DATA FROM FINAL MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

"DID WE HEAR YOU?"

VENUE: Brass Rail Meeting House, Southwick, Massachusetts DATE/TIME: JUNE 17, 2023 from 5 pm to 7 pm



Southwick Master Plan

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023

5:00-7:00 PM

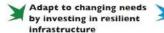
BRASS RAIL MEETING HOUSE

90 Point Grove Road, Southwick

REFRESHMENTS SERVED (INCLUDING LOCAL SOUTHWICK GOODS) AND **CASH BAR OPTION**

Over the past year, the Town of Southwick has been looking towards the future and is finalizing the creation of a Master Plan based on your input! Come meet other residents in a fun, inclusive, and open environment to discuss and contribute your ideas! THIS IS OUR FINAL WORKSHOP! KIDS ARE WELCOME!

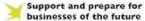
WHAT WE HAVE HEARD SO FAR!

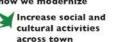


/ Find a balance between our small town character and how we modernize



Protect more farmland, open space and our natural resources





DATA FROM FINAL MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP "DID WE HEAR YOU?"

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 40+ INDIVIDUALS INCLUDES: ~ 11 CHILDREN (~14 YEARS OLD AND YOUNGER)

STRUCTURE: WALK-IN

- FOUR PARTICIPATORY STATIONS

- ALL ATTENDEES ENCOURAGED TO VISIT STATIONS 1, 2 AND 3

- CHILDREN ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND STATION 4

OBSERVATION NOTES:

- EVENT STARTED AT 5 PM WITH SOME ATTENDEES ARRIVING EXACTLY THEN, EVENT ENDED CLOSER TO 7:15 PM
 - SOME ATTENDEES STAYED FOR THE ENTIRETY OF THE WORKSHOP
 - MOST DROPPED IN AND STAYED BETWEEN 40 MINS 60 MINS

WHO IS BEING LEFT OUT? (DEMOGRAPHIC, GROUP, INTEREST, ETC.)

WHAT ARE WE MISSING?

WHAT COULD BE CLEARER?

DOES THIS EAD BACK TO OUR GOALS AS A COMMUNITY?

DATA FROM FINAL MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP "DID WE HEAR YOU?"

STATION 1 "ENVISIONING AND PRIORITISING YOUR PREFERENCES"

DESCRIPTION:

32 DIFFERENT INDEX CARDS WITH DIFFERENT SCENARIOS THAT ENVISION DIFFERENT KINDS OF BUSINESSES, TOWN CENTER LAYOUTS, AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT A FUTURE SOUTHWICK COULD CONTAIN

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS:

PICK 5 SCENARIOS AS YOUR TOP 5 PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE SOUTHWICK,
THEN PHOTOGRAPH THEM AND EMAIL TO MPAC MEMBER (DAVE
MACWILLIAMS)

STATION 1

PLAQUES/SIGNS ON HISTORIC
BUILDINGS
AND AREAS AROUND TOWN

CO-WORKING SPACES THAT ARE NEAR OTHER SMALL BUSINESSES AND ARE CENTRIC

HAVING ACCESSIBLE
INDOOR STAGE FOR
PERFORMANCES, FILMS, AND
SPEAKERS

ART/MAKERS
STUDIO SPACES FOR LOCAL
PAINTERS, MUSICIANS,
MAKERS TO WORK IN

REUSING OLD BUILDING SPACES
TO CREATE MIXED-USE
ENVIRONMENT
(BUSINESSES, RESTAURANTS,
APARTMENTS)

CREATING SPACE
DOWNTOWN FOR
POP-UP RESTAURANTS,
BUSINESSES, CONCERTS,
SHOWS/EXPOSITIONS

WALKABILITY
AROUND TOWN CENTER &
TO TOWN BUSINESSES

WALKABILITY
AROUND RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A
LOCALLY-OWNED
GROCERY STORE TO HAVE
AS ANOTHER SHOPPING
OPTION

Inclusive designCAN PEOPLE IN WHEELCHAIRS,
PEOPLE WITH LOW VISION,
ETC. ACCESS TOWN/
RESOURCES/BUSINESSES?

WALKABILITY AROUND
RECREATIONAL
AREAS AND CONNECTIONS TO
HIKING TRAILS

PLAY SPACES FOR CHILDREN
(PLAYGROUNDS, SPLASH PADS,
CLIMBING WALLS, SPORT
COURTS)

PLACES FOR INDOOR
GATHERING- (COFFEE
SHOPS, REC CENTERS, ART
GALLERIES/CREATIVE
SPACE)

SIGNAGE THAT IS CLEAR, CONSISTENT, AND VISUALLY-APPEALING THROUGHOUT TOWN

COMMUNITY AND
SENSORY GARDENS OPEN
FOR ALL TO VISIT

HOUSING WHERE ALL LEVELS OF INCOME CAN THRIVE

PLACES TO CREATE
(ART WALLS, STAGES,
SCULPTURE GARDENS, ETC.)

INTERGENERATIONAL
ACTIVITIES
TEENS TO SENIORS
(PICKLEBALL COURTS,
PING PONG TABLES, CLIMBING
WALLS ETC)

SIDEWALKS
WITH TREES, PLANTED POTS,
GREENERY

PUBLIC SPACES FOR OUTDOOR SOCIAL GATHERINGS

GREEN PUBLIC FOOTPATHS

BETWEEN AREAS OF
INTEREST (BETWEEN
BUSINESSES,
CORRIDORS, SCHOOLS,
NATURE PRESERVES,
BEACH) VS PAVED SIDEWALKS

MAKING
FUTURE FIBER INTERNET
ACCESSIBLE IN
PUBLIC SPACES

WELL-LIT
OUTDOOR SPACES FOR
EVENING ACTIVITIES

CLOSE ACCESS AND
SERVICES FOR THOSE
AGING IN PLACE
(DOCTOR'S OFFICES,
LIBRARIES, GROCERY
STORES, ETC.)

AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES
IN TOWN THAT ARE SUSTAINABLE AND HEALTHY
FOR COMMUNITY
(LESS CHEMICAL USAGE)

