

Town of Waterford Plan of Conservation and Development

Committee Meeting #4

October 25, 2022

Agenda



1. Update on Public Outreach
 - Pop-Up at Harvest Festival
 - Virtual Workshop
 - In-Person Workshop
2. Update on online survey and interactive mapping
3. Next Steps

Public Outreach Update



Pop-Up at Harvest Fest

- Talked to many residents
- Promoted the Plan, workshops, and online survey

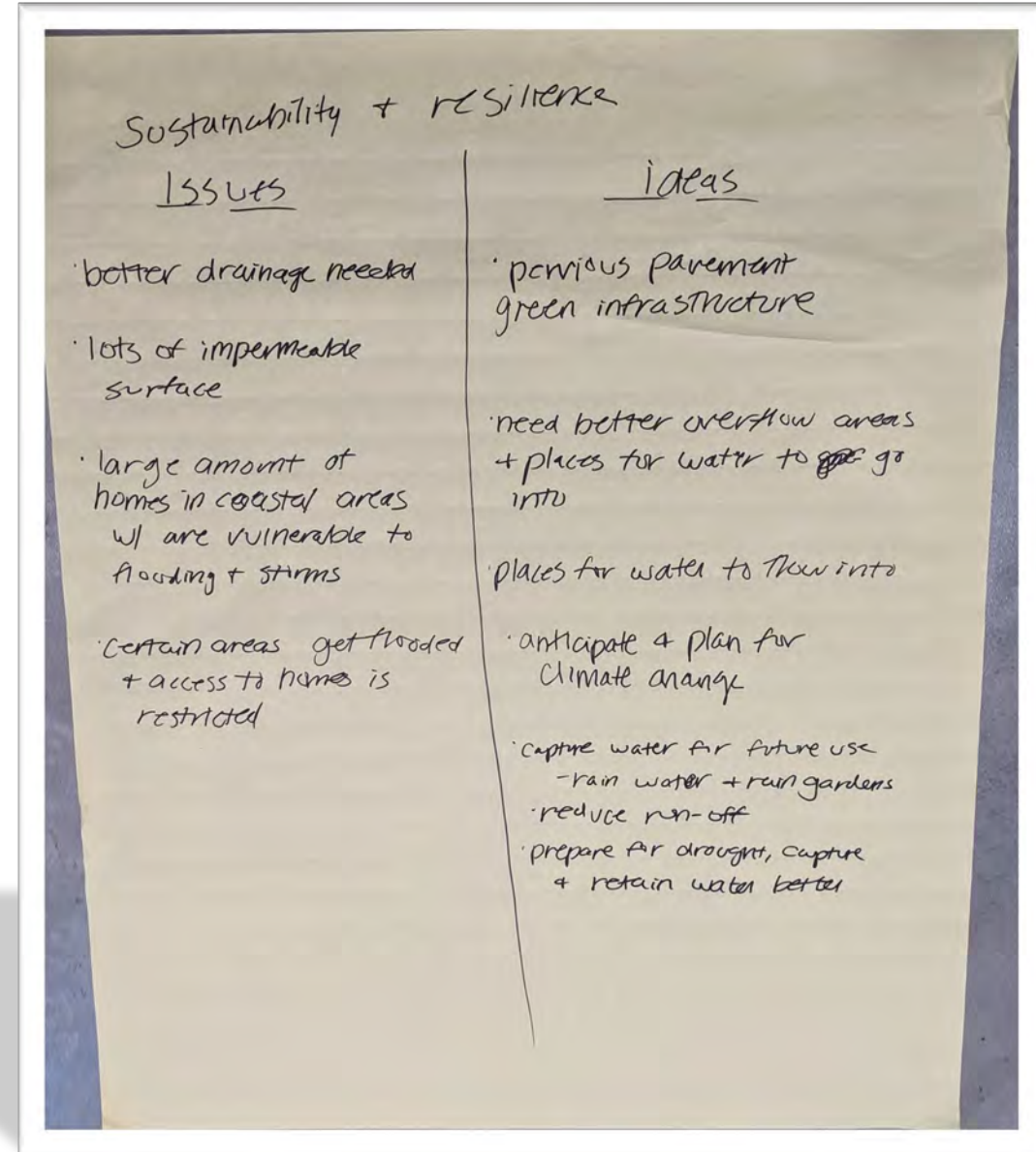


Virtual Workshop

- Low attendance
- Discussion highlighted the need for bike/pedestrian infrastructure

