



Canton Master Plan Update Council on Aging Focus Group

Introduction

On December 20, 2018, approximately 25 residents participated in a group discussion for the Master Plan Update. Most attendees were seniors who regularly attend the Senior Center. The group focused on three questions:

1. What is something positive happening in Canton and why is it positive?
2. What has potential in Canton but needs improvement? What are some of those improvements?
3. How would you like to see transformed in Canton? What are the opportunities and challenges to making that happen?

Attendees followed the discussion by dot-voting for their top three priorities for improvements and top three priorities for transformation.

Question 1: What is something positive happening in Canton?

- Revere Heritage site – got rid of what was there
- Lower taxes
- Growing number of 55+ residents, active and living longer (longevity); contribute to the tax base
- Top Golf
- School system – new superintendent
- Water supply

Question 2: What has potential in Canton but needs improvement?

- Senior Center – expansion because of space constraints (18 votes)
- COA social services/needs increasing (8 votes)
- Overdevelopment, increasing density, commercial becoming residential (4 votes)
- Road improvements for pedestrians, cyclists, ADA, public transit, Uber/Lyft/taxi (2 votes)
- Open space signage and making people aware of what we have (2 votes)
- Guidelines and possible restrictions for historic properties, need protection (1 vote)
- Williams Estate/Earl Newhouse Waterfront access and improvements needed (1 vote)
- Town meeting access and timing (attendance difficult for seniors and people with families (0 votes)
- Solar on public buildings and public land (1 vote)
- Public health/mental health – teenagers/high school (1 vote)
- Can we use multipurpose for ice rink? (1 vote)
- Affordable restaurants and places for families (1 vote)
- Upscale businesses

Question 3: What would you like to see transformed in Canton?

- More places for kids – indoor recreation, club or center, affordable, before and after care and alternatives for families/community center (10 votes)
- Downtown – beautification (8 votes)
- Downtown – Traffic flow, mix of businesses, needs diversification, parking (8 votes)
- Design guidelines for new development, especially downtown but a townwide issue (2 votes)
- East/west road? Pleasant/Turnpike? (2 votes)
- Purchasing more land for open space (1 vote)
- Electronic vehicles – municipal and charging stations (1 vote)

Follow Up/To Do List

- Post review of 2004 Implementation Plan
- Paul Revere site development specifics
- Schools Plan – future and taxes
- When Town Meetings are held