MORE TREES IN DOWNTOWN AREAS

MORE COHESIVE-LOOKING
DOWNTOWN AND
BUILDINGS ARE MAINTAINED
AND HAVE NEW ENGLAND
SMALL TOWN AESTHETIC

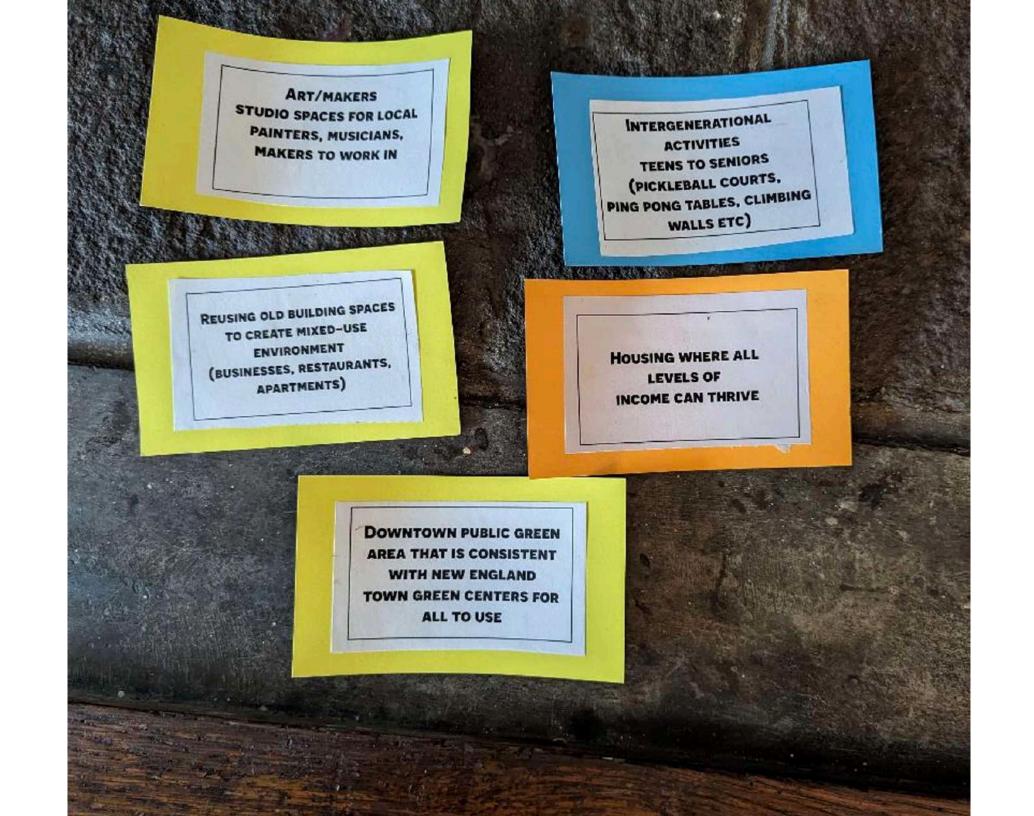
MORE RENTAL OPTIONS FOR
HOUSING THAT ARE
AESTHETIC AND
WELL-CONNECTED TO
DOWNTOWN

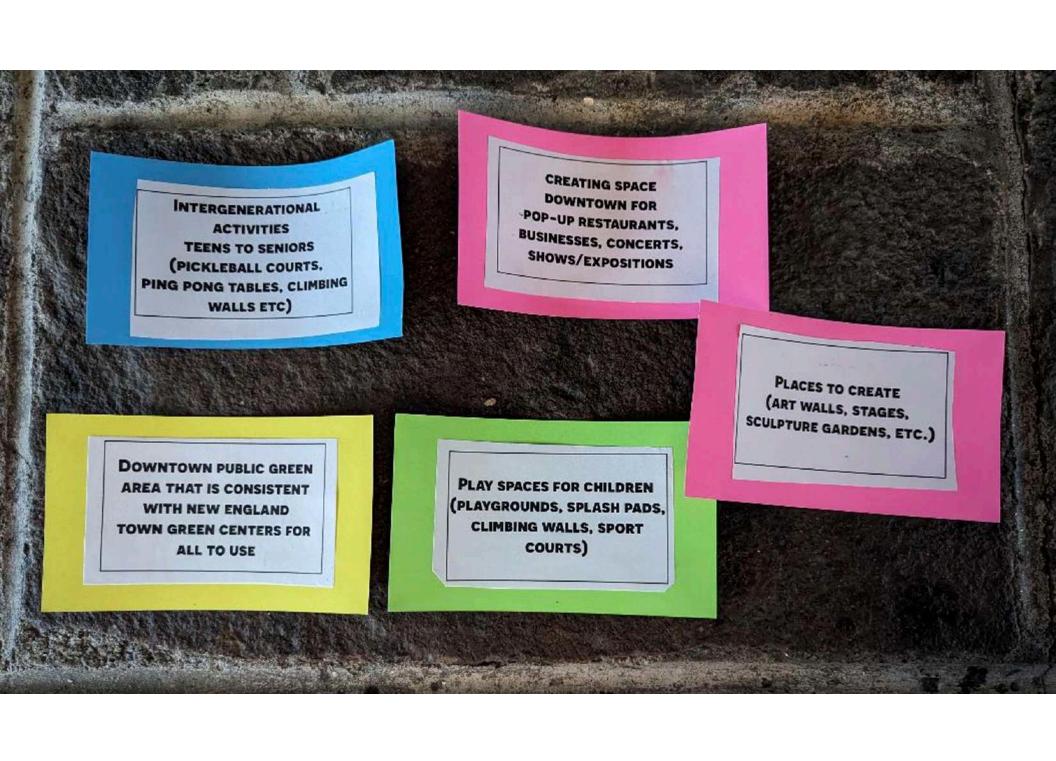
MORE RENTAL OPTIONS FOR
HOUSING THAT ARE
AESTHETIC AND
WELL-CONNECTED TO
DOWNTOWN

DOWNTOWN PUBLIC GREEN
AREA THAT IS CONSISTENT
WITH NEW ENGLAND
TOWN GREEN CENTERS FOR
ALL TO USE

MORE SMALL BUSINESSES
DOWNTOWN THAT COULD
SAFELY ACCOMODATE
KIDS AFTER SCHOOL
(SAFE AFTER SCHOOL
HANG- OUT SPOTS)

SAFER SIDEWALKS/CROSS-WALKS FROM SCHOOLS TO DOWNTOWN AND RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS





CREATING SPACE
DOWNTOWN FOR
POP-UP RESTAURANTS,
BUSINESSES, CONCERTS,
SHOWS/EXPOSITIONS

GREEN PUBLIC FOOTPATHS

BETWEEN AREAS OF
INTEREST (BETWEEN
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LOCALLY-OWNED
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WALKABILITY
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REUSING OLD BUILDING SPACES
TO CREATE MIXED-USE
ENVIRONMENT
(BUSINESSES, RESTAURANTS,
APARTMENTS)

A
LOCALLY-OWNED
GROCERY STORE TO HAVE
AS ANOTHER SHOPPING
OPTION

PUBLIC SPACES FOR OUTDOOR SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Housing where all levels of income can thrive	7
Creating space for pop up resturants, businesses, concerts	6
Reusing old business spaces to create mixed use enviroments for business, resturants, appts	6
Interegenerational activies - teens to seniors (pickelball, ping pong, climbing wall)	5
Locally owned grocery store / another local option	4
Downtown public green area consistant with typical New England towns green centers	4
Public places for outdoor social gatherings	4
Sidewalk and crosswalk -downtown and residential neighborhoods	3
Walkability around town center and businesses	3
More rental options for hoousing that are aesthetic and well connected to downtown	3
More small town businesses downtown that could safely accommodate kids after school (safe hangouts)	3
More comprehensive looking downtown and buildings that are maintained and have a New England small town aesthetic	3
More trees downtown	3
Plaques / Signs on historic buildings	2
Signage that is clear and consistant and visually appealing around the town	2
Art/Makers studio spaces for local painters, musicians to creat in	2
Places to create (art walls, stages, sculpture gardens)	2
Places for children (playgrounds, splash pads, climbing wall, sport courts)	2
Having accessible indoor stage for performances, films, speakers	2
Green footpaths between areas of interest, business corrodors, schools, nature preserves versus sidewalks	1
Close access and services for aging in place (doctors offices, library, grocery store)	1
Community and sensory gardens open for all to visit	1
Well lit outdoor spaces for evening activities	1
Walkability around recreational areas and connections to hiking trails	1
Inclusive design - people with wheelchairs, poor visibility etc. (businesses, town buildings, resources)	1

DATA FROM FINAL MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP "DID WE HEAR YOU?"

STATION 2 "DRAFT MASTER PLAN CHAPTERS: WHAT IS MISSING?"