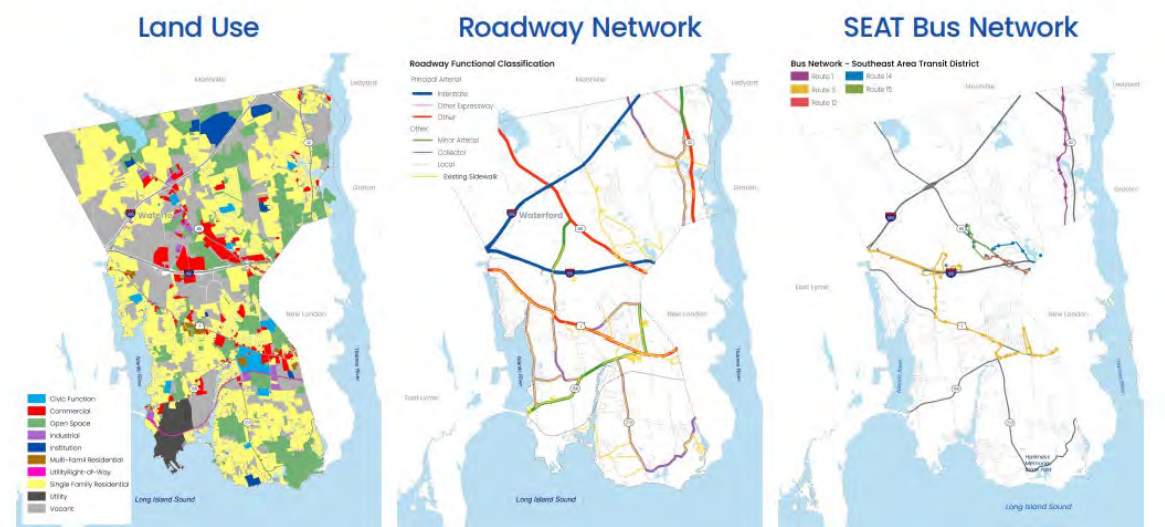
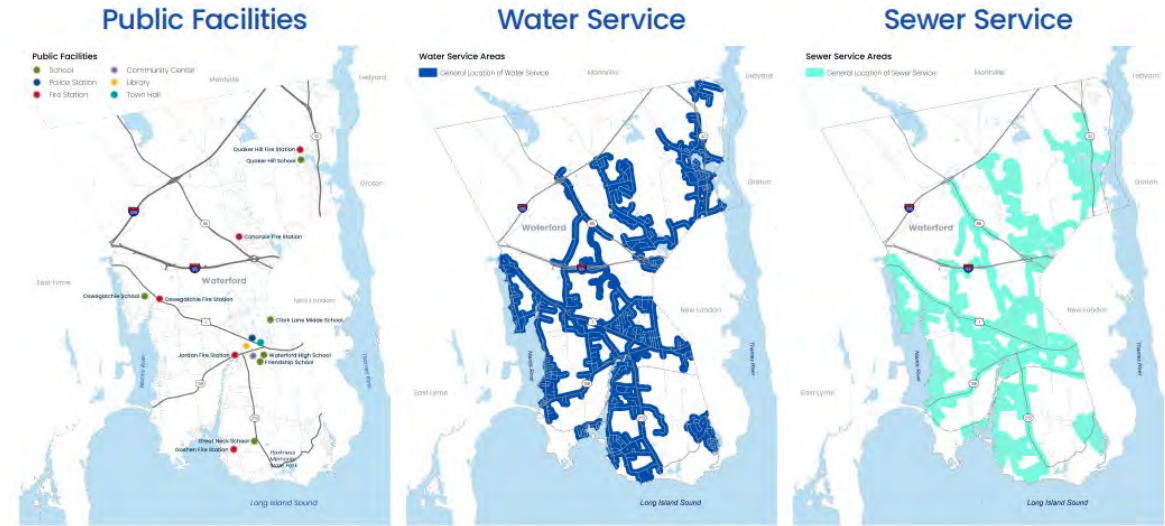
In-Person Workshop

- Topic based discussions



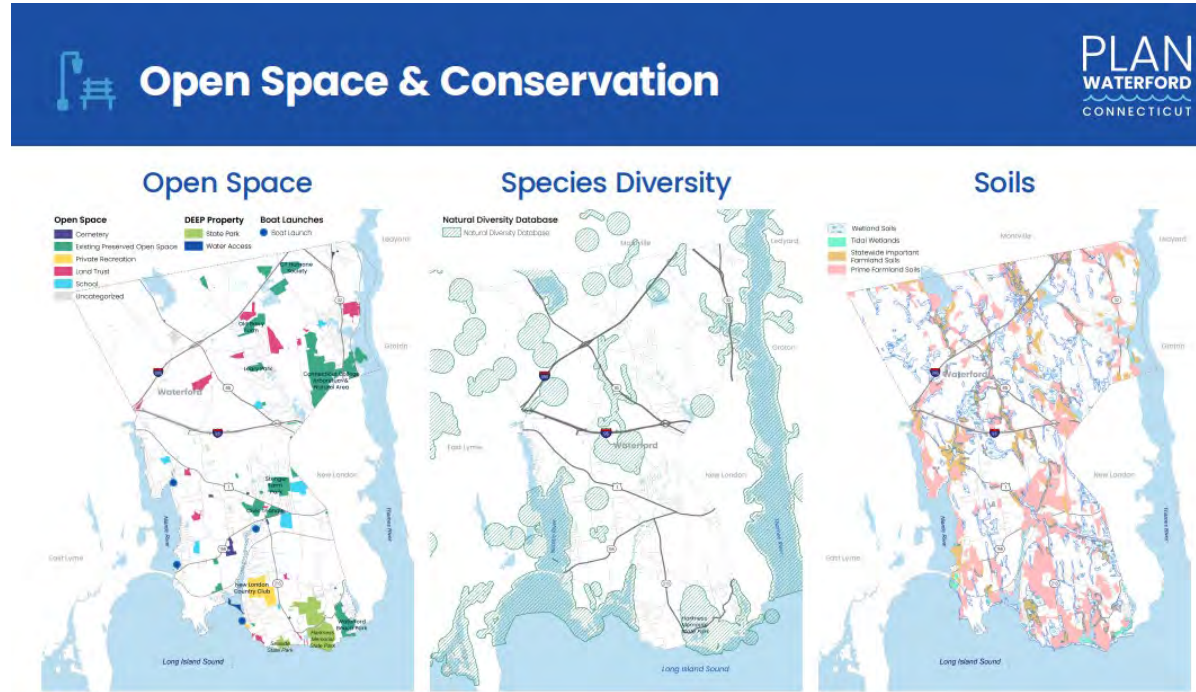
Public Facilities, Infrastructure, Land Use and Transportation

- Implement concepts from Civic Triangle plan
- Pickleball courts, frisbee golf
- Crystal mall identified as potential community center area, maybe recreational?
- Old infrastructure in many areas
- Limited sidewalks and shoulders
- Need better public transit



