

# ISLAND PLAN

CHARTING THE FUTURE OF THE VINEYARD

## Forum 1 Proceedings



Held on June 24, 2006  
at the Sailing Camp in Oak Bluffs

## Table of Contents

---

Introduction .....	3
1 Focus of the Island Plan .....	4
2 Café 1 – Key Issues – Big Ideas .....	6
3 Café 1 – Key Issues – Details .....	8
4 Café 2 – Topics .....	19
5 Forming the Work Groups .....	29
6 Conclusions .....	31



## Introduction

---

The first public event in the preparation of the Island Plan for Martha's Vineyard was a forum on Saturday, June 24, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Sailing Camp in Oak Bluffs.

About a hundred people filled the building on this rainy morning. Most had registered in advance and had an opportunity to look over a series of background documents. Participants spent the first half hour with refreshments and making a tour of the resources that filled the walls: The event was called to order at 9 a.m. and Jim Athearn, Chair of the Island Plan Steering Committee welcomed participants and talked about the overall aims of the plan. Mark London, Executive Director of the Martha's Vineyard Commission then gave an overview of the planning process.



Then, Robert Leaver of New Commons took over as facilitator of the forum and explained its main components.

- Focus of the Island Plan: a presentation and discussion of what value the Island places on each of the four proposed themes – economy, ecology, community, and land – and what are the useful intersections or creative combinations of these themes.
- Key Issues: a cafe-style, break-out session with conversation about critical issues as identified in an on-line survey.
- Topics: a second break-out session to begin work on ten specific topics areas that have been identified, including goals, targets, interdependencies with other topics, and creative strategies for achieving short-term benchmarks.
- Work Groups: a discussion of the creation of work groups on specific topics and an exercise to prioritize topics.

This document, prepared by New Commons, summarizes the main results of the forum, and consists largely of an edited transcription of the comments written by the participants themselves. The assistance of Sandra D. Polleys in preparing the transcription of comments is gratefully acknowledged.

# 1 Focus of the Island Plan

---



*Small groups met to discuss what value the Island places on each of four overall themes identified by the Steering Committee: Ecology, Community, Economy, and Land. The following are participant comments as reported back to the plenary session.*

## 1.1 Land

- There's value but no agreement.
- Land value is paramount and there's a lot of pressure to develop it.

## 1.2 Economy

- Low value in planning and decision-making.
- It's embedded in every theme we are considering.
- Important value, short-term value.
- Number of foreign workers on the Island.

## 1.3 Ecology

- Not an element- actually a study of all the parts (land, economy, and community).
- In theory, high value...in practice it is compromised.
- It's what draws people to the Island but gets overlooked.

## **1.4 Community**

- Other elements bring people here; community makes them stay.
- Many distinct communities.
- Multiple communities that are separate from each other, and the way we build keeps us separate.
- High value in communities, but disparity in wealth.

## **1.5 What are the useful intersections, creative combinations or combustions of the four themes?**

- Sustainable but to what point? How far do we want to go back: 1700, 1950?
- Sustainable at what price?
- Ecology could be placed in the middle, with everything coming off it.
- Economy is related to maintaining the ecology and the community.
- Creative combinations between communities.
- Land preservation vs. affordable housing.

## 2 Café 1 – Issues – Big Ideas

---



*The next main activity consisted of cafes organized around key issues. An on-line survey had previously asked people to identify priorities among several dozen issues facing the Vineyard. At the forum, a group of people met to discuss each of the top eleven issues. The discussions took place in café-style format, where people sitting around a table chatted about the topic and wrote their collective or individual thoughts on paper tablecloths. Participants had an opportunity to wander over to other tables, and contribute to those discussions as well.*

*After café 1 was completed, each table was invited to share their nuggets – the ideas that rose to the top. These ideas are presented in this section. The details of the café conversations are found in section 3.*

### **Culture of the Island**

- “Tragedy of the Commons”- personal self-interest works against the maintenance of the resource.
- Wealthy influx drives up cost of land, need for services.
- Wealthy could be integrated into the community. It could be a positive force.
- Diversity of people: economic, class, social.

