the information to guide their own recommendations around workforce and economic diversification.
- Jim Damicis from Camoin Associates, our economic consultants, came out to North Haven for a site visit at the end of September. Jim Damicis brought draft recommendations with him to share at community workshops and gather feedback from islanders. During his two days on island, Jim hosted three community workshops and met with members of the Planning Board and Select Board.

Priority 3: Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Impacts

- The Town continues to work with Ransom Engineering through a Capacity Development Grant to better understand the Town's freshwater supply through three different mechanisms: a survey of all private wells on the island; a geophysical resistivity study to determine if there are bedrock fractures near the water treatment plant that could be used to supplement the Town's drinking water supply in the future if needed; and an assessment of saltwater contamination risk to Fresh Pond under different storm surge and sea level rise scenarios.

Town of North Haven Community Vision Process

Town of North Haven P.O. Box 400 16 Town Office Square North Haven, ME 04853

March 2022

July 2022

Priority 1: Access to Housing

- The Housing Working Group finalized and launched the 2022 Community Priorities Survey. This survey includes questions focused on Priority 1 and Priority 2, and will provide us with detailed local information that will ensure our next steps are actionable and effective, meeting North Haven's specific needs.
- The July Housing Working Group meeting included conversations on creative housing solutions on the island and different ways local entrepreneurs, North Haven Sustainable Housing and other non-profits, and the Town can work together and contribute to the housing landscape.

Priority 2: Workforce Development & Economic Diversification

- We continue meeting weekly with the team at Camoin Associates to hear updates on their data collection process.
- The Camoin Associates team helped create and refine the online survey, letting us host the survey on their platform, which will aid us in the data analysis portion of the process.
- We hosted an open house meeting on Zoom with Jim Damicis to hear from North Haven community members who were unable to attend a meeting during Jim's June site visit to the island. Jim facilitated the conversation focused on the current challenges and opportunities facing North Haven's workforce and economy.

Priority 3: Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Impacts

- Gabe McPhail is working on designing the timeline and process that will guide the Climate Working Group through the State's Community Resilience Partnership.
- Mia is working with Ransom Engineering to collect data on North Haven's private wells. This information will contribute to the study of North Haven's freshwater resources.

June 2022

Priority 1: Access to Housing

- The Housing Working Group continues to meet, working to refine the housing questions for the Community Priorities survey and planning a series of community education events around the current housing climate and possible solutions.

Priority 2: Workforce Development & Economic Diversification

- Jim Damicis, the principal on the Camoin Associates Team, spent two days on North Haven meeting with community members working in lobstering and aquaculture, agriculture, nonprofits and education, healthcare, and with businesses in the downtown area. Jim also presented to the Select Board at the end of his visit to the island. Jim will take what he learned from his conversations and use it to help compile the assessment

his team is working on. Jim will return to North Haven this fall to gather more input on the action plan matrix.

- We are working with the Camoin team to develop Priority 2 questions for the Community Priorities survey that will launch at the beginning of July.

Priority 3: Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Impacts

- Two engineers, Aaron and Nick, from Ransom Engineering came to North Haven for a site visit. They toured the island with Rex and Glen, learning about the current freshwater resources and infrastructure. Aaron and Nick presented their initial impressions to the Select Board and suggested a few different ways the grant could be used to give us as much information as possible about North Haven's water resources. The Select Board will review the options in more detail and make a decision on how best to spend the grant.

May 2022

Priority 1: Access to Housing

- The Town, Housing Working Group, and NHH are looking into projects that take advantage of the recently funded Affordable Housing Initiative for Maine Islands through the state's MaineHousing program.
- The Working Group continues meeting monthly. Currently, we are working to develop a Community Priorities survey that will provide much needed information to shape the recommendations to the Select Board that the Working Group will present in November.

Priority 2: Workforce Development & Economic Diversification

- The Town signed a contract with the firm Camoin Associates to conduct a workforce and economy assessment for North Haven and provide an action plan matrix based on the findings of the assessment.

Priority 3: Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Impacts

- The Climate Working Group had its first meeting to go over the work plan and process for the Community Resilience Partnership. The Working Group will begin regular meetings in the fall.

April 2022

Priority 1: Access to Housing

- The Housing Working Group met for an orientation meeting and first regular meeting. The Working Group discussed what information is needed before we can recommend action items and next steps that address housing on North Haven and how to collect this information.
- We brought Mary Terry onboard as an Advisor to the Working Group. In her role as Advisor, Mary will help with survey designing survey, interview, and focus group

questions and will assist with planning several housing education events to take place monthly June through September. Mary has extensive knowledge of Maine's housing climate. In the past, she has been a board member on the Peaks Island Fund, the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition, and Bath Housing. While working for Genesis Community Loan Fund, she conducted a workforce housing study for NHH and recently carried out a housing assessment on Vinalhaven. Mary is currently a board member at Southern Harbor House.

Priority 2: Workforce Development & Economic Diversification

- The Town received proposals in response to the RFP posted in early April and made a recommendation to the Select Board about which firm is most suitable.

Priority 3: Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Impacts

- The Town received a Capacity Development Grant from the State's Drinking Water Program that will fund a hydrogeologic study of North Haven's freshwater resources. This study will be conducted by Ransom Consulting, LLC, an engineering and environmental company.
- Planned the first Working Group meeting for May.

February - March 2022

Priority 1: Access to Housing

- Formed a 9 person Working Group of year round and seasonal community members who will work to address this priority. The group will begin meeting in April.
- Met with North Haven Sustainable Housing to discuss how best to collaborate, share information and goals, and work efficiently..
- Created Working Group process outline and workplan, outlining the meeting schedule and the big picture questions the WG will work to address.

Priority 2: Workforce Development & Economic Diversification

- Formed a 9 person Advisory Group who will work with a hired consultant to conduct an assessment of North Haven's workforce and economy in order to inform actionable steps the Town and community can take towards our stated objective.
- Researched suitable firms and posted a Request for Proposals for a Workforce & Economy Assessment.

Priority 3: Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Impacts

- Formed an 8 person Climate Working Group.
- Gabe McPhail applied for and obtained a Service Provider Grant through the State's Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) program. This grant will fund Gabe's work as she assists the Town and the Climate Working Group to assess progress toward climate action and environmental sustainability on the island and to identify, prioritize, and implement actions the Town and community can take to increase overall resilience. By joining the CRP program, the Town is eligible to apply for a Community Action Grant of up to \$50,000. Gabe will assist in this grant process.

Town of North Haven Community Vision Process

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March 2022

- The Town applied for a Capacity Development grant from the State to conduct a study of Fresh Pond and freshwater resource capacity on the island. The findings of this study will also impact how we approach Priority 1, as the availability and sustainability of our freshwater resources affects how we think about housing.
- In renovating the Town House, the Town has approved and planned energy efficient updates including, putting in heat pumps, blown-in cellulose, new casement and awning windows, new Thermatru exterior doors and storm windows, and LED lights and fixtures. If the budget allows, we will also apply a core-bond insulation in the basement and a heat pump hot water heater.