DESCRIPTION:

ALL 8 THEMATIC MASTER PLAN CHAPTERS PRINTED OUT WITH STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS INCLUDED FOR EACH CHAPTER

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS:

HOW CAN ANY OF THE STATEMENTS BELOW CAPTURE YOUR PERSPECTIVE BETTER?

IF YOU DISAGREE WITH ANY STATEMENTS, PLEASE TAKE AN INDEX CARD AND WRITE DOWN THE NUMBER OF THE STATEMENT AND WRITE DOWN HOW YOU WOULD REPHRASE THE STATEMENT! WHAT IS MISSING FROM THIS CHAPTER? WHO IS BEING LEFT OUT? PLEASE OFFER YOUR OPINION!

STATION 2

PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES CHAPTER - DID WE HEAR YOU?

HOW CAN ANY OF THE STATEMENTS BELOW CAPTURE YOUR PERSPECTIVE BETTER?

If you disagree with any statements, please take an index card and write down the number of the statement and write down how you would rephrase the statement!

WHAT IS MISSING FROM THIS CHAPTER? WHO IS BEING LEFT OUT? PLEASE OFFER YOUR OPINION ON AN INDEX CARD!

STRATEGIES:

#PBS1: Continue providing efficient and fiscally responsible town services and community facilities

#PBS2: Support a safe and healthy Southwick

ACTIONS SOUTHWICK CAN TAKE:

1PS: Ensure the Town's departments are sufficiently staffed and equipped.

2PS: Prepare the town-wide infrastructure for newer and future technologies and interest.

3PS: Increase participation in Town Boards, Committees, and other town events.

4PS: Ensure multi-generational opportunities of engagement at town events and provide for continuous dialogue.

5PS: Facilitate open communication and coordination among all Town boards and committees to advance the Master Plan's goals and better serve the residents.

FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC ON 6/17/2023:

#PBS1: PROPOSED ACTION STEP TO FORM A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/MARKETING DEPARTMENT THAT WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF EDC, TOURISM, AND MARKETING THE TOWN TO POTENTIAL NEW RESIDENTS WHO WANT TO MOVE TO TOWN

#PBS2: WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY 'SUPPORT A SAFE AND HEALTHY SOUTHWICK'?

#PBS1 AND #PBS2: THESE SOUND BOTH VERY VAGUE. SO MANY MONTHS OF YOUR MASTER PLAN RESEARCH (AND I TOOK SURVEY A FEW MONTHS AGO) AND THERE AREN'T MORE TAILORED STRATEGIES FOR SOUTHWICK'S TOWN OFFICES/SERVICES? HOW DO ACTIONS YOU PROPOSE MAKE US MORE EFFICIENT OR FISCALLY-RESPONSIBLE AS NOTED IN STRATEGY?

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: CREATE NEW COMMITTEE; STANDING MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND ADVISE PLANNING BOARD ON PROPOSALS AND THEIR ADHERENCE TO PLAN.

#IPS: OPEN TOWN OFFICES BACK UP ON FRIDAY

#PBS1, #1PS, #2PS: WHY IS THERE NO CONSERVATION DIRECTOR? STRATEGIC PLANNING AROUND THIS FOR X YEARS IS NEEDED AND WILL NEED TO BE UPDATED PERIODICALLY E.G MASTER PLAN ONGOING

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: ACCESSIBLE & CLEAR COMMUNICATION FROM TOWN HALL IS A PUBLIC SERVICE WE NEED. IT SHOULD BE A STRATEGY! THE ACTION COULD BE THIS: OTHER TOWNS DEVELOP A BI-WEEKLY OR MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER YOU CAN EASILY SUBSCRIBE TO THAT IS APPEALING AND CONTAINS INFO ABOUT ANYTHING RELATING TO PUBLIC SERVICES/PUBLIC EVENTS IN TOWN. COULD BE A GREAT JOB FOR AN INTERN TO DEVELOP MARKETING NEWSLETTER AND GIVE A YOUNG PERSON JOB EXPERIENCE (ALSO INFUSES YOUNGER GENERATIONALLY-RELEVANT THINKING INTO TOWN HALL, WE NEED A BALANCE OF INNOVATIVE THINKING AND EXPERIENCE IN TOWN HALL).

#PBS1: 'FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE' IS A POLITICALLY-LOADED TERM, CODE FOR CUTTING SERVICES.
RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD BE A GIVEN AND NOT NEED TO BE STATED.

#1PS: REVIEW IF SERVICES ARE PROVIDED IN A COST-EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT MANNER. UNION RATES VS. WHAT TIME IS NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH TASKS. MANY TASKS NEED AUTOMATION.

#3PS: NEED CLEAR EXPRESSION OF MISSION FOR EACH COMMITTEE/BOARD/ETC.

#3PS: ARE THERE SPECIFIC PLANS TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION? WHAT ARE THEY?

#4PS: HOW WILL THIS BE IMPLEMENTED?

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: THIS ALL SOUNDS LIKE IT CAME FROM A TEMPLATE AND THEY COULD LITERALLY APPLY TO ANY TOWN. THESE AREN'T ACTIONS, THEY ARE NICE SOUNDING GOALS.

GENERAL COMMENT: CAN TOWN DUMP PLEASE ADD SMALL AREA/SHED FOR ITEMS THAT ARE FREE FOR TAKING? COULD HOUSE FURNITURE AND ALSO BITS AND BOBS. OTHER COMMUNITIES HAVE "TREASURE SHACK" WHERE YOU CAN PUT FUNCTIONAL GOODS SO OTHERS KNOW IT IS IN DECENT SHAPE AND IS FREE TO TAKE. WOULD BE MORE SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION TO WASTE. JUST A SIMPLE/CHEAP WAY TO ORGANIZE DUMP MORE AND CREATE MORE REUSE.

HOUSING CHAPTER - DID WE HEAR YOU?

HOW CAN ANY OF THE STATEMENTS BELOW CAPTURE YOUR PERSPECTIVE BETTER?

If you disagree with any statements, please take an index card and write down the number of the statement and write down how you would rephrase the statement!

WHAT IS MISSING FROM THIS CHAPTER? WHO IS BEING LEFT OUT? PLEASE OFFER YOUR OPINION ON AN INDEX CARD!

STRATEGIES:

HGS1: Balance development and maintain a housing stock that also protects the town's natural, historic and scenic resources

HGS2: A range of safe, affordable, and accessible housing options will be available to meet the needs of an aging population in Southwick.

ACTIONS SOUTHWICK CAN TAKE:

1H: Ensure that households that want to move to town have options that are affordable to them.

2H: Create a pathway to meeting the affordable housing goal of 10 percent in town.

3H: Improve opportunities for older adults to remain in the community through providing a variety of smaller, affordable and accessible housing options in walkable neighborhoods.

4H: Ensure that the Town can support older residents who choose to age in place (or do not have options to downsize) through services and programs that support healthy aging.

5H: Integrate housing development with the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) to ensure protection of the Town's priority open space properties.

#6H: Explore increased density in appropriate areas, integrating additional density into context of existing neighborhoods.

HOUSING CHAPTER - DID WE HEAR YOU?

#7H: Adopt Low Impact Development standards for all new residential developments to protect environment and climate

#8H: Explore the benefits of adopting an Accessory Apartment (In-law) Zoning Bylaw

#9H: Establish a Housing Trust Fund to receive, purchase, and convey real or personal property.

10H: Allow for "over 55" housing in some residential districts to allow for greater density and smaller housing types for better affordability. Include design, landscaping, and site planning to preserve open space and neighborhood character. Require universal design standards of units and walking routes to ensure accessibility for all residents and safe, walkable neighborhoods.