### **Sustainability**

- Green corridors between villages to reduce suburban sprawl.
- Regulate size to protect resources and to control energy use plus promote sustainability.
- Inform, lobby and legislate with boards- Federal, State and Health.
- Attitude & regulation need to change.
- JFK said, “Go to the moon...and we got there.”
- Reuse or compost more here on the Island; don’t keep shipping stuff out.
- Develop Island wide regulations to reduce nitrogen in coastal ponds (DCPC?)
- Limit growth to reduce intensity of impact on groundwater.
- Use a “Carrots & Sticks”- septic inspections, O & M upgrades & impact fees & incentives.

- Limits of growth creates sustainability.
- Foster Island-wide, comprehensive energy efficiency.
- Make the Island a net energy producer with clean sources.

### **Island character and the public realm**

- Small town quality of life: compact, diverse, affordable, mixed-use, walkable.
- Gathering places in villages with sidewalks: churches, post office, schools, hardware, grocery, pharmacy, town hall, bank, library, village green, outdoor cafes.
- We must be intentional about creating public gathering spaces that enable connections and are walkable.
- Limit growth of population, traffic building.
- Preserve & sustain agricultural land, ocean resources, home grown energy sources.

### **Fewer cars/better transportation**

- More inconvenient to drive/ improve infrastructure for alternative modes of transportation.
- Improve mass transit, bike, moped, pedestrian, and facilities such that people willingly leave cars at home.
- Convert town main streets to pedestrian malls (at least part time) (with access to delivery & emergency vehicles).
- Forge collaboration between Dukes County & SSA to regulate limit of cars.
- Demonstrate the present small successful collaboration efforts and build upon them (especially where people have saved money).

### **Pace of development**

- Innovate with new ways of thinking & strategies, e.g. enhanced chapter 61 and "underdevelopment".
- Develop a "conservation evaluation" of private lands and incentives for ecological stewardship.
- "European" town land patterns- require three acres to keep density down, but its one more in town for house & two acres elsewhere in conservation.

### **Local economy**

- Produce more essentials (food, energy, etc.) to keep money within local economy.
- Find new revenue sources that enhance the Island and protect traditional economies.

### 3 Café 1 – Issues - Details

---

#### 3.1 Limiting Construction vs. Large Houses

What are the immediate conditions & drivers shaping the issue?

Balance the benefits & detriments!

##### *Detriments*

- Showcase houses, odious ostentation, trend of building bigger, architects & developers push for maximum size. History of island includes people building big houses in the past (Whaling houses in Edgartown.) Under-use of trophy homes (vacant most of the year). Consumption of energy even when not occupied.
- Resource Consumption: There is a threat of need for additional power/cable cost. Drain on resources – protect aquifer and water quality. Destroying natural habitat with a slash and burn mentality.
- Split between very wealthy and middle/lower class. There is isolation of newcomers that hold themselves apart from the island community.
- There is a lack of regulation.
- New technologies allowing larger septic systems.

##### *Benefits*

- Lots of money comes from the off-island economy. Large homes offer temporary employment. There is cheap labor to build huge houses. Owners of large homes support local charities. There is a dependency of island institutions on charity of the Rich Bardush.

With the issue, what big ideas are inside, around, or next for it?

- Surcharge on large houses for energy – use it for renewable energy. Large homes should have certified renewable materials and energy systems. Create energy code regulations by third parties. Total electric use capped by surcharge. Controls on empty houses (turn down light, heat).
- Balance value of land stewardship. Recognize value of stewardship component of owners of large properties with large houses – conservation land that stays on the tax base. Advance the notion that owners of large properties (with large houses) could offer conservation, agricultural restrictions, and covenants.
- Make the island DCPC (or something like that) with authority to regulate house size land overall growth rate on the island. Control population growth. Provide tax incentive for people who 'do it right.' Examine prohibiting vs. taxing to control size. With taxing, for every 1000ft over 2000ft there is a contribution to affordable housing fund.
- Train architects (National AIA standards for training to include study of sustainable materials).

