

North Haven Community Vision Process

Vision Statement Working Group

Background

In late August 2021, the Town launched a Community Vision Process with the goal of identifying (through a community-wide survey and conversations) the community's top concerns and challenges, what people value most about North Haven, and what we envision for our future. The information collected is being used to identify the priorities the community wants the Town to address now and in the future and to generate a community vision.

A community vision is a simple statement describing an idealistic picture of what we collectively want for our community. A vision is aspirational and inspirational and, unlike a mission, does not define our purpose or strategies, but rather a desired state of being. It is based on the community's values and is used to guide priorities, strategies, and actions by providing a clear and collectively agreed upon foundation for planning.

Structure

The Vision Statement Working Group is an 11 member group of North Haven residents consisting of one Select Board member, five year round residents, and five seasonal residents of diverse perspectives, ages, genders, etc. The goal is for members to represent the community's differing viewpoints and demographics.

Purpose

The Group's purpose is to utilize data from the Community Visioning Process survey and conversations to agree on (by consensus) a vision statement for North Haven and to affirm the priorities the community wants the Town to address over the next few years.

Meetings

The Working Group will meet two to four times. Meetings will be held virtually and will last no longer than 75 minutes. Members will be asked to do pre-work in advance of the meetings, which involves reading and talking with community members.

It is likely not everyone will be able to make every meeting. If members can't attend a meeting, they are asked to still do the pre-work and connect with Gabe, Mia, or Rick to offer feedback related to the pre-work. Members' ideas will be shared with the group so their opinions will still be part of the decision-making process.

Decisions will be made using a consensus-based-approach which requires everyone to agree to both the *Behavioral Ground Rules* and the *Decision-Making Ground Rules*, which are presented on page three. Members are asked to come to the first meeting prepared to agree to abide by these guidelines.

GROUP MEMBERS

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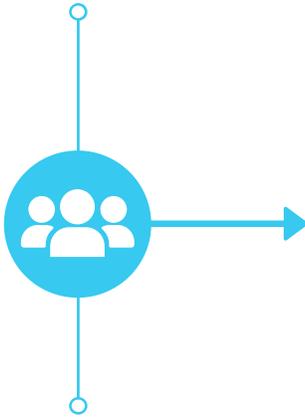
Gabe McPhail
Process Facilitator
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North Haven Collective
Project Support
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Working Group Proposed Work Plan & Timeline

All meetings held via Zoom.

ORIENTATION November



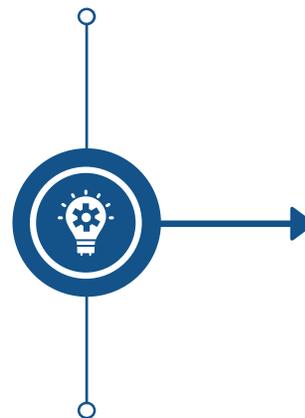
Working Group Members choose meeting dates and times, review Findings Report and Draft Vision Statements. Agree on process framework and working agreements. Prepare for Meeting 1.

MEETING 1 December



Review proposed Vision Statements – Discuss how they do or do not work. Decide if a new statement needs to be drafted or if one of the proposed statements can be modified/used as is. Review and share any feedback on the focus priorities chosen by the community. Pre-work for Meeting 2: Either drafting a new statement OR sharing the existing statement and focus priorities with the community for feedback.

MEETING 2 December



Discuss community feedback on the vision statement that was shared OR discuss the new draft statement(s). By the end of the Meeting 2 the group will have chosen a draft vision statement to present to the Select Board for adoption OR one they will share (or modify, then share) with the community for feedback. Pre-work for (optional) Meeting 3: Either sharing the final statement and focus priorities with the Select Board OR sharing the new statement with the community for feedback.

Meetings 3 and 4 will be held only if needed. The goal is to choose a vision statement and affirm the chosen Focus Priorities before the end of December.

Important Links

Zoom Meeting Info <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8050201194>

Meeting ID: 805 020 1194

Phone: 1 646 558 8656

Meeting Notes Google Doc

https://docs.google.com/document/d/183yzi3_SPviTnSY-Zrx6w3N9UVi9Z_Q72Ea25ATr7k/edit?usp=sharing

Group Roles

Participants – the group; responsible for decisions and outcomes

Conveners – Rick and Jeremiah; responsible for ensuring decisions made by the group are approved by the Select Board

Facilitators – Gabe with Rick and Mia; responsible for guiding group process and consensus building

Recorders – Mia and Gabe; responsible for taking notes at meetings and creating outreach materials

Vision Statement Working Group Behavioral Ground Rules

1. Only **one person speaks at a time** and no one interrupts when another person is speaking.
2. **Each person expresses their own views** rather than speaking for others in the group.
3. When we get community feedback on the decisions we make, **we accurately report back** to the group what people have shared with us.
4. We **share airtime and abide by the meeting agenda and time limits** set by the facilitator.
5. We challenge ideas, but **do not make personal attacks**.
6. We **focus on the merits of what is being said, seeking to understand** the ideas and concerns of others by asking clarifying questions.
7. We **voice our ideas and concerns as they arise** so no one is caught off guard when it's time to make decisions.
8. We **look for common ground** and do our best to **act in the interests of the community** as a whole.
9. If we disagree with a proposed option, **we are responsible for providing an alternative option**, either on our own or with the help of the group.

Vision Statement Working Group Decision-making Ground Rules

1. **Fully participate in the process.**
2. **Consensus is reached** when everyone in the group agrees they can "live with" the option(s) being proposed. Even if not everyone agrees with every detail, they at least agree to the option(s) as a whole.
3. The following scale will be used to test whether consensus has been reached. **Using straw votes** participants should express their level of comfort and commitment by indicating:
 - a. Wholeheartedly agree
 - b. Good idea
 - c. Supportive.
 - d. Reservations – would like to discuss.
 - e. Serious concerns – must discuss.
 - f. Cannot be part of the decision – must block it.If all votes fall under *a* and *c* then consensus has been reached. If any vote falls between *d* and *f*, the person voting must clearly state their concerns and offer a constructive alternative.
4. If the **group cannot reach consensus** they will document what they do agree on, clarify why they disagree, and indicate how they will resolve their disagreement(s).
5. The group will consider a "**fallback**" option if **no agreement can be reached**, including: taking more time to try to reach an agreement, switching to super-majority voting (80% majority vote required), seeking guidance from one of the conveners, etc.