11H: Assist older adults in getting MassSave assessments and implementing conservation measures on their homes to decrease the cost of heating and cooling.

FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC ON 6/17/2023:

#4H: WHAT DOES "SUPPORT" MEAN?

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: WHY ARE ALL OF THE ACTIONS SO VAGUE? I'VE CONTRIBUTED TO ALL CHAPTERS TODAY AND ONLY A FEW OF THE ACTIONS IN THEM FEEL SPECIFIC ENOUGH TO BE IN A MASTER PLAN. LIKE #4H IN THIS CHAPTER SHOULD BE TARGETED TO BE AN ACTION LIKE: "SET UP HOUSING OFFICE IN TOWN HALL WITH ACCESSIBLE HOURS AND STAFF THAT WILL HOLD 1-ON-1 MEETINGS WITH OLDER RESIDENTS WHO NEED FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND CAN OFFER THEM SPECIFIC OPTIONS/REFERRALS TO SERVICES." THESE ACTIONS NEED TO DEFINE WHO, WHAT, WHEN, AND HOW THINGS WILL GET DONE. OTHERWISE, THEY'RE JUST NICE IDEAS.

#HGS2: NOT JUST AN AGING POPULATION! INCLUDE A 'MORE DIVERSE POPULATION'. SHOULD INCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF MIXED USE ZONE WITH BOTH HOUSING AND SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESSES. THIS CHAPTER FOCUSES ALMOST SOLELY ON AN OLDER, AGING POPULATION. IT NEEDS TO INCLUDE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AS WELL AS DIVERSITY IN ECONOMIC/SOCIAL CLASS.

#HGS2: NOT ONLY THE AGING POPULATION BUT LOWER INCOME, HANDICAP, ETC. WE NEED MORE HOUSING FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION. THEY HAVE TO LEAVE TOWN NOW TO FIND HOUSES THEY CAN AFFORD.

#3H: SAME AS ABOVE COMMENT (ON SAME INDEX CARD, FROM SAME CONTRIBUTOR). NOT JUST OLDER ADULTS!

#4H: LET'S NOT FORGET OUR HANDICAP POPULATION

#1H: HOW EXACTLY WILL THAT BE ENSURED?

#7H: WHAT WILL THOSE LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS REQUIRE?

#8H: YES, DEFINITELY AGREE.

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: TOO MANY REGULATORY AGENCIES TO PROMOTE GROWTH.

NEED TO ADDRESS DEVELOPMENT - HOUSING: SINGLE FAMILY, MULTI-FAMILY, MULTIUSE

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: THIS STILL DOESN'T HAVE SPECIFIC GOALS OR STRATEGIES FOR STARTER HOUSING FOCUS IS ALWAYS JUST ON SENIORS. WE NEED YOUNG FAMILY ATTAINABLE HOUSING TO KEEP KIDS IN SOUTHWICK SCHOOLS, WITH SOUTHWICK ACTIVITIES

#6H: BE SPECIFIC: "CHANGE ZONING ALLOW ALREADY DEVELOPED AREAS OF RT 202/COLLEGE HWY TO INCREASE DENSITY AND ALLOW FOR MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT WITH DESIGN STANDARDS THAT INCLUDES RESIDENTIAL OPTIONS (INCLUDING RENTALS AND APARTMENTS), SMALL BUSINESSES AND OTHER SMALL COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES."

#9H: WHAT IS A HOUSING TRUST FUND? IS THIS PRIVATE MONEY?

#11H: WILL YOU SET UP A BOARD OR OFFICE IN TOWN HALL FOR THIS? WHY ONLY OLDER ADULTS? REPHRASE: "SET UP OUTREACH PROGRAM AND ANNUALLY REMIND ALL TOWN RESIDENTS THEY CAN GET MASS SAVE ASSESSMENTS EVERY X YEARS. HAVE SAME OUTREACH PROGRAM OFFER ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WITH CONSERVATION MEASURES ON HOMES TO DECREASE COST OF HEATING, COOLING AND USE OF FOSSIL FUELS"

#3H: "WORK WITH DEVELOPERS VIA ECONOMIC COUNCIL, PLANNING BOARD, CONSERVATION COMMISSION AND EXISTING PROPERTY OWNERS TO CHANGE ZONING AND CREATE A VARIETY OF SMALLER, AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING OPTIONS IN ALREADY DENSE AREAS". THIS WAY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IS INVOLVED AND RESPECTS TOWN HOUSING PLAN/DESIRE TO CONSERVE OPEN SPACE.

#8H: YES! WOULD SAVE MORE LAND THIS WAY, LOWER HOUSING COSTS AND HELP FOSTER INTERGENERATIONAL (MAYBE OLDER PEOPLE COULD HAVE THIS AND RENT OUT TO YOUNGER FAMILIES AND MAKE SOME INCOME/HELP EACH OTHER OUT).

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: CAN WE PLEASE CHANGE AFFORDABLE' TO 'FINANCIALLY ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL INCOME LEVELS'?

#2H: STATE THIS IS THE STATE'S (AS IN MASSACHUSETTS) GOAL, NOT NECESSARILY THE SOUTHWICK MASTER PLAN/COMMUNITY GOAL. THIS STILL DOESN'T HAVE ANY GOALS OR STRATEGIES FOR APARTMENT LIVING.

GENERAL COMMENTS FOR THIS CHAPTER: I DON'T LIKE EXPANDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING. I DON'T AGREE WITH #2H. I DON'T AGREE WITH INCREASED DENSITY (#6H).

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: WE NEED MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR YOUNGER PEOPLE IN TOWN, NOT MANY APARTMENTS IN TOWN, NEED MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL.

#11H: EDUCATION NOT JUST ASSISTANCE!

I AGREE WITH: #1H, #2H AND #5H!

MAKE A #12H: ESTABLISH A MIXED USE ZONE TO ENCOURAGE BUSINESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES CHAPTER - DID WE HEAR YOU?

HOW CAN ANY OF THE STATEMENTS BELOW CAPTURE YOUR PERSPECTIVE BETTER?

If you disagree with any statements, please take an index card and write down the number of the statement and write down how you would rephrase the statement!

WHAT IS MISSING FROM THIS CHAPTER? WHO IS BEING LEFT OUT? PLEASE OFFER YOUR OPINION ON AN INDEX CARD!

STRATEGIES:

HCS1: Make preservation and promotion of cultural and heritage resources a planning priority for the town.

HCS2: Broaden cultural programming through the town fostering relationships between local and regional groups.

ACTIONS SOUTHWICK CAN TAKE:

1H: Map out short, medium, and long-term goals as a Commission for Historic Preservation in Southwick & pursue the development of a town-wide Preservation Plan

2H: Recognize town historical resources and nominate for state and federal preservation programs.

#3H: Ensure planning and mitigation for historical documents and resources to withstand future climate change impacts.

4H: Identify existing cultural institutions and resources at the neighborhood level that define Southwick's community and cultural center, pursue the designation of a Southwick Local Cultural District, and plan for additional opportunities.

5H: Establish design guidelines and a review process, as appropriate, by area in town. Include information about compatible new construction and adapting built resources for energy efficiency while maintaining historic integrity, if applicable. Establish zoning tools to ensure the protection of irreplaceable built resources and scenic landscapes and vistas and to encourage appropriate and compatible development

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES CHAPTER - DID WE HEAR YOU?

#6H: Develop a local preservation award and historic plaque program for property owners.

7H: Establish policy and zoning to support the adaptive reuse of endangered resources that define the Southwick landscape such as barns and other endangered built resources.