## 3.2 Tragedy of the Commons/Sustainability

What are the immediate conditions and drivers shaping the issue? Limiting the rate of growth?  
Determine a reasonable carrying capacity based on essential resources? What's next for the issues?

- "The Commons" – sense of collective responsibility leads to need for some kinds of regulations.
- Sustainability – that which can be sustained over time without degradation. Sustainability means an affordable place to live. What is sustainability: Tourists! Small town? What is realistic? What does this do to sustainability of the island as an affordable place to live? Does this lead to higher prices for all? How do you achieve sustainability without controlling growth? Determining carrying capacity = sustainability. What is a reasonable rate of growth? We need to go backward first before we get to a point that we want to sustain.
- Immediate/Emerging conditions – Distinguish trucks that come off ferry to nearby delivery point from big trucks that damage fragile inner roads. We are an automotive economy. Big trucks and cars are a limiting factor – carrying capacity of traffic. Non-sustainable = Trucks.
- Need regulation for the political issues around limits. Tax rates.
- Surprised that "Limiting Growth" was not of interest to more people!
- Free economy drives increases in scale.

### **3.3 Promoting a Sustainable Economy/ Preserving/Revitalizing Farming & Fishing**

What are the immediate conditions & drivers shaping the issue?

- What is our economy: Retail, construction, tourism, taxation, housing, local money flow, commercial, fishing/farming?
- We need a diverse economy → Maintain flexibility. Maintain economies that are part of our character/culture. Focus on the electronic economy – emerging technology and Aquaculture. Land cost prevents successful local agriculture. Off-season you can't get what you need. Provide what WE need.

With the issue, what big ideas are inside, around, or next for it?

- Long Term (50+ Years) – Make sure we have essential resources, economy in the future. Energy – produce our own as new revenue source.
- Complimentary currency – Tourism sustains economy in the long run if we create a desirable local environment. What does the circulation of money look like?
- What are the subsidize sectors of the economy? How do we allow for more innovation? What is the percentage of off-island ownership?
- Transient workforce, International workforce-wages going off-island
- Tax management – provide incentives with taxes.

### 3.4 Preserving Open Space

What are the immediate conditions & drivers shaping the issue?

- Change zoning to encourage clustering of housing & 'villages' & preserve open space. Adopt European model of in-town livable communities and of holding of open space in the 'country.'
- Two sets of economic drivers: land values that consume land – Land bank fees & philanthropy that protect it. Wealthy support conservation groups, price of land inhibits, buying for open space. There is opportunistic acquisition. Land protection driven opportunistically, whatever the developers don't get; not necessarily targeted. Cost of land driven by development and is disappearing at rapid rate.
- There is inconsistent tax treatment for donated conservation land.
- Do a 'conservation audit' with willing and interested landowners to know what to manage for. Habitat surveys offered to owners. Expand this concept to an audit of the Vineyard to know how much land we need to protect.



With the issue, what big ideas are inside, around, or next for it?

- Incentives for responsible stewardship by private land owners – circumvent the need to purchase land to preserve it. Work with present owners for responsible stewardship, tax incentives?
- The competition for land is increasing. What about affordable housing? As land parcels become smaller and more expensive, new conservation and restoration techniques, such as 'underdevelopment', will become necessary. There are fewer large pieces of land to protect.
- Educate people about habitat Open Space. Preserving open space/habitat: Cost of land = offset, not enough people know about the organizations trying to preserve land. Make people care. Need more public awareness.
- Need new zoning.

### **3.5 Promoting Energy Independence**

#### What are the immediate conditions & drivers shaping the issue?

- Individual/Community/Local/Municipal/State-based efforts! We can not wait for the Feds.
- For the Vineyard, we have so many oversized *seasonal* homes using energy year-round, which uses our resources.

