



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PLANNING RETREAT
May 16, 2008

Present: Mayor Jamie Daniels, Commissioners H.A. Creef; David Farrow; Richie Burke; Hannon Fry; Darrell Collins and Edward Etheridge; Town Manager Kermit Skinner; Finance Officer Shannon Twiddy and Facilitator Phillip Boyle.

Goals

- Develop a greater shared understanding of what town government does and what members value about the town.
- Create a greater shared understanding of the challenges the town faces in creating and sustaining its character and identity and a shared sense of direction about how to respond to these challenges.
- Create a living document that can serve as a guide for planning, focusing, and organizing the work of town government.

Creating the Good Life in Manteo: Policy Leadership for Governing Boards

1. Participants explored how the public values of liberty, prosperity, equality, and community frame board choices and decisions and how these values are represented in the town's planning, using building and design guidelines and transportation as policy examples (summary attached).
2. Participants then identified issues, needs, challenges, priorities and actions that should be addressed; identified common themes that emerged; organized these themes into categories to serve as platforms for town goals; reframed categories as affirmative goal statements; assigned issues, needs, challenges, priorities, and proposed actions to the appropriate goal; and identified town priorities for the next year.

What Do You Value about Manteo, What Makes Manteo "Manteo?" (Note: items in "Bold" indicate priority areas of board emphasis)

- Boardwalks
- Character of our citizens
- Citizen government
- Citizen involvement
- Clean air and water
- Convenient
- Dip nets
- Distinct personality
- Friendly
- Glue that holds us together, e.g., town theater
- History and tradition ~ Maritime Museum, life saving station, honoring local people
- How parking is distributed throughout town rather than concentrated in one or two locations
- It's a neighborhood
- Leadership and planning
- Open space
- Organized community events
- Parks
- Peaceful

- Physical openness of our community
- Physically attractive ~ striking
- Pride ~ residents are proud to live here
- Responsive to citizens
- Safe place for everyone
- Schools and other key facilities are in town
- Stability, a sense of permanence
- Town discussions
- Walkable ~ library, schools, churches, theater, etc.
- We're an "island"
- We're not like everywhere else

What Challenges Does the Town Face in Creating and Sustaining the Manteo You Described? (Note: items in "Bold" indicate priority areas of board emphasis)

- Big vacant buildings
- Cars tempt us to not be walkable and to grow away from the town
- Creating alternative transportation modes and routes
- Difficult for public (and other) employees to afford to live in town
- Downtown more for tourists than for residents
- Engaging non-resident property owners
- Exploring opportunities on the west side of the island
- Growing scarcity and cost of land
- Integrating new residents
- Keeping a sense of community in a changing economy
- Loss of community gathering places
- Need for redevelopment ~ e.g., Chesley mall
- New people who want what they had where they left
- Not becoming just a retirement community
- Not bikeable or walkable enough
- Not enough for kids to do ~ no community place for children
- Old town is just part of the larger town today
- Our commercial/economic base has moved out of town
- Paying attention to elders and others
- Protecting the natural environment
- Things are moving outward from downtown ~ not everything is downtown anymore
- We are approaching overdevelopment
- We're an "island"
- We're one town, but in more than one place
- Working with the county

Framing Town Goals and Priorities: How Should Town Government Respond to These Issues and Challenges in Order to Sustain and Enhance What You Value about Manteo?

Draft Goal 1: Preserve and enhance the quality of life in both the built and natural environments for current and future residents while providing economic opportunities and public services consistent with the traditional values of the citizens of Manteo.

- Clean air and water ~ protecting the natural environment
- Exploring opportunities on the west side of the island

Draft Goal 2: Create and enhance a small-town atmosphere on a human scale that's safe, accessible, attractive, convenient, and socially interactive.

- Distinct personality
- History and tradition ~ Maritime Museum, life saving station, honoring local people

Draft Goal 3: Create a town with a sense of place that measures progress by its impact on the quality of life and which embraces future development that is consistent with the traditions of the Manteo way of building.

- Big vacant buildings
- Need for redevelopment ~ e.g., Chesley mall

Draft Goal 4: Provide an open and honest government that embraces citizen input and participation in identifying community interests and meeting priority needs.

- Leadership and planning
- Integrating new residents
- Not enough for kids to do ~ no community place for children
- Engaging non-resident property owners

Principles for Guiding Manteo's Future

Guiding principles help the town navigate how it lives and grows, inform choices and decisions, connect past decisions to future ones, and provide guidance and inspiration for people who work for and serve the town.

Based on these goals, what principles should guide Manteo's future?

1. Be accessible to citizens.
2. Invite outside input and participation.
3. Maintain and enhance our quality of life.
4. Maintain architectural scale.
5. Promote positive growth that mitigates negative impacts.
6. Seek a variety of ways to fund and do things.

The meeting was recessed until Wednesday, May 21st at 4pm at the Manteo Town Hall for a budget workshop was approved by all.

This the 16th day of May 2008

Jamie Daniels, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Breiholz, Town Clerk