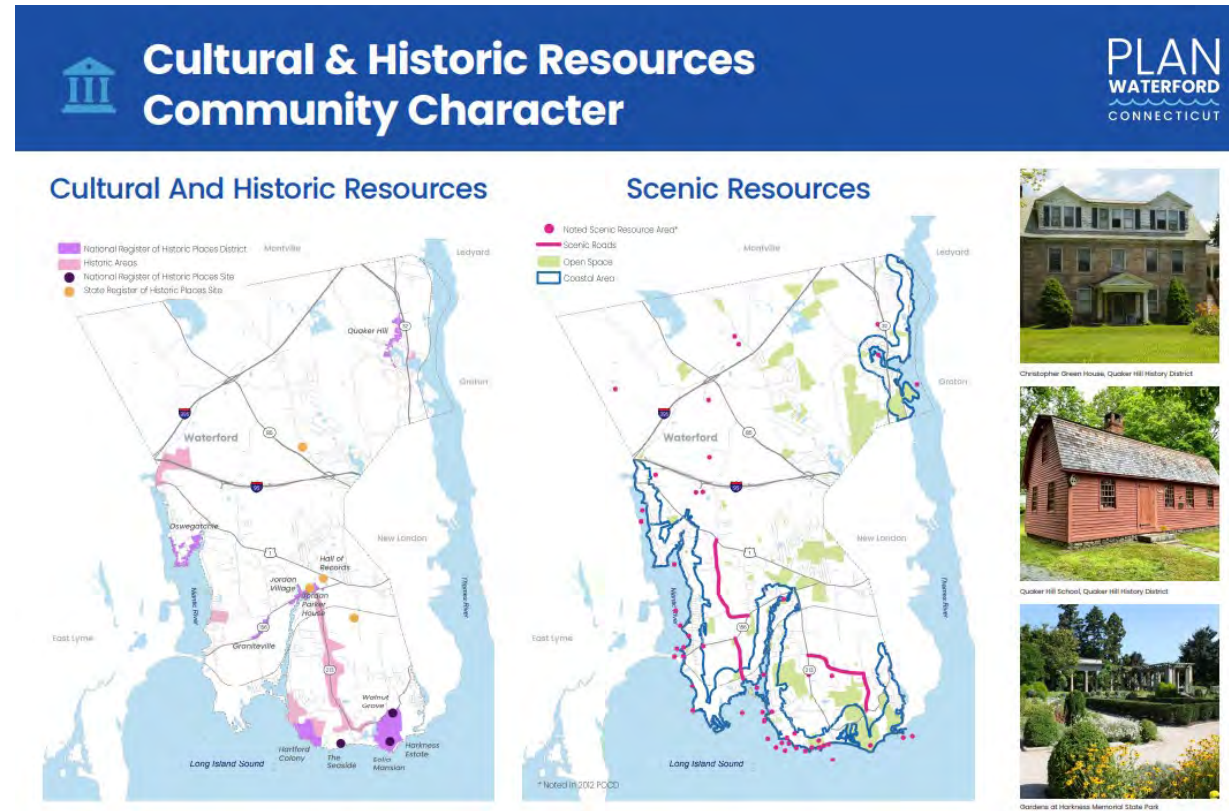
Open Space & Conservation

- Protect Waterford's natural resources
- Look for opportunities for more community gardens



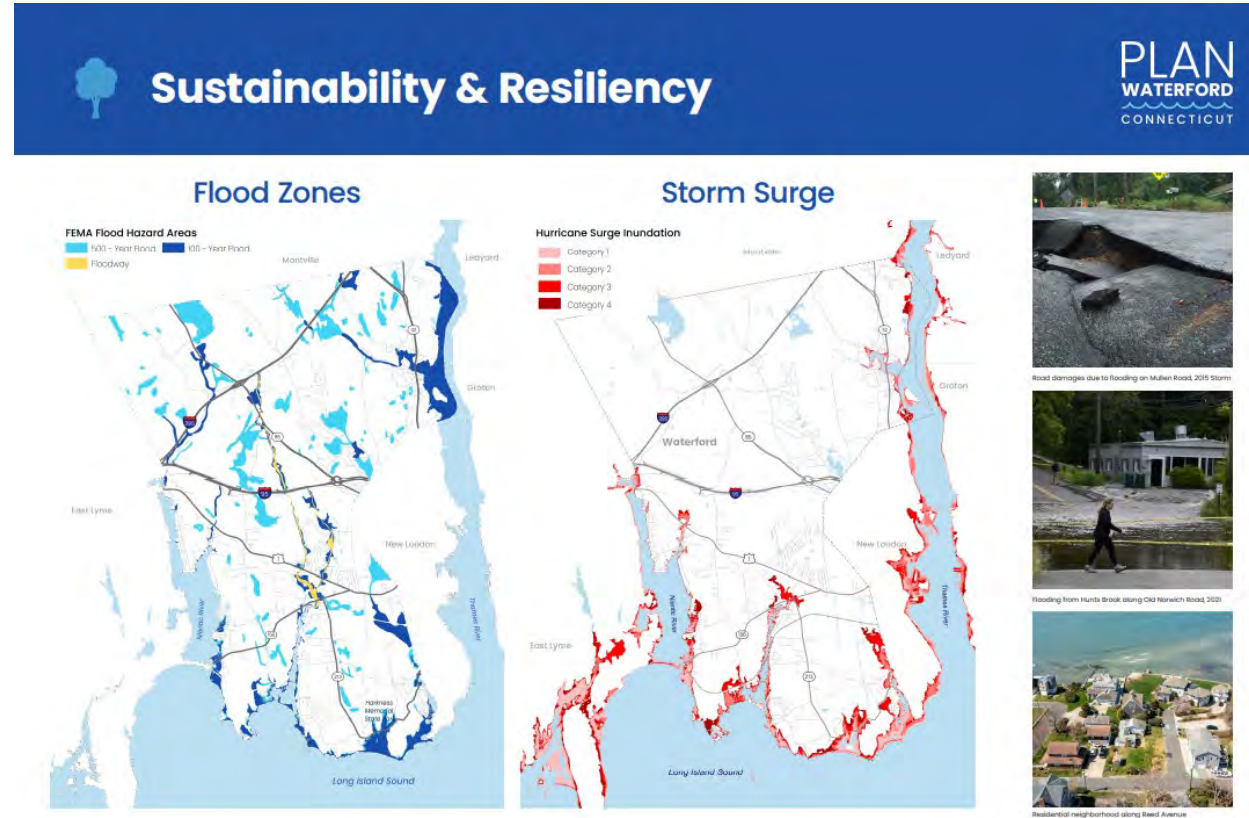
Cultural and Historic Resources Community Character

- Town needs to work with preservation consultants
- Most people do not know about all the Town's historic resources
- Look for opportunities for adaptive reuse
- Town should send more RFP's for Cohanzie School
- Maintenance plan needed for historic properties- Jordan Park House example