#### With the issue, what big ideas are inside, around, or next for it?

- Alternative/Renewable at all levels from individuals, community, town, regional, state, and commercial. Wind Energy at all levels. Cape Wind has brought this issue to the Vineyard's consciousness. Inaugurate the Cape Wind farm and arrange large discounts for electric usage in public transport (i.e. electric buses, mini-buses, etc).
- Change building codes. Energy efficient building → Change building codes
- Do village-style development.
- Change our practices: Bio-Mass, Agriculture, Forest, Waste, use Methane, Tidal & Wave, Ethanol as an alternative energy source. Price is one condition that drives us to consider energy use.
- Supply Issues. Environmental impacts of global warming/climate change. Pollution of air/water. USA is addicted to oil, reserves are drying up, and we need to change. Thirst for oil is driving U.S. aggression in the Middle East. Political ramifications → Iraq War.

### **3.6 Providing Viable Alternatives to Cars**

What are the immediate conditions & drivers shaping the issue?

- More people, more cars? Overpopulation, excessive number of automobiles. By improving conditions for drivers you only encourage more cars. Inappropriate growth—widen roads, encourage more cars – roundabout, etc.

With the issue, what big ideas are inside, around, or next for it?

- New forms of transportation with transportation → fewer personal automobiles. Look at: Hybrid cars and C.A.T. – Compressed Air Technology (See French Cars). Ways to promote what we want – bicycles, moped, mini-cars, electric cars, more busses, small buses, pulse van system, tram system? Develop a bus system with more Buses. Do smart cars and busses. Vastly improve V.T.A.
- Designate areas just for pedestrian use. Shut off D-I Main Streets to cars. No cars on Circuit Ave, Main Street, Vineyard Haven, and Edgartown.
- Create remote parking only for D-I towns and water taxi between D-I towns?
- Develop both bike Lanes and bus lanes (so it's quicker to travel by bus). Develop Island-wide bike lanes. Lack of safe bike paths specifically – blinker-OB, many need improvement. There is a lack of education for bikes & drivers. Educate public. Improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- Limit single families to two cars. Limit quantity of cars coming to the island. Limit size of cars specific to the job (i.e. trucks for construction, not for private use).

### **3.7 Protecting Water Quality in Coastal Ponds**

What are the immediate conditions & drivers shaping the issue?

- Time delay from wastewater sources to ponds – 20 years. Global warming effects.
- Road runoff and acid rain. Forbid use of fertilizers! Seasonal impact on H<sub>2</sub>O and population density. Nitrogen – Algae – H<sub>2</sub>O → Quality
- Low public awareness do to lack of information to general population. Regional co-op. Low transparency in government decisions exists. There is intensive growth of non-conforming lots – Board of Health not interested in problems. There is insufficient information – public and board of health (political). Variances tightened.
- Consider the Mass. estuaries project results.
- Keep in mind the impact of Supreme Court ruling. Clean Waters act needs to be strengthened.

With the issue, what big ideas are inside, around, or next for it?

- The use of new wastewater treatment technology leads to increasing density of use. Population growth – seasonal & year round adds to the problem.
- Build septic systems under lawns: Loss of eel grass due to excess nitrogen from septic systems. Regulations need to be changed. Understand the movement of nitrogen – long term. Take advantage of the availability of better septic systems.
- Evolve the Watershed, DCPC(s), to regulate nitrogen and/or regional regulatory framework that will promote nitrogen reduction consistently throughout the entire island. Install more rigorous town regulations. Consider an “Impact Tax” on larger houses by square-footage to help affordable housing units with septic costs. Conduct yearly inspection of septic system, and sticker to mirror car inspection.
- We need more powerful lobbying at federal, state, and local levels.

### **3.8 Greater Island-Wide Collaboration**

#### What are the immediate conditions & drivers shaping the issue?

- Develop more leadership to promote partnership. Leadership development to build support for island-wide collaboration, get various town boards to work together on specific projects: Education, Transportation, Health, Competence.
- Demonstrate the success of small collaborative efforts and build upon them. Examples: Regional High School, All Island Finance Committee, Council on Aging, Community Services, Water Alliance, and Joint Purchasing.
- Understand more fully current government duplication.

#### With the issue, what big ideas are inside, around, or next for it?

- Develop common vocabulary: Regional, Alliance, Campus, Partnerships, Non-Threatening, Joint, Collaborate.
- Work on changing of attitudes. Attitude is currently "We can do it better on our own; we take care of our own."
- Remember the uniqueness of towns, each with its own infrastructure. So do tiered governance: Things that need to be done 'for all' can be done regionally, leave smaller tasks to local.

