

Cohasset Public Forum Notes 2/28/18

Vision Statement Comments

- Excellent Vision Statement – hits all points
- Improvement to harbor & ocean through access such as Harborwalk like in Boston needed
- Small town character & its preservation might be incorporated. This is an important value.

Help us visualize aesthetic improvements along the Rt. 3A corridor

- Reduce speed – why is it still 50 m.p.h.?
- Left turn light at Pond Street
- Sidewalks
- Mimic Hingham Main Street
- Sophier to 3A is so dangerous
- Traffic safety on Pond St. & Sophier during school drop/pick-up
- Extremely dangerous to exit and enter going northbound at Avalon Complex, as well as the shops across the street
- Need a traffic light there & a pedestrian crosswalk. The only crosswalk on that area of 3A is at Whitney Woods.
- Need sidewalks on 3A Avalon south to Sophier St. – many children could walk to school
- Enforce use of crosswalks – especially on Pond St. near school
- Get Flemmings to put chandeliers in Easy Storage windows.
- Need traffic calming on 3A
 - i.e. landscaped median
 - lower speed limit
- Park at Water Dept. on King St.
- Need sidewalks coming from Cohasset train station, encouraging more folks to safely walk to/from station & reduce parking
- Find a way to connect the “Two Cohassets”: Downtown & what’s on 3A
- Enforce existing signage bylaws
- Improve Greenbush connection – South Shore is being “penalized” with horrible service
- Economic = restaurants on the Harbor / (Harborwalk)
- Better retail, commercial availability in Cohasset Center
- Part of the downtown area looks “left back” and not in a “quaint” way
- Sidewalk = King Street
- Medium to high-density development over the parking lot in the downtown area with a mixed use parking garage/retail/multi-family building to bring population & retail / spending dollars to the downtown area & improve the Main Street retail tenants, as a result
- Sidewalks to train station!
- Pedestrian friendly commercial spaces instead of a strip mall look

- Fix the gas station (Gulf?) access/egress problem at the corner of 3A and Beechwood. Don't let cars egress to the left on 3A. Look at how Stop & Shop handled the problem at their gas station.
- Revitalize commercial uses of the village. Options for spending the day in the village. Five & Dime, sandwiches/picnic, etc.
- Make village a destination for residents – stop sending us to Hingham for what we need

Where should Cohasset create opportunities for safe walking & biking?

1. Walkability around Harbor
2. Better ped/bike connections between neighborhoods
3. Lighted sidewalk/bike path between train station and village (N. Main St.)
4. King St. has seen a large increase in train & boat commuters using it as a cut-through street. It needs sidewalks for safety reasons & bike lanes.
5. Jerusalem Rd. is used by ped & bike – sidewalk/bike lane needed
6. Jerusalem Rd. needs sidewalk between West Corner & Black Rock Beach; bike path - King Street
7. Sidewalks, Sidewalks, Sidewalks
8. Public walking path along ocean properties. Use eminent domain to take easement rights across private ocean properties for the walking path.
9. Sidewalks along Jerusalem Road/Atlantic Ave. currently unsafe for pedestrians & drivers. Roads are used for running/biking so why not keep our residents safe while doing so. If not sidewalks then use temporary speed bumps in warmer months.
10. One-way traffic along Atlantic Ave. and Jerusalem Road – Create a bike & walking lane within the roadway
11. Mark the main streets that are used by road bikers (like Hingham, Scituate, and others) – Border/Main St./Forest/Atlantic/Jerusalem/Beach/Hull St.
12. Sidewalks on Pleasant St.!

What does smart growth mean to you?

- More regulation of how residential lots can be developed – e.g. no clear cutting, blasting limits, house/lot size ratios
- More free parking at train station for Rail Trail use. It's now filling up on weekends.
- Vacant parcel at George Ingram Park? Can town acquire?
- Continue mixed use development
- Keep entrance to town with some of the existing nature.
- Do not wall off any more of Jerusalem Road views.
- Town Center → Aesthetics; no aluminum siding.
- Need more affordable housing and more diversity. Active efforts to attract more black citizens.
- Ocean views & beach front property an amazing resource but public access is limited.