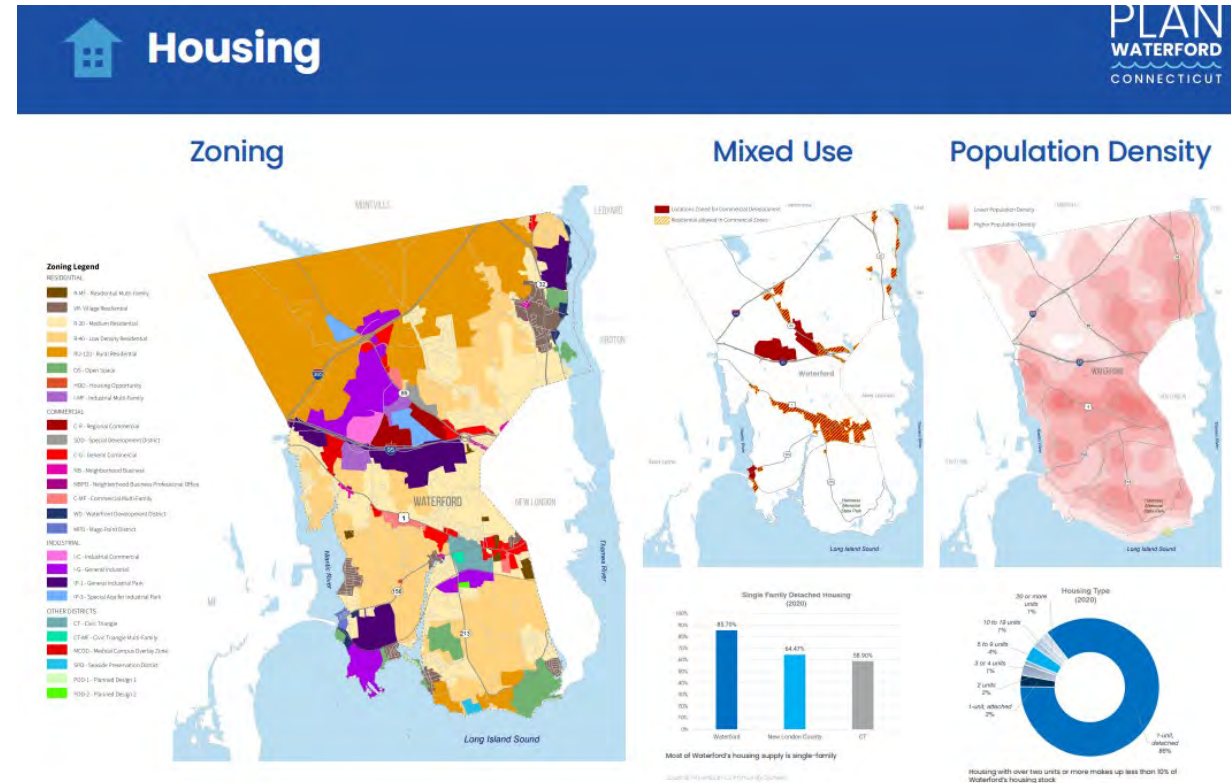
Sustainability and Resiliency

- Need to anticipate and plan for Climate Change
- Many homes in coastal areas are vulnerable to flooding
- Lots of impermeable pavement- better drainage needed
- Consider green infrastructure, capture water and prepare for draught
- Tree trimming should be maintained



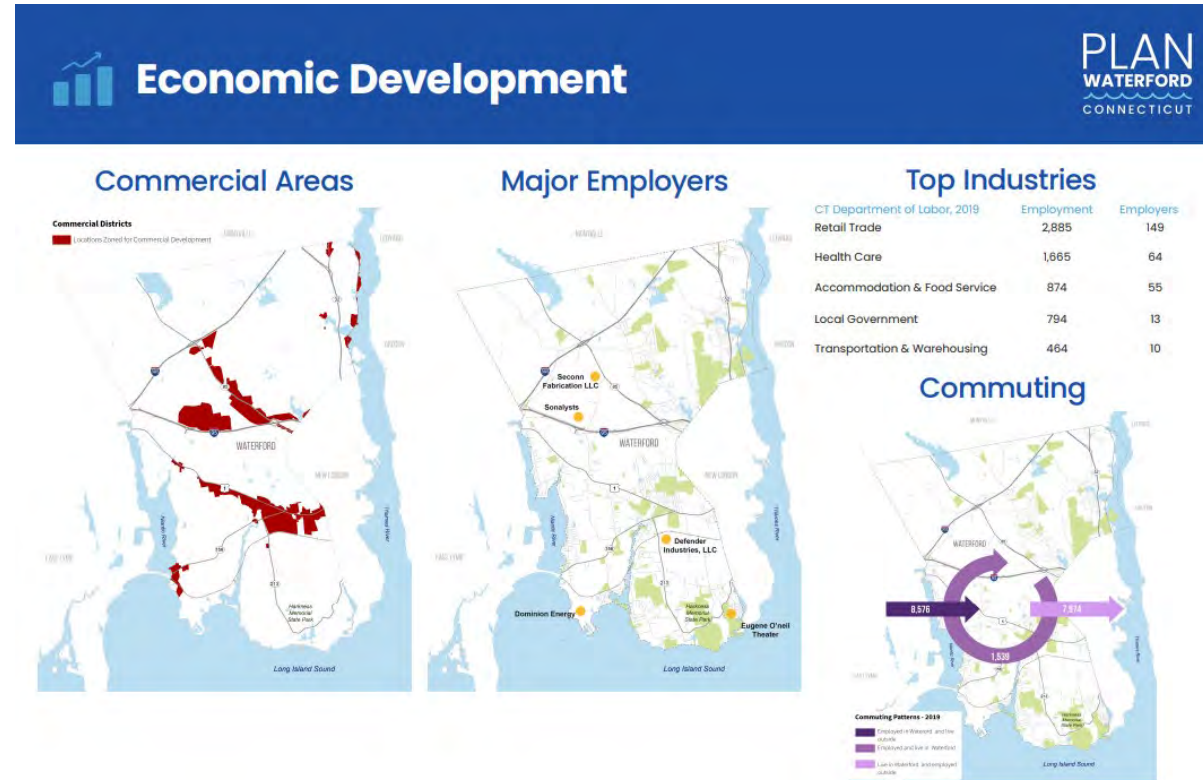
Housing

- Need more affordable housing, define what's affordable for Waterford, not just what the State says
- Implement goals of the Affordable Housing Plan
- Go to PZ and require a minimum number of affordable units for all developments
- Need regulations for short-term rentals
- Consider allowing ADU's
- Housing at Crystal Mall Property