### **3.9 Promoting Recycling and Composting of Waste**

What are the immediate conditions & drivers shaping the issue?

- Increasing need as population grows.

With the issue, what big ideas are inside, around, or next for it?

- Naturemill.com – Indoor composter; it works because it can take fish and meat scraps. Reuse more materials on-island – Compost or reuse everything.
- Develop a public awareness program. School education & recycle program. Businesses/Food Shops: Install container to receive recyclables. Distribute clear bags for trash – like the state of Maine.
- Obstacles: BFI, Not knowing if recyclables are being recycled, State regulations – re: Building materials, demolition delay bylaw.
- JFK said 'Let's go to the moon' ... and we did it! So let's put out the same challenge for recycling.

### **3.10 Maintaining small-town quality of life**

#### What are the immediate conditions & drivers shaping the issue?

- Most important to the character: Post Office, Hardware Store, Grocery Store, Pharmacy, Bank, Library, Village Green, Sidewalks, Outdoor Cafes, Landmarks, edges, nodes (physical elements).
- Not Good: Suburban sprawl. Limit swimming pools in downtown areas. Limit parking lots.
- Every town has a distinct character. Integrate diverse communities.
- There are 'small towns' within our small towns. Villages need to be compact. Keep downtowns viable with services at the center that can be walked to for interconnection.

#### With the issue, what big ideas are inside, around, or next for it?

- Distinguish between how buildings relate to the street and each other – different for village and rural road. Can't have a village without countryside – need greenbelt. Diversity of building types: Duplex, Apartments. Mixed-use: Put residences over shops.
- Put more emphasis on public spaces and public realm. We must be intentional about creating public spaces that enable. Create places to easily meet new friends (public gathering places). Need walkable villages (with front porches). Create car-free zones in villages, especially on weekends.
- The Island is now a multi-language environment. Everyone should learn Portuguese and English.

### **3.11 Affordable Housing**

#### What are the immediate conditions & drivers shaping the issue?

- Affordable housing being built means more people coming here (service industry). Commuters – work/service people can't afford to live here. Foreigner influx a red herring; service workers influx don't have effect on price of land.
- Economy has changed – will need more service people for big houses/estates. Influx of wealth drives jobs. There is a widening gap between high incomes (few) and low incomes. We use to be small influx of rich – large year-round population → balance tipping now.
- Use more public money for housing. Assure housing for low/middle income tenants. Maintain the community economy.
- There is land speculation.
- Cost of Living: Building and Maintenance, Electricity.
- Location: waterfront-value drives up interior values, views, becoming chic.
- The current generation want (need) highest price. Long generational families want highest price for land (send kids to college, get kids housing).
- Zoning – Big lots keep prices high.

#### With the issue, what big ideas are inside, around, or next for it?

- Understand better the impact of secondary housing – Vacation. Too much demand. Fear Factor → Lowering property values (low income housing). Conflict between affordable housing/limited and no growth! Providing affordable housing may promote growth. Solutions: Rental conversion. Price controls like rent controls.

## 4 Café 2 – Topics

---

The next series of cafés dealt with ten topics that the Steering Committee had previously identified. The intention is to create a work group to focus efforts on each of these topics. To stimulate discussion, the Steering Committee prepared an example of an overall goal for each topic and examples of measurable targets leading to the achievement of that goal. The example for each topic was distributed to participants in that café, along with a fact sheet with background information about the topic. Participants were asked to discuss strategies for achieving the short-term (5-year) target, to identify interdependencies between that topic and other topics, as well as to comment on the example of goals and targets that had been provided.



This section of the report contains the participant comments for each topic.