#8H: Organize an Oral History Project to engage all citizens in the story of Southwick.

FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC ON 6/17/2023:

#1H: SHOULD READ 'DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TOWN-WIDE PLAN'

#2H: 'RECOGNIZE' SHOULD BE AFTER 'INVENTORY' IS DONE. 'INVENTORY AND RECOGNIZE HISTORICAL RESOURCES'

#4H: 'IDENTIFY EXISTING CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONS AND RESOURCES'

#5H: DISTRIBUTE AND MAKE KNOWN TO PROPERTY OWNERS WHERE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES EXIST AND DESIGN AND PROTECT THEM

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: WHAT ABOUT RECREATION?! SUPPORT IS LACKING FOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES/BUSINESSES IN TOWN!!

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: I THINK HISTORIC PRESERVATION IS MORE IMPORTANT CULTURAL RESOURCES

#HCS2L | STRONGLY AGREE!

#4H: VERY IMPORTANT!

#5H: SHOULD BE STATED IN TWO SEPARATE CHAPTERS. ZONING MUST BE UPDATED TO PROTECT HISTORIC INTEGRITY.

#7H: AGAIN UPDATE ZONING AND PROTECT HISTORICAL BARNS AND SCENIC VISTAS.

#HCS1 AND #2H: PRESERVE AGRICULTURAL AND CRITICAL LANDSCAPES LAND WITH GRANT FUNDING. THEY ARE PART OF OUR HISTORY.

#5H: GUIDELINES OR REGULATIONS? REQUIRED? WILL THIS DISCOURAGE BUSINESSES?

#7H: ONE MORE THING TO REGULATE?

#8H: WHO ORGANIZES THIS?

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: CAN MASTER PLAN HELP BUSINESSES APPLY FOR GRANTS TO UPDATE THEIR FACADES AND BE IN LINE WITH A MORE SMALL TOWN NEW ENGLAND QUAINT LOOK? OUR DOWNTOWN DOESN'T LOOK HISTORIC AND LOOKS LIKE IT WAS RAZED IN THE LAST CENTURY FOR BOX SHOPS. CULTURAL BUSINESSES (ART GALLERIES, MUSIC VENUES, ETC) LOOK FOR INTERESTING BUILDINGS, NOT JUST BOXY BORING SPACES.

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: I WOULD LIKE TO SEE ORDINANCES AGAINST DISMANTLING OF HISTORICAL STRUCTURES. BUILD INTO MASTER PLAN DEFINITIONS, PROTECTIONS AND AUTHORITY TO STOP THE DESTRUCTION OF HISTORICAL STRUCTURES. IT'S AN OLD MASSACHUSETTS TOWN, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO PROTECT IT, DON'T BUILD HERE, GO TO CALIFORNIA.

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: BRING BACK JAZZ FESTIVAL OF 1990'S AND OTHER CULTURAL FESTIVALS. DON'T WE HAVE ALL THIS OF THIS OPEN/RECREATIONAL SPACE TO HOST THESE THINGS IN? WORK WITH ECONOMIC COMMISSION TO BRING POP-UP CULTURAL EVENTS TO TOWN AND ATTRACT OUT OF TOWN VISITORS AND \$\$!

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: ACKNOWLEDGE NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY OF SOUTHWICK AND MAKE IT PART OF HISTORICAL COMMITTEE WORK.

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: IDENTIFY TOWN HISTORICAL SITES (LIKE THE STAGE COACH STOP STATION AT THE FRONT OF SODOM MT ON SODOM MT ROAD, ITS FOUNDATION WAS BEING REMOVED BY THE NEW LANDOWNERS ON 6.16.23).

LAND USE CHAPTER - DID WE HEAR YOU?

HOW CAN ANY OF THE STATEMENTS BELOW CAPTURE YOUR PERSPECTIVE BETTER?

If you disagree with any statements, please take an index card and write down the number of the statement and write down how you would rephrase the statement!

WHAT IS MISSING FROM THIS CHAPTER? WHO IS BEING LEFT OUT? PLEASE OFFER YOUR OPINION ON AN INDEX CARD!

STRATEGIES:

LUS1: Enhance the Town Center as a livable, workable and walkable neighborhood.

LUS2: Maintain and create opportunity for development within the context of the town's distinctive New England characteristics.

ACTIONS SOUTHWICK CAN TAKE:

- **# 1L:** Allow for the appropriate use, development and redevelopment of land in the town center to facilitate the creation of a true New England town center.
- # 2L: Improve and/or create pedestrian network in and around town center.
- #3L: Create and/or implement standards for consistent sign, streetscapes, and architecture.
- # 4L: Encourage new commercial and industrial development in the appropriate parts of town
- **# 5L:** Focus any development in sections of town that have the infrastructure and environmental conditions to accommodate growth, and limit development in environmentally sensitive areas with design guidelines and district center planning.
- # 6L: Identify impediments in zoning that create difficulties in developing appropriately in identified zoning districts

- # 7L: Ensure that new development and redevelopment is appropriate for, and sensitive to, the surrounding neighborhoods and environment through the zoning bylaw and enforcement
- # 8L: Discuss adaptive re-use and infill development. Adopt zoning to promote re-use of existing underutilized buildings and infill development within larger commercially zoned properties, and to encourage walkable layouts of development.
- **# 9L:** Review and revise building size criteria in the Zoning Bylaw based upon standards to keep consistency of appearance in neighborhoods.
- # 10L: Celebrate and implement standards adopted in the Town Center study in 2010. Revise standards as necessary.
- # 11L: Consider allowing flexible residential development by right.
- **# 12L:** Examine what Chapter 40R Smart Growth Zoning Overlay District could accomplish for residential and mixed-use development.
- **# 13L:** Review and revise Subdivision Rules and Regulations and planned unit residential development zoning to promote permanently preserved open spaces, agricultural lands, forest lands, and other natural resources by clustering development where least impactful to those resources.
- **# 14L:** Perform a Zoning diagnostic to examine readability and content of the town's Zoning Bylaws. Refine and revise Zoning Bylaws as necessary with new format, modern terminology, and definitions that fully describe items discussed within the bylaw to make the development and permitting process clearer and more transparent for all.
- **# 15L:** Review how design guidelines are currently administered within the context of the Zoning Bylaw and development within town.

FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC ON 6/17/2023:

I AGREE WITH #LUS2, #1L, #3L

#11L: CAN YOU EXPLAIN 'DEVELOPMENT BY RIGHT'?

#10L: IS A PRIORITY!

#15L: IS A PRIORITY!

#9L: THE BUILDING CAP SIZE FOR INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS WAS HIGHLY FAVORED DURING THE BYLAW DEVELOPMENT (MAJOR DEVELOPMENT REVIEW) AND ONE OF THE HIGHEST % OF RESPONDS IN FAVOR OF CAPS, SO MUST BE INCORPORATED INTO ZONING

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: OUR ZONING AND DESIGN STANDARD SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON CREATING SOUTHWICK AS THE HIDDEN GEM OF MASSACHUSETTS.

ADD A #16L: STOP ALLOWING STRIP MALLS, PARKING BETWEEN THE STREET AND BUSINESS AND UGLY BUILDINGS LIKE FAMILY DOLLAR, TRACTOR SUPPLY, ETC.