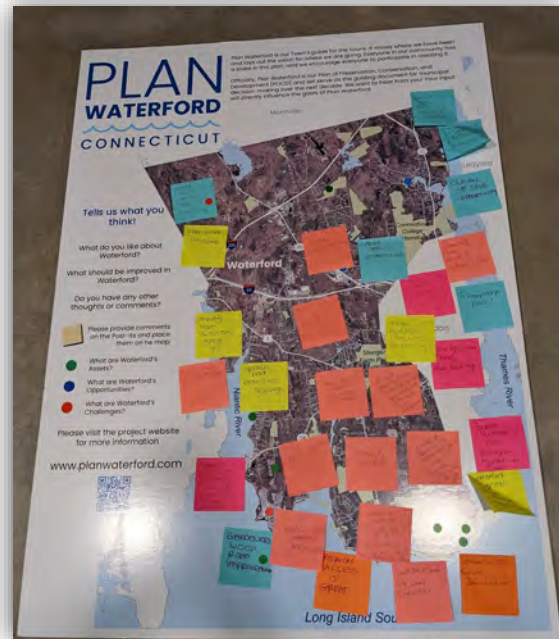
Economic Development

- Friendly to chains and big-box retail but not to smaller businesses
- Encourage more “mom and pop”, local retail
- Crystal Mall- mixed use development, housing, community center, recreational use
- Capitalize on Harkness Tourism, people come to Waterford- get them to spend money here



Additional Pop-Ups

- Tree lightings on December 2nd and 3rd?
- Stop and Shop, Aldi?
- Boards at the Library and Senior Center



PLAN WATERFORD CONNECTICUT

Plan Waterford is our Town's guide for the future. It shows where we have been and lays out the vision for where we are going. Everyone in our community has a stake in this plan, and we encourage everyone to participate in creating it.

Officially, Plan Waterford is our Plan of Preservation, Conservation, and Development (POCD) and will serve as the guiding document for municipal decision-making over the next decade. We want to hear from you! Your input will directly influence the goals of Plan Waterford.

Tells us what you think!

What do you like about Waterford?

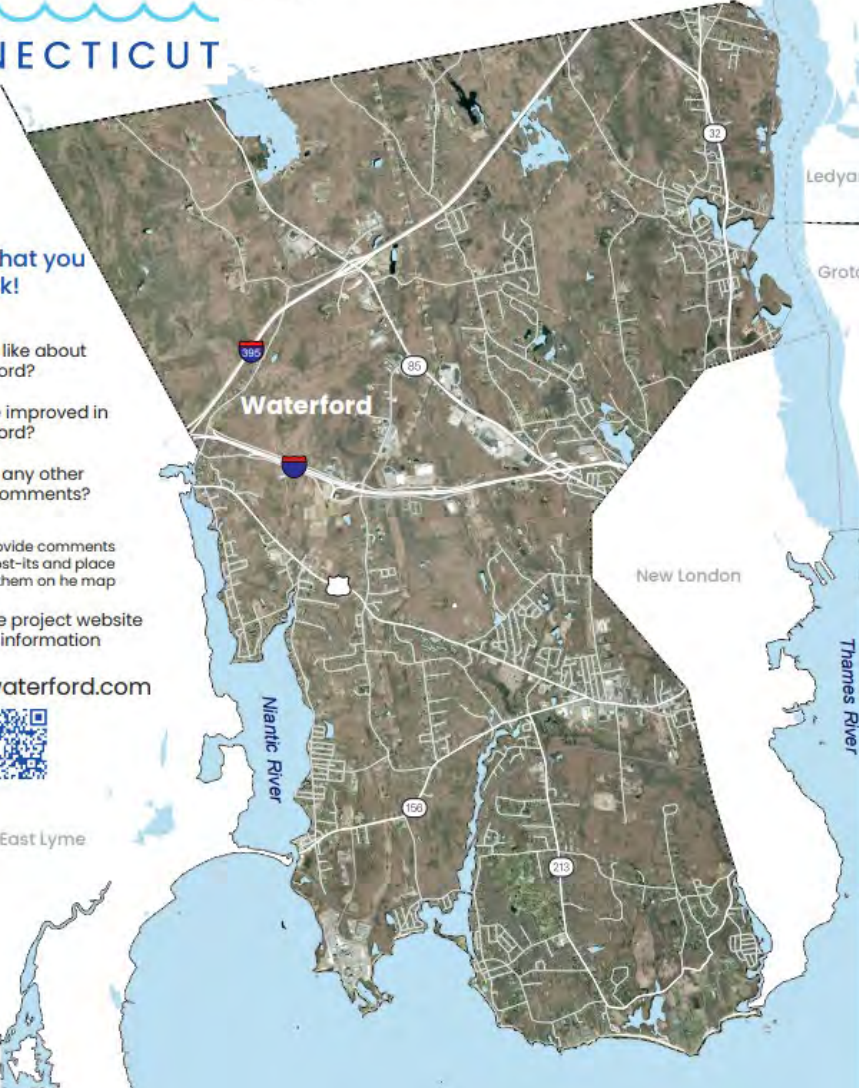

What should be improved in Waterford?

Do you have any other thoughts or comments?