### 4.1 Housing

#### Suggest creative strategies for achieving the 5-year targets

- Designated zones for higher density – developer pays density bonus to land bank, which buys land for permanent protection. Do this for: multi-Family, Year Round, Mixed AF/Market.
- Towns are taking cloudy titles and making the lot buildable.
- Do price control at resale time – like rent control. Don't allow competition, increase in supply. Use a lot coverage ratio.
- Assessment for property taxes should stay reasonable in relation to your purchase price– see California.
- Maintenance sustainable construction – bonus (density, lower taxes)

#### What are the interdependencies with other topics?

- Develop one Martha's Vineyard-wide tax rate.

#### Are the goals and targets effective? If not make suggested changes.

## **4.2 Built Environment**

Suggest creative strategies for achieving the 5-year targets

- Change state legislation to allow stricter, more progressive building codes.
- Incorporate/identify working models from other places.
- Coordination between conservation and recreation groups toward open space network.
- Create incentives for towns to accept the 'out back' stuff that nobody wants.
- Who's in charge of preservation?
- Island-wide approach that each town conforms to DCPC for the island.
- Revise state legislation.
- Supplement Built Environment Table – "Rate of Growth"?

What are the interdependencies with other topics?

- All of these: Energy, Open Space, Transportation, Economy, Environmental Impact, Water Quality, Governance.

Are the goals and targets effective? If not make suggested changes.

### **4.3 Water Resources**

#### Suggest creative strategies for achieving the 5-year targets

- Water Quality Locally = Global Warming. Leverage MEP.
- Interconnect: Wastewater, Con-Com, Board of Health & Planning Boards.
- Water quality locally = climate change.
- Limit cruise ships that may dump their septic 3 miles off M.V. Water alliance - Education, Lobbying.
- Environmentally friendly products: involve retail outlets to carry 'good' products.
- Public education: Newspapers – Weekly environmental tips; Get involved – vote in right people; Need public 'will.'

#### What are the interdependencies with other topics?

- Economy & Housing: effect on tourism, land values, trades, shellfish & farming, community, water-related traditional occupations and quality of life.
- Land Use: Housing & Wastewater, Growth, Storm water, business impact, tax revenue loss if water quality declines.

#### Are the goals and targets effective? If not make suggested changes.

- Need "Implementation."
- Insufficient urgency in the numbers.
- Clarify accountability AND responsibilities; Island-wide water district.
- Develop interim guidelines for W.Q. protection. Prioritize the use of infrastructure (and treatment plants). Use DCPC's. Ensure more effective enforcement of regulations (DCPC). Potential limits: Time – 1 year only, Town by town, Need Board of Health Participation, Regional Board of Health?

## 4.4 Energy/Waste

Suggest creative strategies for achieving the 5-year targets

- Comprehensive energy efficiency is cost-effective and good for the economy such as comprehensive solar, Geothermal, Bio-mass.
- Island-wide adoption of a 10 year energy action plan as a start by all island groups: VTA, MVAR, Towns, County, State Forest, MVC, Conservation Orgs, SSA.
- Community based compost program.
- Wind power – 2 turbines per town by ?
- Target electric hot water for solar energy.
- Community re-use center.
- Smaller buses used for year-round.
- Renew energy fund; effective conservation program; tax incentives and credits; education program.

What are the interdependencies with other topics?

- Oversized Housing: Energy Hogs! Incorporate renewable technology into houses over a certain square footage, or pay into a fund to use for public/town energy projects (building, production).
- Affordable Housing: Should be energy efficient & self sustaining.
- Community demonstration for residential energy efficiency measures → Less to operate.
- Economy: Local energy production strengthens local economy by stabilizing prices & ensuring future supply.
- Assign some land use for community energy production? Wind?
- Open Spaces: Switch grass for biomass or other native varieties.
- Transportation: Mopeds, bicycles, bio-diesel, VTA (smaller vans in off-season) – Alternative forms and independent structure, bike lanes – encourage bicycles and self-sufficient mobility, Water taxis, Discourage SUV usage: tax, fine?
- Use hydrogen fuel source to boost alternative power plant/hydrogen energy production.
- Use sludge from treatment plant at landfills too.

Are the goals and targets effective? If not make suggested changes.

- Efficiency
- Alternative sources – Wind, Solar vs. Electric
- Tax incentives
- H2 Pilot
- Year Goals: Set example with energy efficient building code by 2010.

