

High School Area Community Planning Session

Saturday, January 28, 2006 8:30 a.m. to noon in the High School Library

Sponsored by the Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen and Planning Board,
in cooperation with the Martha's Vineyard Commission

Purpose of the Community Planning Session

To generate ideas about the planning of the area around the High School by involving a variety of people including those involved in area facilities and properties, members of organizations and town boards, as well as members of the general public. This will contribute to the subsequent formulation of a plan for the area that will help guide future.

It is suggested that we focus primarily on the physical planning of the area, addressing issues such as:

- Character;
- Uses and Buildings: various existing, proposed, and possible future uses including the locations of buildings;
- Traffic and Transportation: pedestrian and bicycle network; road network and parking; public transit;
- Open Space.

Study Area

All public and private properties in the area bounded by the State Forest to the south, Barnes Road to the west, the Southern Woodlands Land Bank property to the north and the existing neighborhoods to the east, with a primary focus on the publicly owned lands on the north side of the Edgartown - Vineyard Haven Road.

Preliminary Objectives for the Area

Note: You are encouraged to propose additions, modifications, and deletions.

- Create a cohesive whole that is more than the sum of the parts.
- Make the area pedestrian-friendly with strong and safe links between activities, especially the main ones. Accommodate bikes. Facilitate the use of public transit.
- Favor shared use of parking lots to help reduce paved/gravel areas.
- Minimize the impact of roads, and the number of curb cuts on the Edgartown – Vineyard Haven Road.
- Set up effective wastewater treatment, including maximum nitrogen reduction, possibly by means of a district treatment facility.

Some Questions You Might Want to Address

- Should the area feel like a campus, a village, a neighborhood, or something else?
- Should all existing uses be retained? Should any of them be relocated?
- Where should proposed or possible new activities be located (buildings, parking) such as the Y, housing, the superintendent's office?
- What other activities should be included in the area?
- Where should roads, paths/sidewalks, bicycle paths, and parking be located?
- What areas should be preserved as open space? What should their relationship be with adjacent open spaces such as the State Forest and the Southern Woodlands Land Bank property?

Note that you can propose moving roads and even existing buildings; however the more expensive any relocation proposal is and the sooner it is proposed for, the less likely it is to prove feasible.

Agenda

- 8:30 Registration and Site Visit – Please register in the Library before or promptly at 8:30 (doors will open at 8:00) so we can walk across for a quick tour of the site.
- 9:00 Introduction – An overview of the site as well as the existing and proposed activities will be given, as well as instructions about what is expected of the team work.
- 9:30 Work in Teams – Each team should work together to come up with a team proposal. Each will be given a large aerial photo to use as a base, and lots of tracing paper and colored markers to sketch options. In the last fifteen minutes, each team should prepare one drawing that synthesizes the team's conclusions.
- 11:00 Presentations – Each team will have five to ten minutes to present its proposal to the whole group. After the presentations, we will take a few minutes to see whether any consensus has emerged on any items, and to discuss what the next steps are.
- 12:00 End

For information, call the Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen's Office at 693-5511.

High School Area Plan Steering Committee: John Bradford (Oak Bluffs Planning Board), Michael Dutton (Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen); Judy Crawford (YMCA), Mark London (Martha's Vineyard Commission), Priscilla Sylvia (MVRHS School Committee)