Please provide comments on the Post-Its and place them on the map

Please visit the project website for more information

www.planwaterford.com



Online Survey and Map Updates

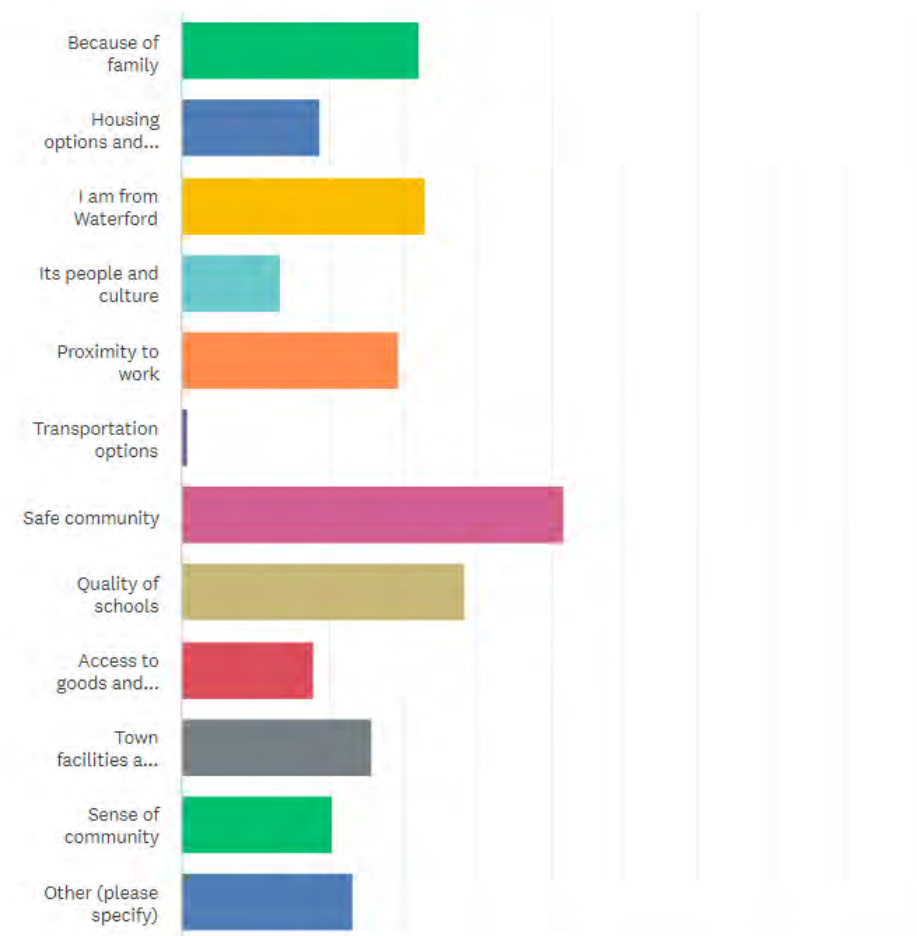


Online Survey Highlights

- Safe Community identified as the top reason residents live in Waterford
- Majority of survey respondents own their own home
- Greatest number of respondents coming from Great Neck Area

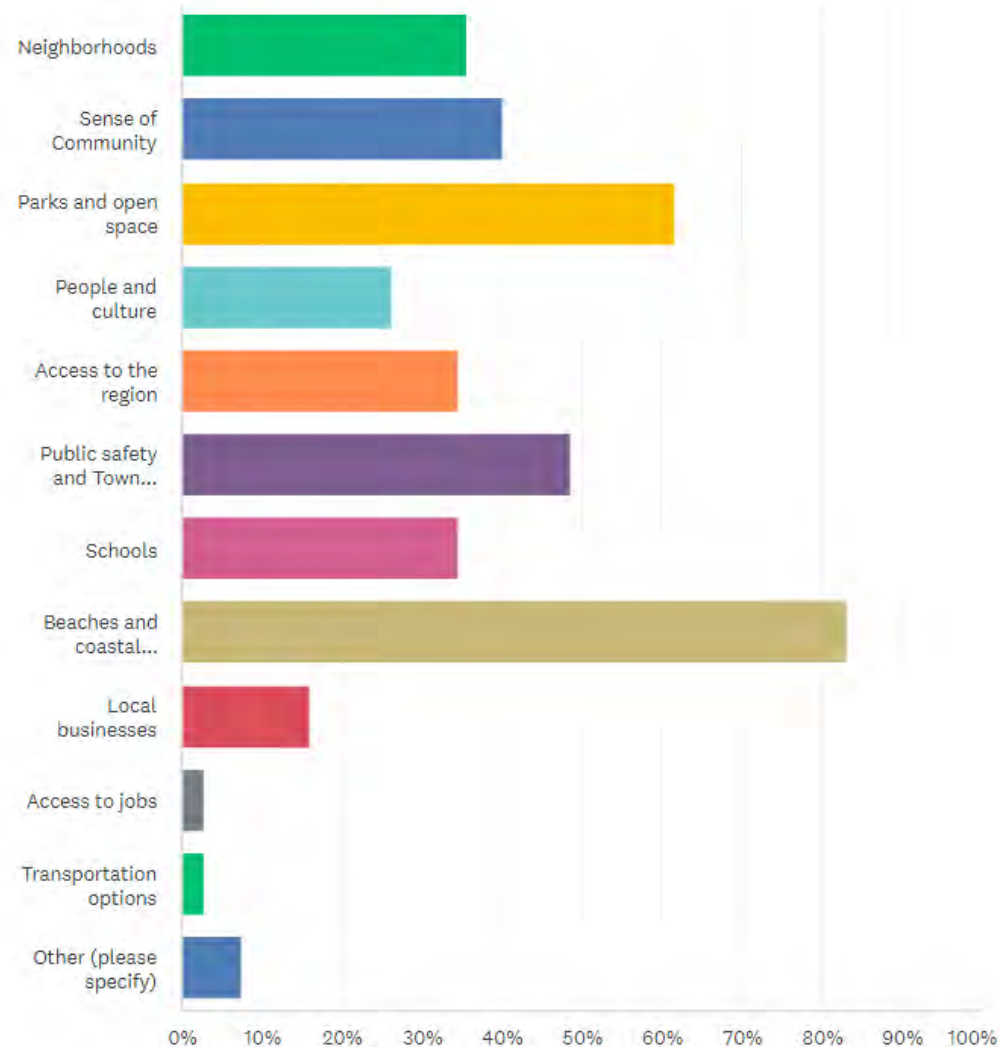
What are the primary reasons you choose to reside in Waterford? (select all that apply)

