

Posted 6.15.2023 at 4:00pm by JAD

**Harvard Select Board
Strategic Planning Session
Hildreth House porch - 15 Elm Street
Wednesday, June 21, 2023 1pm-4pm**

Chair Rich Maiore, Vice Chair Erin McBee, Kara McGuire Minar, Don Ludwig, Charles Oliver

Improve Public Engagement

- 1) Town Meeting: (Rich, Don, & Staff)
 - a. How do we increase attendance? Are we staying with Spring and Fall annual meetings?
- 2) Survey residents (an actual send-it-out-via-email survey) to figure out what the priorities are and to gain insight re. declining volunteerism (Staff)
- 3) Increase volunteerism & sense of community (volunteer appreciation event (i.e. cookout &/or recruit former volunteer to mentor current & newer ones. (Erin & Rich)
- 4) New communication channels like a SB newsletter similar to what School Comm has. (Rich)

Financial

- 1) Override discussion and Planning (Rich & Staff)
- 2) Rental Properties:
 - a. Bromfield House Sale – Determine process and timeline. (Charles)
 - b. Long-term leasing Old Library (Staff)
- 3) Formulate a Real Estate Transfer fee policy and prepare a Home Rule Petition submission; Looking into joining other towns' efforts for a Real Estate Transfer Tax (Kara & Charles)
- 4) Room Tax - Includes Air B&B, VRBO (Staff)
- 5) Increase marijuana licenses (Staff)
- 6) Start a Film Commission (Kara)

Operational changes

- 1) Fire and EMT merger: (Rich)
 - a. Develop criteria for making a decision.
 - b. Solicit input from FinCom and Capital Committees
 - c. Set timeline for decision
- 2) Trash/Recycling:
 - a. Transfer Station vs. town wide pick up (Don)
 - b. Transfer Station improvements and increase usage. (Rich)
- 3) Playing Fields: (Don, Charles, & Rich)
 - a. Complete needs assessment.
 - b. Identify parcels for fields.
 - c. Develop timeline for field development.
 - d. Support application to CPA
- 4) Improve infrastructure reliability – internet & electricity (Erin)
- 5) Review Devens Strategy (Kara)
- 6) Prioritize accessibility issues and get to work on solving them. (Charles & Rich)

Green Initiatives

- 1) Continue with solar PV projects (Erin/Don)
- 2) Investigate Stow Road gravel pit for a PV lease (Kara)
- 3) Preserve natural flora – eradicate Japanese knotweed & save Willard Farm (Erin)

Other Priorities

1. Affordable housing -with new funds having come in, look into working on a private/public partnership for mixed use w/affordable component (Erin)

Next regular Select Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 7:00pm