- Little Harbor vacant parcels?
- Develop downtown parking lot with a mixed-use garage/retail/multifamily building – Bring density to the downtown environment & the opportunity to bring consumer dollars to the locale.
- New fire station
- Town to take care of open space they already have. No matter size. Example: Corner of Jerusalem/Forest/Atlantic → Hot MESS
 - Connect all existing wild lands to benefit “migration” of animals as well as longer paths for x-country skiers, runners, dogwalkers.
- Harbor Walk?
- Promote classic Olmstead-style naturalistic and organic landscaping
- Village: Why do we have so many real estate offices instead of ice cream shop, newsstand, sandwich shop, movie theater, hardware store...?
 - Yes! Please continue to serve the kids.
- Black Rock & Jerusalem parcel
- Update map with Oliver data regarding CR protected land – sfbrown@mit.edu
- Village: ability to spend the day. Fewer real estate offices. More options: ice cream shops, restaurants, five & dime, etc. Make downtown a destination for residents – not Hingham, etc.
- No more cul-de-sacs → Need better connections between streets/neighborhoods
- Develop standards for existing building appearance
- Purchase contiguous open space parcels to existing conservation land
- Can the space for a new fire station be acquired through “land swaps” or TDR? Thinking specifically of Esposito Nursery and Sanctuary Pond.

How do you think Cohasset should be preparing for climate change?

- Climate Action & Vulnerability plan needed
- Coordinate with MVP & Harbor Committee & Harbormaster
- Identify & protect assets along Harbor – businesses, fishing from flooding
- Increase bike/ped opportunities to salt marshes, beautiful natural areas. GHG emissions of community & create cohesive network of trails ☺
- Reduce GHG emissions through efficient HVAC and clean solar energy resources; next priority for assessment and grants CMHS roof (leaks) and 2 options are solar arrays & white roof; Timing (for grants) is essential. IM committee formed & should act soon.
- Did the change in FEMA Flood Plan work – did parcels get relief from flood insurance requirements?
- Our neighboring towns meanwhile will be going under
- Town feedback on FEMA flood plans – was that included here?
- Not absorbent soil types present (granite)
- Proposed development in bad flood-prone zone
- T station filled in storm wetlands, stream sort of back-floods at high tides
- Less development in flood prone areas

- Work locally – same problems as Scituate, Hull, Hingham, ... (not a local problem)
- Help Cons. Com. Keep teeth in Wetland legislation
- Less development in flood prone areas
- Critical infrastructure locations – water rise... (not ocean related) =? (power/telecom)
- Borrow a bike program? Skateboard-friendly rickshaws?
 - Connection to sandwich shops for 100's of kids at CMI, CSCR, CYC, CSC programs
- Houses for sale?
- Salt marshes do the job for free!
 - Eelgrass beds mitigate wave action. Shellfish reefs too.
- Plan for 100 & 500 year floods, not 10 year

What activities do you want to encourage in Cohasset Harbor? What improvements should be made?

- Kayak/canoe access to the Gulf upstream of the Border St. Bridge
- Cohasset Yacht Club – more parking
- Public parking = access to Harbor
- Coordinate with Harbor Comm. Plan (Harriman)
- Consider purchasing land along Harbor
- Protect breakwater
- Gulf River Association
- Maintain seawalls
- Look into causes of red flags (after heavy rainfalls)
 - H2O Treatment
- Harbor Walk
 - Sidewalks
 - Eating establishments for local people not just weddings
- More/better connection to Village
- Resurrect the restaurants & dining facilities
- Preserve the beauty! This is one of the most beautiful and safe harbors in the world.
- SUP/Kayak launch around Harbor, Little Harbor, and other bodies of water
- Public restrooms
 - Maintained by town not by me and Jack B.
- Restaurants
- Don't ignore the lobstering families of Cohasset! They know more ecology & history than anyone.
- Waterfront dining options
- More mixed-use/commercial options
- Public access to all waterfront even over private properties, including public walkway along entire waterfront of town
- Boat ramp coordination with CMI, CSCR, Harbormaster & local lobster fleet

- Functioning family restaurant
- Variety of cafes & restaurants (ethnic: Vietnamese, Indian, etc.)
- Salt marshes, eelgrass beds, shellfish reefs are the best (and most cost effective) flood protection
- Sidewalks
- Beautification of Village
- Historic/Preservation Board to regulate Village & Common Development
- Cohasset Cove & Inner Harbor
- Wider channel from the sailing club to the breakwater
- Remove CYC & all moorings along the channel to widen
- Widen “channel” along Bassing Beach between the point and the breakwater
- Kayak access to Gulf off-tide (River Rd)
- Formal kayak access to Little Harbor
- Public dock – Parker St. = Great. Very busy...