## 4.5 Natural Environment

### Suggest creative strategies for achieving the 5-year targets

- Do de-development. Use non-traditional approaches. Develop regional collaborations to ensure water quality.
- Spirituality of the land and land use, Native American philosophy – re: land stewardship, resources.

### What are the interdependencies with other topics?

- Public interest – i.e., land bank for access
- Economics
- Caring for natural species and habitats
- Alternatives to autos - Corner Stores, Micro-businesses, Affordable commercial sites
- Value: sum of the whole: small pockets – schools, MVCS, churches
- Community & Ecology: Have very similar perspective. In the high value vocabulary there is not much in reality. Multiple communities – not as interrelated as they should be. Way of building creates separation, Character?

### Are the measures effective? If not, make suggested changes

- Create mapping of important/viable areas for change use/sustain use and public education – “Oh my, house is in a sand plain...”
- Protection of land – Redevelop land. Not just purchase ‘open’ land. We have (in the MVC) the power to do this work.
- Why habitat protection: Economic? Animals don’t have voice so it depoliticizes the issue.
- Building codes should be important. Local government needs to get behind regional collaborations. Do ‘Island’ solutions based on ‘Island’ ways of doing things – unique and individual. Manifest destiny.

## **4.6 Governance**

### Suggest creative strategies for achieving the 5-year targets

- Improve participation in government and non-profits.
- What are the essential elements of town identity that need to be preserved? The towns must choose the strategies.
- Cultivate a 'shared sense of the commons.' Employ a multi-community partnership concept rather than regionalization, alliances and collaboration, and economics of scale.
- Issues that transcend town boundaries: Coordinate zoning and update, systems that effectively serve all 6 towns in non-threatening areas (accounting, tax collection, purchasing, and treasury management). Towns must agree that we need to examine and discuss.

### What are the interdependencies with other topics?

- Without solving governance issue the Island Plan will have no backbone.

### Are the goals and targets effective? If not make suggested changes.

- Need lots of work.

## **4.7 Transportation**

### Suggest creative strategies for achieving the 5-year targets

- Strategies: 2050 – Public Transportation is reliable, available everywhere, reachable in 15 minutes, and within ¼ mile of every residence on the island.
- Can't simply be anti-car, have to provide alternatives. Examples: Park and Ride, consider elderly, transit allows bikes on board. Bike system could be much better – especially up-island. Do free bikes? Foster more picking up of hitchhikers.
- Fixed price for all transit once you're on the island. Community necessity: everyone pays then riding the bus is 'free.'
- Routine of public transit is critical, also time of operation.
- Designate smaller neighborhoods with services so walking is more feasible.
- "I want my car" mentality needs to change among visitors and year round people. How can we pool trips to minimize 1 person per car? Prohibit high school students from driving to school.
- More flexible zoning that rewards 'desirable' behavior (smart growth). Island-wide zoning for smart growth. Employ a congestion tax?
- Bottom line – Compelling solutions will cost money.

### What are the interdependencies with other topics?

- Connection to neighborhood services such as grocery.
- Airfare so high people use cars.
- Limit development, you could limit demand for cars. Limit summer vehicle access. SSA – Inflow/Outflow.
- VTA – Free for all on MV (fee paid when coming to island).
- Don't accommodate cars with expanded road system or more in-town parking. Island local traffic = 60% + Summer = 40%.
- Provide decent alternatives to car such as walking roadside paths.

### Are the goals and targets effective? If not make suggested changes.

- Amend goal: System that does not adversely impact the environment and comes with incentives to use it.
- Measures: Limiting SSA reservations doesn't limit # of resident cars - Limit number of cars per household. Measure the total number of people and cars on the island year-round.
- Need inflow and outflow of vehicles to understand transport picture.
- Parking is a measure of auto impact and possible point of control.
- Combine with alternative modes of transport.

## **4.8 Livelihood and Commerce**

Suggest creative strategies for achieving the 5-year targets

- There is now employment for anyone who wants to work?
- Basic premise of the 'targets' is the ability to affect rest of one's living?