Answered: 112 Skipped: 10



Online Survey Highlights

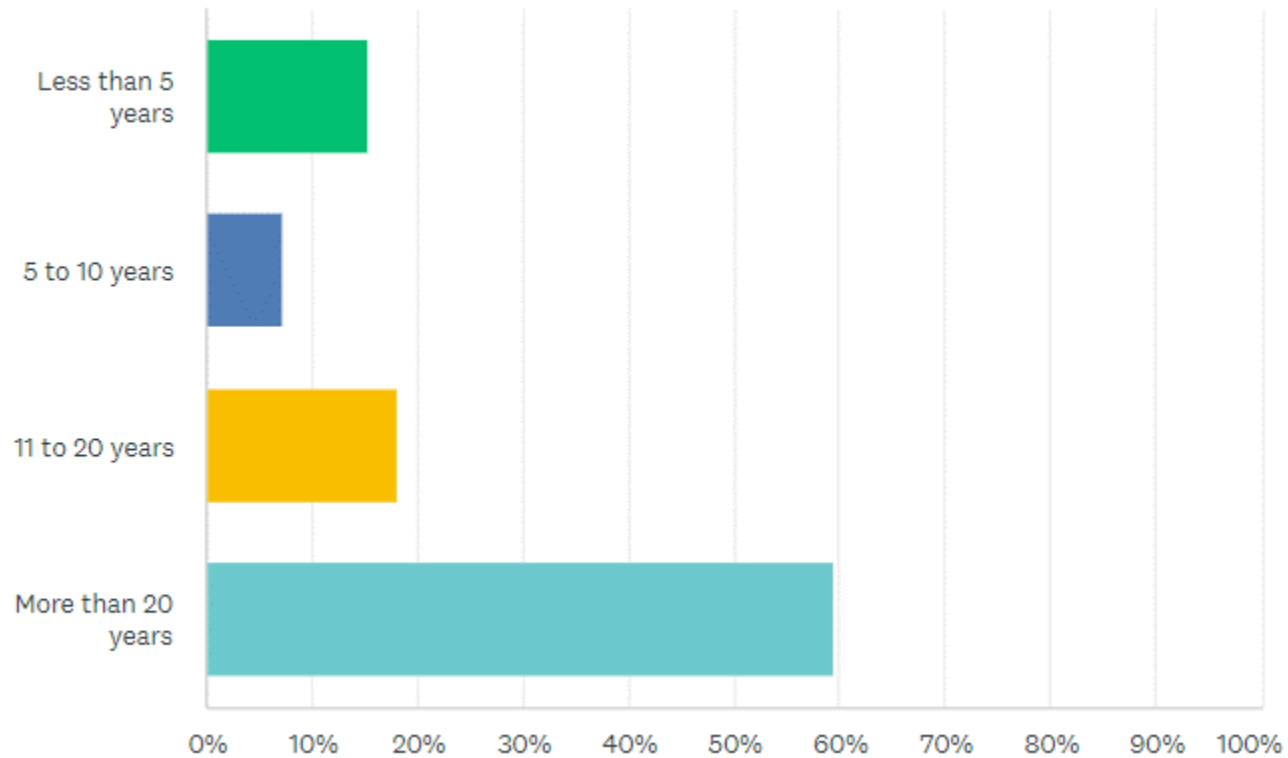
- What about Waterford do you value the most?



- *Library*
- *Would love to see more local business like Niantic has. Any chance of a downtown area?*
- *Public safety/ Volunteers in Town Fire Services*
- *The O'Neill Center*

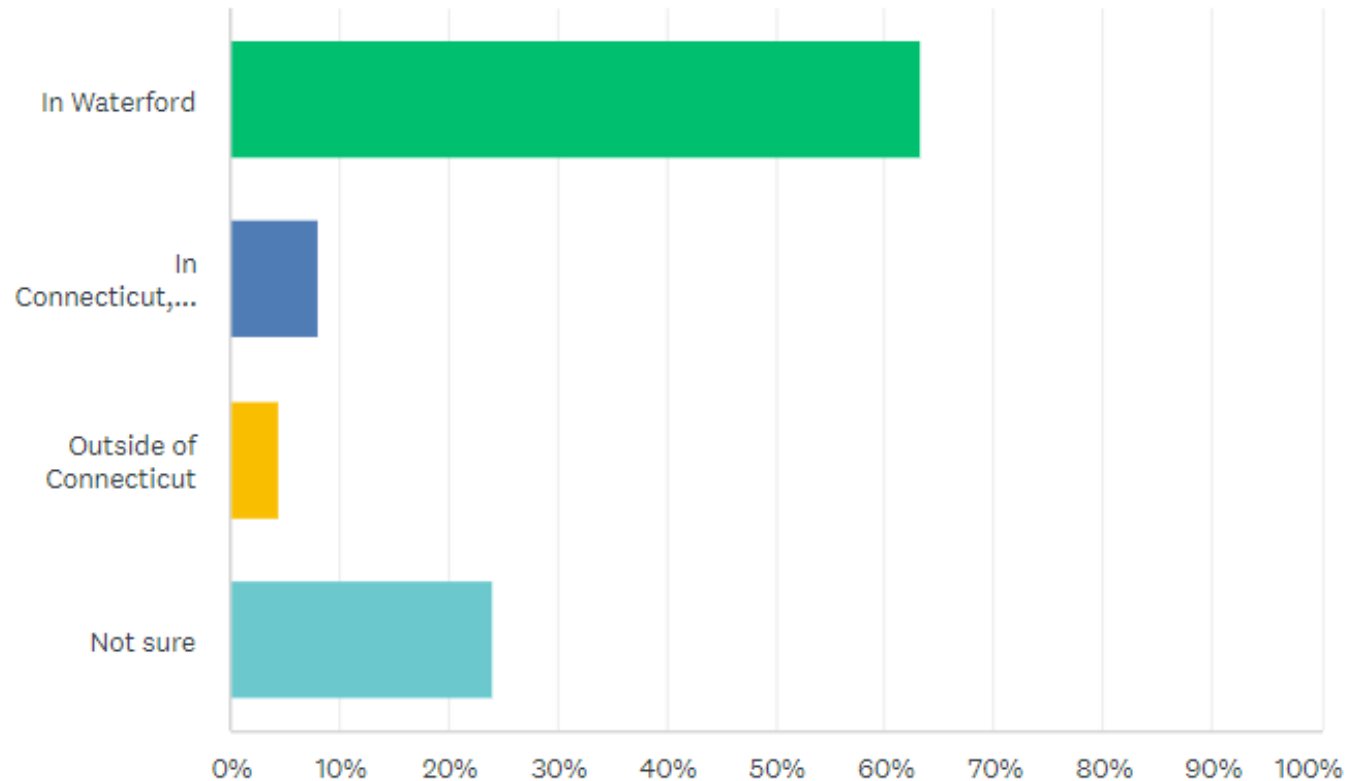
Online Survey Highlights

- How long have you lived in Waterford?



Online Survey Highlights

- Where do you see yourself living ten years from now?

