

Public Workshops – Conserving and Preserving Natural Resources

Workshop #1 November 3, 2021

Group one responses:

- Greatest resource is water
- Lower fertilizer use
- Strive to become net zero
- DPW & Engineering need more oversight on their decision making
- Town should consult ecologists
- Town should incentivize clover lawns, stop use of fertilizers, install new culverts and dredge our berm embayment's

Group two responses:

- Water is our greatest resources and most dangerous
- Flooding issues
- We need to support wastewater efforts
- Push for more town coordination e.g. town wide clean up days
- Environmentally conscience citizens should run for public office
- Town should ask citizens for help and keep people better informed
- There are many high level professionals in town willing to help if the town government asked
- Selectmen should ask residents to write letters

Group 3 responses:

- Greatest natural resources are our beaches, marshes, canal, drinking water, de-nitrification systems, woods and open space.
- We need to protect our ground water
- Limit developers clear cutting land – perhaps through zoning
- Need more renewable energy e.g. EV charging stations
- Stop overdeveloping
- Create a plan for beach front and marsh front properties
- Start looking into retreat

Group 4 responses:

- Our ponds and forests are our greatest natural resources
- Tree lined streets should be maintained and improved
- Staff need to get people together to take care of these resources
- Long term planning needed for flooding and erosion
- Eradicate phragmites
- Strategic herbicides
- Maintain open spaces
- Grass roots efforts – have neighborhood groups start a monthly clean up
- Create an education platform

- Prioritize seawalls
- Finish Town Neck beach restoration
- Open conversations with existing climate change groups
- Support bicycle paths
- EV charging
- Watchdog some of the larger regional projects e.g. bridges
- Change tax status on energy efficiency projects
- Aspiration – maintain our current natural resources and make money off them

Group 5 responses:

- Threats of pollution
- Issues with lawn fertilizers – public perception and peer pressure to use them
- Need to create an education platform – so much misinformation
- Solar panels in historic district should not need historic review
- Local oversight of big polluters – army base and power plant
- Become a green community
- Energy audit should be required with every sale
- EV charging and town solar
- We should be a leader in resource protection and awareness

Question to each group: What is your number 1 action you would like to see the town take right now?

1. Encourage volunteers
2. Become a green community
3. Declare a climate emergency
4. Educate our leadership
5. Vastly increase staff and volunteers

Workshop #2 November 6, 2021

Group 1 responses:

- Maintain existing conservation lands – they are currently underutilized
- Need more access, signage and parking for our conservation lands
- Engage the public for more volunteers – encourage kids
- Publicize existing programs
- Need to prioritize clean water
- Regular maintenance of septic systems
- Need to obtain green community designation
- Re-use and repurpose before recycling
- Preserve existing homes
- Reduce traffic by incentivizing walking and biking
- Monitor the army base
- Single use plastic ban
- Clean up ponds

- Transportation alternatives needed
- Energy budget committee needed
- Ambassadors to use social media and other outlets

Group 2 responses:

- Climate change
- Become a green community
- Tree management and reforestation
- Protect salt marsh with a buffer
- Teach energy reduction and environment in K-12
- Review the role of the DPW
- Better communication from Town to residents
- Beach restoration
- Incentivize solar
- Restaurants should be a part of MassSave
- Town as energy efficiency model
- EV charging