What are the interdependencies with other topics?

- Towns are dead in winter. O.B. seems to have busy winter economy (better understand forces that create a busy winter economy).

Are the goals and targets effective? If not make suggested changes.

- Goals seem more of a wish list rather than economic reality.
- What strategic & mechanisms can dictate how much a business can afford to pay & what the unemployment rate would be? Perhaps encouraging economic growth?

## **4.9 Health & Education**

### Suggest creative strategies for achieving the 5-year targets

- Staff housing for teachers, Small (many) schools, Rotate teachers.
- Promote children walking to school.
- Develop MV College of Public and Community Services. Establish specific association with UMASS and use island experts to teach students and offer support to daycare, health, and retail while learning.
- Maximize resources to schools and community through collaboration.
- There is strong need for skills other than those tied to the building trades.
- Put real limits on growth and development.

### What are the interdependencies with other topics?

- With energy (transportation and infrastructure); relate most to community and economy; education needs can conflict with community values.

### Are the goals and targets effective? If not make suggested changes.

- 2025 targets could be aimed for earlier.
- Target 2010 – How to implement cooperative approaches.
- Target 2025 – Add/Reassign personnel to close/combine.

## **4.10 Culture & History**

### Suggest creative strategies for achieving the 5-year targets

- We are who we are because of who we were. Make the history and culture of the island an economically viable contributor to the economy. Cultural history is visual, personal, and experiential. History tours of landscapes and buildings.
- Means to preserve is to create monetary value. Tax incentives for essential elements of a village: Pharmacy, Post Office, Grocery Store, Bank, Library, Sidewalks. Create tax incentives to initiate the preservation of our natural resources.
- Create outreach programs to educate residents and visitors about the Vineyard Experience.

### What are the interdependencies with other topics?

- You get out of a community what you put into it.

### Are the goals and targets effective? If not make suggested changes.

- "Affordable Housing" can be a multi-edged sword – can our lower economic bracket, ever progress and truly be part of the community if housing must remain affordable?

## 5 Forming the Work Groups

---



*The Steering Committee is planning to set up a first wave of work groups to begin in the summer of 2006. The second wave will begin later in 2006 or early in 2007. The Steering Committee will make a final decision on which groups start when, and on the composition of the groups. The following criteria were developed collectively by the participants for identifying which topics should be part of the first wave of work groups.*

- Most urgent
- Most important
- Not being dealt with
- Do we have the information to do this?
- Do models and practices exist elsewhere?
- Identifying the regulatory conditions, both positive and negative
- Well on its way and should be continued
- Identifying if we are going the wrong way

*Based on the above criteria, the forum participants indicated their choice of which work groups should be part of the first or second wave. Each participant could indicate one choice in each category. [Note that there was some confusion as to whether the second wave choices meant that the participant thought it was the second highest priority, or was a topic that they thought should definitely be put off.]*

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Priority</b>	
	<b>First Wave</b>	<b>Second Wave</b>
Natural environment	16	7
Energy and solid waste	16	3
Water resources	11	7
Governance	10	10
Livelihood/ commerce	10	6
Built environment	7	7
Housing	7	4
Transportation	6	13
Health and education	3	1
Culture and History	0	9

## 6 Conclusions

---

*At the conclusion of the forum, there was a brief plenary discussion about what was learned from this forum, and what happens next.*

### 6.1 What was learned?

- Everything impacts everything
- A lot of energy
- A plan with a long vision is something people want to be involved in
- People really love MV
- A lot of bright people here today in this Forum
- We have a long way to go



### 6.2 What's next?

- Get more people to take the survey
- Join a work group
- Write an essay – practical or visionary
- Visit the website and engage the material there

July 24, 2006



**MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION**

BOX 1447 OAK BLUFFS MA 02557

PHONE: 508-693-3453 FAX: 508-693-7894

E-MAIL: [INFO@MVCOMMISSION.ORG](mailto:INFO@MVCOMMISSION.ORG)

WEBSITE : [WWW.MVCOMMISSION.ORG](http://WWW.MVCOMMISSION.ORG)