#11L: FRD NEEDS REVIEW BUT BY RIGHT IS PROBABLY A STEP TOO FAR

#10L: WOULD REQUIRE A MORE THOROUGH EVALUATION

#4L: I REALLY DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (BRINGS SO MANY UNHEALTHY CONSEQUENCES)

#6L: IMPEDIMENTS ARE THERE FOR A REASON, THOSE SHOULD BE REMOVED VERY CAUTIOUSLY, LIVABILITY SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED OVER WORKABLE. THIS IS A BEDROOM COMMUNITY, IT SHOULDN'T BE MADE TOO COMMERCIAL

#9L: WE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE TOWN CHARM. CONSISTENT APPEARANCE IN NEIGHBORHOODS WILL DETRACT FROM THE SMALL TOWN FEEL AND PUSH FEEL OF SURBURBIA.

#4L: ESTABLISH DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS FOR NEW BUSINESSES, INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL

#5L: YES!!

#10L: YES!! "IMPLEMENT" IS KEY!

#11L: I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS?

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: ADD TO THIS CHAPTER THAT ALL BYLAWS NEED TO BE UNIFORMLY ENFORCED

#6L: IS THIS INTENTIONALLY VAGUE? THIS FEELS LIKE IT IS PURPOSELY MADE GENERAL AND SNUCK IN HERE TO ALLOW FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT TO ROLL IN WITHOUT OVERSIGHT. WE DON'T WANT MORE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS OR UGLY STANDALONE BUILDINGS IN TOWN. WE WANT TO CONSERVE OUR LAND AND IMPROVE THE EXISTING COMMERCIAL AREAS THAT ARE ALREADY DEVELOPED. THIS "ACTION" NEEDS TO BE MORE SPECIFIC.

#4L: YOUR INCLUSION OF INDUSTRIAL FEELS LIKE RUBBERSTAMPING AND IT CONCERNS ME. I THOUGHT THE SURVEY CONCLUDED THAT LIGHT INDUSTRY WAS OKAYED BY PUBLIC. WHY IS THAT DETAIL NOT

INCLUDED IN THIS STRATEGY AND JUST THE GENERAL TERM INDUSTRIAL? THIS IS HOW THINGS GET MISUNDERSTOOD BY THOSE IN POWER AND DEVELOPERS.

#10L: WHAT ARE THOSE DESIGN STANDARDS? I HAD NO IDEA THEY EXISTED? TOWN DOESN'T CURRENTLY LOOK LIKE THERE ARE STANDARDS?

#8L: THIS! TRY TO REUSE, REVITALIZE, REPURPOSE, EXPAND EXISTING BUILDINGS FOR BUSINESSES AND ZONE FOR MIXED USE THAT COULD INCLUDE LOCAL BUSINESSES, AGRICULTURAL GROW OPERATIONS (HYDROPONICS, ETC), CREATIVE SPACES, COWORKING SPACES, AND RESIDENTIAL OPTIONS FOR RENTAL AND APARTMENTS. LOWER THE FOOTPRINT OF OUR LAND USAGE AND CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS AND SOIL DISRUPTION.

#LUS1: MISSING 'SUSTAINABLE', 'HEALTHY' AND 'ACCESSIBLE' FROM THIS STRATEGY.

#LUS2: WE DON'T HAVE MUCH NEW ENGLAND CHARACTERISTICS NOW. THIS SHOULD READ 'ESTABLISH AND CULTIVATE/FOSTER NEW ENGLAND CHARACTERISTICS'.

#LUS1: WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE TOWN CENTER? NOT A GOOD USE OF TAX \$

#2L: DIDN'T THEY ADD SIDEWALKS ALREADY?

#3L: MORE REGULATIONS, NOT A FAN.

#6L: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: ADHERENCE TO/ENFORCEMENT OF BUILDING AESTHETIC GUIDELINES FOR BUSINESSES

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: CAN WE GET A TOWN POOL?

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: DESIGN STANDARDS SHOULD ENCOURAGE MAKING SOUTHWICK A
BEAUTIFUL DESTINATION TO VISIT

#1L: THIS READS LIKE AN OVERARCHING GOAL. WHAT IS THE ACTUAL ACTION TO GET THERE? I WANT TO SEE TRUE NEW ENGLAND TOWN CENTER IN SOUTHWICK.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CHAPTER - DID WE HEAR YOU?

HOW CAN ANY OF THE STATEMENTS BELOW CAPTURE YOUR PERSPECTIVE BETTER?

If you disagree with any statements, please take an index card and write down the number of the statement and write down how you would rephrase the statement!

WHAT IS MISSING FROM THIS CHAPTER? WHO IS BEING LEFT OUT? PLEASE OFFER YOUR OPINION ON AN INDEX CARD!

STRATEGIES:

ECS1: A local economy that includes and encourages a variety of businesses, increases the tax base, provides local jobs, and results in more goods and services available to residents.

ECS2: Continue to galvanize support for local agriculture in town and help sustain local farming as a component of Southwick's economy.

ACTIONS SOUTHWICK CAN TAKE:

- # 1EC: Re-examine and permit the appropriate use, development and redevelopment of land in areas throughout town.
- # 2EC: Pave the way for catalyst projects in various parts of the town.
- # 3EC: Recruit local business owners to help lead and host local business networking groups, and work with the Agricultural Commission to include local farmers.
- **# 4EC:** Invite one business (including farms) a month to Commission meetings to discuss needs/issues. Hold Small Business Southwick forum, as ED committee has suggested
- **# 5EC:** Conduct a "Buy Local" campaign for agricultural and home-produced goods. Encourage restaurants to utilize local products in their offerings when possible.

6EC: At Congamond Lakes, work with property owners to find compatible uses for vacant and underutilized properties.

#7EC: Connect Rail Trail at Congamond Lakes to the town beach and other venues.

8EC: Re-examine the zoning bylaws to address and re-evaluate allowed uses, particularly in the very large Industrial Restricted zones.

9EC: Consider reducing/restricting the Industrial Zone uses allowed as special permit uses in Industrial Restricted.

10EC: Consider adding building size restrictions and incentives for agriculture in IR zone.

11EC: Pursue Town Center Revitalization strategies

12EC: Work with current owner of Meadow View Farm to see if can help market to another farmer

13EC: Encourage local farmers to maximize their visibility by going on MA Agritourism website and signing up for statewide resource listing and map and applying for the agricultural signage funding program.

14EC: Introduce Farm Club at high school and expand programming of existing 4H Clubs.

15EC: At Taste of Southwick event– encourage addition of local farm products similar to farmers market display.

FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC ON 6/17/2023:

#2EC: WHAT IS A CATALYST PROJECT?

#7EC: ISN'T IT ALREADY CONNECTED WITH SIDEWALKS?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CHAPTER - DID WE HEAR YOU?

#ECS3: AN ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT THAT ENCOURAGES OUR RECREATIONAL ASSETS, PROVIDES SERVICE AND ENTERTAINMENT RELATED JOBS AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: INVESTIGATE TOURISM CORRIDOR DESIGNATION AND GRANTS TO INCREASE TOURISM AND RECREATIONS BUSINESSES, INCLUDING AGRIBUSINESSES

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: THE FOCUS OF WHAT IS PROPOSED HERE IS PRIMARILY ON WHAT ALREADY EXISTS. THE OVERALL VIEW NEEDS TO BE BROADER: ENCOURAGE A GREATER VARIETY OF SMALL BUSINESSES. NO MORE BAR ROOMS, PIZZA PARLORS, AND HAIR SALONS. HOW ABOUT APPEALING TO A MORE DIVERSE POPULATION?