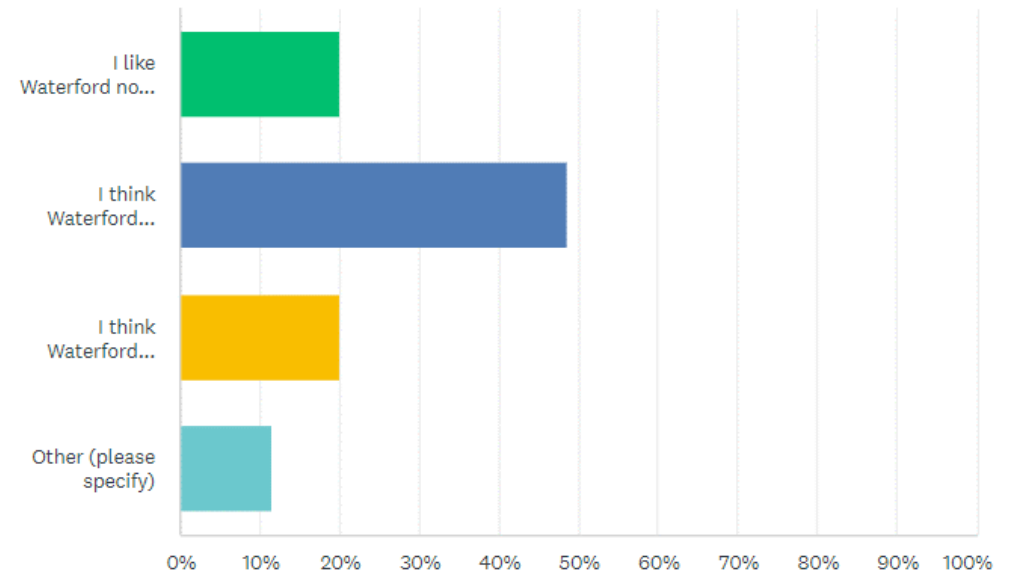


Online Survey Highlights

- Please select the statement that best represents your thoughts about Waterford

I like Waterford now, keep it like it is	20.00%
I think Waterford should continue to grow and change, but incrementally	48.57%
I think Waterford should be open for significant growth and change	20.00%
Other (please specify)	Responses 11.43%

- *Historic characteristics should be highlighted*
- *Don't need anymore Dollar Stores*
- *I think there should be more pedestrian and cycling options, and reduce car dependency.*
- *Improvement of facilities but with respect for the natural environment*
- *Waterford could accommodate many more folks and their needs without sacrificing how beautiful most of it is; we could be stronger and more interactive with each other, and should be more interactive with New London as well.*



Online Survey Highlights

- What should the Town focus MORE on?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
None of the above	0.00% 0
Economic development	30.84% 33
Town Center	30.84% 33
Improving municipal buildings	6.54% 7
Improving municipal services	10.28% 11
Protection of natural resources	42.99% 46
Affordable housing	27.10% 29
Historic preservation	28.04% 30
Parks and athletic fields	20.56% 22
Recreation programs	23.36% 25
Trails, greenways, and passive recreation areas	42.06% 45
Social services	13.08% 14
Roadways and traffic	35.51% 38
Bicycle and pedestrian facilities	28.97% 31
Arts and culture	18.69% 20
Improving specific areas such the Crystal Mall, Civic Triangle, Mago Point, Seaside or the Route 85 corridor	66.36% 71
Schools	13.08% 14

Online Survey Highlights

- What should the Town focus LESS on?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
None of the above	22.00% 22
Economic development	7.00% 7
Town Center	15.00% 15
Improving municipal buildings	24.00% 24
Improving municipal services	5.00% 5
Protection of natural resources	7.00% 7
Affordable housing	23.00% 23
Historic preservation	15.00% 15
Parks and athletic fields	11.00% 11
Recreation programs	4.00% 4
Trails, greenways, and passive recreation areas	11.00% 11
Social services	8.00% 8
Roadways and traffic	6.00% 6
Bicycle and pedestrian facilities	13.00% 13
Arts and culture	11.00% 11
Improving specific areas such the Crystal Mall, Civic Triangle, Mago Point, Seaside or the Route 85 corridor	9.00% 9
Schools	9.00% 9

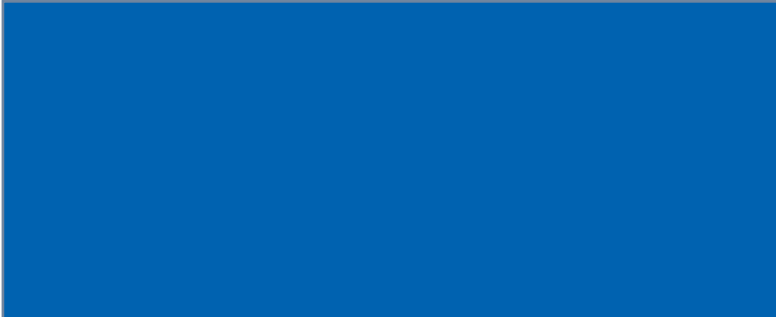
Project Schedule and Next Steps



Key Stakeholder Meetings - 6



- Library
- Community Center
- Board of Education
- Traffic Authority/ DPW
- Fire Department/EMS/Police
- Senior Citizens Commission – maybe belongs in Housing??
- Youth and Family Services
- Building Department, Land Use Commission?



- Conservation Commission
- Parks and Recreation
- Waterford Shellfish Management

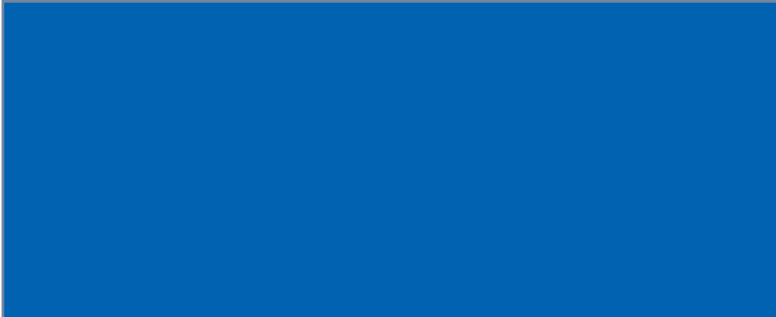


- Historic Properties Commission
- Design Review Board
- Mago Point Redevelopment Ad-Hoc Committee

Key Stakeholder Meetings - 6



- Flood Erosion Control Board
- Waterford Sustainable CT
- Harbor Management Commission
- Energy Task Force



- Housing Authority?




- Economic Development Commission
- Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT

Project Schedule and Next Steps

- Stakeholder interviews in November and December
- Additional Pop-Ups?
 - Tree lightings on December 2nd and 3rd?
- Topic Based Discussions with PZ from January to May—create schedule for these and invite the public to participate

december 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	 2	 3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Questions



Thank you!