

## Public Workshops – Preserving Community Character

### Workshop #1 December 8, 2021

#### General discussion notes:

- Character of Sandwich:
  - Similar to the town in Gilmore Girls
  - Quintessential Hometown – special place, longtime residents, high school sports. Sandwich still has a lot of that character
  - Historic preservation and districts contribute primarily to our towns character
  - Traditional New England Village
  - Sandwich is the gateway to the Cape. It's what the Cape used to be
  - It's still walkable and there's an emphasis on that in the village
  - People from other states think it's like "Mayberry"
- The more you diversify by adding commercial, it will diminish the Hometown quality – traffic, buildings, parking lots and outdoor lighting increases
- Better to work with what we currently have
- We attract visitors by what we are right now
- Let's not bring in more people. No need to increase our population. We need to focus on cutting our carbon emissions
- We need charging stations and top become a green community
- Natural beauty is part of or character- ponds, beaches and marsh. We are a tree city
- We are fortunate to not to have any big box store in town
- Cotuit Rd is a hub of economic development. It should be redesigned into mixed use. It's not charming
- Merchant Square style development. Ye Olde Colonial style strip mall
- Forestdale is quite and rural. Love it that way and would not want to see it change. It still has its farming routes
- We need more pedestrian access around our recreation hub
- South Sandwich and Forestdale's character is family orientated
- We need mixed zoning in South Sandwich – big mistake when we segregated uses in town
- We want to live, walk and shop
- So much focus on the village, we need to celebrate other areas in town
- Golden triangle should have its own post office and branch of the library
- We need to add a second floor to the buildings on Cotuit Rd. We could have apartments above existing stores and townhouses next to them
- Childcare is needed
- We don't want large parking lots or excess pavement
- Affordable housing is a must
- We need to start regulating short term rentals
- Family neighborhoods are the character in South Sandwich
- Golden Triangle could have a business incubator and continuing care facility so people can age in place
- We want housing and coffee shops

- We need better housing for families at risk
- Interconnection between our areas - we want a vibrant and dynamic place that people can live
- We need wastewater for mixed use
- Rentals – aesthetic plays a huge role. We need more apartment rentals not single family homes but they need to fit in with the community
- We should look at solar bank development for example Babcock Farm in Florida
- Mixed use community
- We are not a Cape town. Our model is very different

#### Workshop #2 December 11, 2021

#### Responses:

- Inclusiveness, Sandwich should be open for all to live. Adopt a motto “Sandwich for all”
- Historic Preservation: Sandwich has two distinct sections 1. historic downtown/village 2. New, commercial South Sandwich
- Sandwich Center: shift of focus to Cotuit Rd QMH with public safety campus, Center for Active Living, skate park
- Kindness is a character of the community
- Continue to promote and invest in adequate handicap access to public buildings and locations
- Natural Resource: fresh water access, ocean front access Canal, trails, open space
- Eliminate fees for ponds and beaches for low income residents
- Improve parking for waterfront attractions i.e. Canal, marina
- Work with corporate sponsors to develop enhanced water front attractions
- Develop a Senior/Youth Hostel
- Enhance electronic communications to increase civic involvement
- Support “Open Cape” to enhance remote work opportunities
- Voters have limited access to local candidates, increase accessibility