#12EC: TOO CONTROLLING OF TOWN, PRIVATE BUSINESS WHY NOT HELP OTHER BUSINESSES? HOW COULD YOU PRIORITIZE WHO GETS WHAT "HELP"? BAD IDEA

#8EC: ALLOW BED AND BREAKFASTS AND ALLOW MORE ZONING TO ACCOMMODATE RECREATIONAL BUSINESS/TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

#6EC: CREATE MORE PUBLIC SPACE FOR EVENTS BY TOWN SHORES. MAKE LAKES (WHICH BELONG TO ALL) ACCESSIBLE AND ENJOYABLE FOR ALL INCLUDING THOSE WHO DON'T WANT TO BOAT IN IT. CREATE SOME PUBLIC VENUE/SEATING AREA THAT IS ATTRACTIVE, SAFE, ACCESSIBLE AND DOUBLES AS EVENT SPACE (LIKE THE PHOTO PROPOSED IN OTHER TABLE). CONCERTS, FESTIVALS, POP-UP FOOD EVENTS AT A SPACE LIKE THIS WOULD CREATE MORE \$ FOR LOCAL ECONOMY, CREATE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO LAKESIDE, AND MAKE SOUTHWICK MORE OF A DESTINATION AND ITS PASSIVE USE (NOT CONTAMINATING IT WITH MOTORIZED USAGE).

#11EC: TOWN CENTER NEEDS TO BE REZONED IF GOING TO BE REVITALIZED. NEEDS NICE RESIDENTIAL BUILT INTO IT AND NICE DESIGN STANDARDS SO ANY NEW BUILDS OR RENOVATIONS OF EXISTING BUILDINGS ADHERES TO 'LOOK'. I WOULD NOT OPEN A BUSINESS IN TOWN NOW DUE TO MISH-MASH

OF BUILDINGS AND STRIP-MALL LOOK. WHY SPEND MONEY ON MAKING MY PLACE LOOK NICE IF OTHER BUSINESS NEXT TO ME CAN GET AWAY WITH LOOKING ANYWAY IT WANTS? WHO ENFORCES?

#7EC: NICE FOOTPATH WOULD BE WELCOME. DOESN'T NEED TO BE FANCY, HAVE IT REFLECT RURAL CHARACTER. STOP KNOCKING DOWN TREES.

#14EC: YES! BRING BACK JAZZ FESTIVAL WE HAD IN 1990'S. PEOPLE WOULD HELP ORGANIZE IF CALL PUT OUT FOR VOLUNTEERS. SO MANY GOOD MUSICIANS IN AREA TO INVITE. FOOD TRUCKS WOULD BE GOOD, WIN-WIN FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES.

#IEC: REDEVELOP THE BUILDINGS/EXISTING BUILT LOTS IN TOWN, DON'T TAKE MORE LAND AWAY.

#11EC: PUT PLANTERS AND PLANT TREES IN TOWN CENTER. SIMSBURY'S 202 IS WALKABLE BECAUSE OF NICE PLANTERS AND TREES. OUR 202 FEELS TOO SKETCHY AND NOT ATTRACTIVE.

#9EC AND #10EC: WHY 'CONSIDER'? YOU NEED ACTION.

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: NEED TO ADDRESS WHAT IS NEEDED TO BRING JOBS TO SOUTHWICK

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: NEED TO ADDRESS DEVELOPMENT HOUSING, SINGLE FAMILY, MULTIFAMILY, MULTIUSE, INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, RETAIL. TOO MANY REGULATORY AGENCIES TO PROMOTE GROWTH.

#12EC: OVERREACH

#12EC: DO THIS!

#9EC AND #10EC: REMOVE CONSIDER AND JUST DO THOSE VERBS! REDUCE/RESTRICT AND ADD AND SAY HOW!

#2EC: DELETE THIS OR GIVE DEFINITION AND ACTUAL ACTION. IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO AVERAGE TOWN RESIDENT.

I AGREE WITH #3EC, #4EC, #7EC! YES!

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY CHAPTER - DID WE HEAR YOU?

HOW CAN ANY OF THE STATEMENTS BELOW CAPTURE YOUR PERSPECTIVE BETTER?

If you disagree with any statements, please take an index card and write down the number of the statement and write down how you would rephrase the statement!

WHAT IS MISSING FROM THIS CHAPTER? WHO IS BEING LEFT OUT? PLEASE OFFER YOUR OPINION ON AN INDEX CARD!

STRATEGY:

CCS1: Protect Southwick residents and businesses from the implications of climate change.

ACTIONS SOUTHWICK CAN TAKE:

- # 1CC: Reduce energy and water consumption by residents, businesses, and town government.
- # 2CC: Ensure that all Southwick businesses and residents, especially vulnerable populations, are prepared for and can recover quickly from potential climate-related disasters.
- **# 3CC:** Build local government's capacity in order to provide leadership for sustainability and climate change resilience and engage community members to do their part.
- # 4CC: Be proactive about culvert replacements and improvements for stream crossings.
- **# 5CC:** Create inventory of flat roof surfaces, town facilities and impervious surfaces or canopy area for alternative energy siting and implement viable projects.
- # 6CC: Investigate the health of publicly-owned forests and develop forestry plans
- #7CC: Enact policies to remove dead or diseased public trees and replace with trees suited to the warming climate.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY CHAPTER - DID WE HEAR YOU?

- #8CC: Enhance consistency in enforcement and permitted activities in regards to natural resources and stormwater.
- # 9CC: Improve education to residents regarding flood plains, climate change, localized flooding etc.
- # 10CC: Incentivize private alternative energy use through site plan review, zoning, Solarize program.
- # 11CC: Develop municipal energy storage to enhance the town's benefits from local private or publicly owned solar arrays.
- **# 12CC:** Implement long-term lake management plans to improve bacterial, algal, nutrient & PFAS contamination, including dredging and invasive plant management
- **# 13CC:** Develop outreach program for farmers to include education on nutrient management, composting, erosion control, alternative crops for the warmer climate, water re-use, regular workshop format, silviculture, resources for available grants, grant writing assistance and training.
- # 14CC: Investigate methods for town to assist in developing agricultural irrigation (irrigation ponds, water re-use).
- # 15CC: Enhance town-wide control and education programs for ticks and mosquitos.

FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC ON 6/17/2023:

#6CC: 'INVESTIGATE' DOESN'T GO FAR ENOUGH. <u>ACTION</u> NEEDS TO BE THE GOAL. PLANS NEED TO BE PUT IN PLACE.

#7CC: ENACT POLICIES TO PROTECT OUR OLDEST PUBLIC TREES FROM REMOVAL DUE TO POWER LINES: I.E. PUT POWER LINES UNDERGROUND!

#8CC: 'ENHANCE' IS TOO WEAK. 'ENFORCE PERMITTED ACTIVITIES' CONSISTENTLY!

#13CC: 'DEVELOP OUTREACH PROGRAM' AND INCENTIVIZE!

#14CC: ASSIST DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL IRRIGATION

#12CC: THE CULVERTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN WIDENED WHEN THE ROAD WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. THIS WOULD HELP FUTURE LAKE WATER FLOW AND HEALTH. ADD TO MASTER PLAN FOR FUTURE WORKS.

#11CC: HIGH PRIORITY IF WE KEEP PUTTING SOLAR PLANTS IN THE TOWN AND RESIDENTS SHOULD SHARE IN THE ENERGY FOR GRANTING THE LAND USE

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: FIND GRANTS OR OTHER LOCAL FUNDING TO HELP RESIDENTS OBTAIN SOLAR ENERGY.

#4CC: CLEAN THE CULVERTS REGULARLY AND USE LEAST-ECOLOGICALLY DISRUPTIVE CONSTRUCTION OF CULVERTS. TOWN LEFT GRAVEL AND SEDIMENT ON MY FAMILY FARM WHEN THEY DID CULVERTS BY OUR LAND 20+ YEARS AGO. 'DOWNSTREAM' CONTAMINATION IS REAL. DON'T LET IT HAPPEN ANYMORE.

#5CC: MAKE PRIORITY TO PUT SOLAR ON IMPERVIOUS SURFACES. DO NOT USE OPEN LAND OR TAKE DOWN FORESTS FOR SOLAR. LAND + FORESTS = ECONOMIC VALUE ON THEIR OWN IN TERMS OF EROSION CONTROL, FILTRATION, CARBON SEQUESTRATION, TEMPERATURE CONTROL, WILDLIFE AREAS. IMPERVIOUS SURFACES ARE ALREADY HOTTER, SO THROW PANELS ON THERE. BUILD COVERED PARKING AREAS IN PARKING LOTS AND PUT PANELS ON THERE.

#2CC: CAN YOU MAKE THIS MORE SPECIFIC? HAVE HEAT AND AC SHELTERS READY TO GO & PUBLICIZE THEM IN THE NEWSLETTER I PROPOSED FOR PUBLIC SERVICES © .

#7CC: MORE TREES AROUND TOWN ROADS + SIDEWALKS WILL HELP WITH EROSION AND TEMPERATURES AS CLIMATE WARMS. CAN THIS ACTION INCLUDE "REGULAR MONITORING" OF TREES AND THEIR HEALTH (AND LIMBS SO THEY DON'T FALL INTO ROAD ETC)

ADD ON TO COMMENT ABOVE: PS - INCLUDE CITIZEN SCIENTISTS TO CONTRIBUTE DATA TO DPW OR WHOEVER WILL CHECK ON TREES? CAN LOWER COST TOO IF PUBLIC INVOLVED.

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: CAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION WORK WITH WHOEVER IS HANDLING CLIMATE CHANGE/SUSTAINABILITY IN TOWN TO HELP BUSINESSES LIKE RESTAURANTS CONVERT TO USE COMPOSTABLE TAKE OUT CONTAINERS, UTENSILS, AND CUPS? BUSINESS AS USUAL' SHOULDN'T BLINDLY CONTRIBUTE TO WASTE. GLOBAL ISSUE THAT NEEDS TO BE TACKLED LOCALLY AND WITH SUPPORT OF BUSINESS, NOT JUST GOVT.

#7CC: NATIVE TREES, TOO. NOT JUST TREES ADAPTED TO 'NEW WEATHER'.

#12CC: WORK WITH BEAVERS TO ENHANCE WETLAND AND LAKE HEALTH LIKE THEY DO IN OTHER WESTERN MASS COMMUNITIES. THE BEAVER INSTITUTE AND BEAVER SOLUTIONS (IN SOUTHAMPTON) ARE GREAT ORGS THAT HELP USE MODERN ENGINEERING TO CO-EXIST AND REAP THE BENEFITS OF LOCAL BEAVERS. I HATE THAT OUR MONEY IS USED TO EXTERMINATE THEM.

#9CC: HAVE EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS OF EMERGENCY SUPPLIES PEOPLE NEED IN CLIMATE-RELATED EMERGENCIES. EDUCATE PEOPLE ON HOW TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR HEALTH WHEN THINGS LIKE EXTREME HEAT, WILDFIRE SMOKE HAPPEN ETC. IF NOT, YOU HAVE IMPENDING HEALTH CRISIS AND MORE COST TO TOWN EMERGENCY SERVICES.

I AGREE WITH #12CC! YES!

#13CC: EDUCATION FOR ALL, NOT JUST FARMERS

#13CC: PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR FARMERS TO DO THIS

ADD A #16CC: INVEST IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE FOR TOWN DEPARTMENTS INSTEAD OF REUSING POLICE CRUISERS.

OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES CHAPTER- DID WE HEAR YOU?

HOW CAN ANY OF THE STATEMENTS BELOW CAPTURE YOUR PERSPECTIVE BETTER?

If you disagree with any statements, please take an index card and write down the number of the statement and write down how you would rephrase the statement!

WHAT IS MISSING FROM THIS CHAPTER? WHO IS BEING LEFT OUT? PLEASE OFFER YOUR OPINION ON AN INDEX CARD!

STRATEGIES:

OSS1: Maintenance and promotion of the town's natural resources as the Town continues to develop through stewardship of natural resources, open spaces, forests, working farms and water bodies.

OSS2: Ensure a variety of well-maintained, accessible recreational facilities and activities for all

ACTIONS SOUTHWICK CAN TAKE:

10S: Continue to protect and manage Congamond Lakes

20S: Protect soils and other natural resources and wildlife habitat from inappropriate development.

30S: Provide additional active recreation facilities to meet the needs of all age groups in Southwick, including a skate park at Whalley Park, improving playgrounds, and exploring the building of a community multi-use recreation center.

40S: Create a walkable network by expanding the trail system and connecting trails to open spaces and sidewalks in Town where feasible.

50S: Consider regulatory changes that limit the removal of vegetation on private properties abutting the Congamond Lakes and that specify preferred plant species for property owners to use.

6OS: Provide outreach and education to property owners about the importance of maintaining or increasing vegetative buffers, reducing use of lawn fertilizers, and removing pet feces in order to reduce nutrient runoff into the lakes and improve water quality.

7OS: Increase coordination with Suffield, Connecticut to protect water quality in the Congamond Lakes by addressing issues with septic systems, erosion, and waterfowl that contribute to nutrient loading and algal blooms.

8OS: Continue to implement aggressive aquatic weed monitoring and control program, and programs to control erosion and non-point source pollution that follow up on canal dredging project.

9OS: Establish a permanent Open Space Committee to focus on land preservation, passive recreation and sustainability, and to ensure implementation of priority actions in the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

10OS: Develop a parcel-level prioritization plan of lands with ecological, agricultural, scenic, or historical significance to permanently protect.

11OS: Increase education and outreach to landowners about the options for permanently protecting their land.

12OS: Develop working partnerships with local land trusts and other conservation partners to identify opp Continue to certify vernal pools with the MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) to ensure regulatory protection under the Wetlands Protection Act and MA Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). Engage student volunteers from Southwick Regional High School to assist with this effort.

13OS: Explore the establishment of a multi-community aquifer advisory committee that would address water quality issues and provide education about groundwater protection and adverse effects on the aquifer.

FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC ON 6/17/2023:

#1OS: DEFINITELY!

#4OS: OK THRU TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY, NO FOR RIGHT OF WAYS/TAKING BY EMINENT DOMAIN OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

#5OS: OVERREACH.

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: CAN'T ALWAYS GET TO THE NATURE, NO PATH TO LAKE SO WE CAN'T GET OUR BOAT IN THE WATER.

#2OS: 'INAPPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT' IS SUBJECTIVE. THE SENTENCE COULD JUST BE TO 'PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING SOILS AND WILDLIFE HABITAT'.

#4OS: 'EXPANDING THE TRAIL SYSTEM', WHICH TRAIL SYSTEM? RAIL TRAIL? ALL TOWN-OWNED TRAILS?

#5OS: INSTEAD OF LIMITING THE REMOVAL (WETLANDS PROTECTION ACT DOES THIS), HOW ABOUT PROMOTE A VEGETATIVE BUFFER? IT WOULD ALSO REDUCE GEESE VISITS.

#3OS: TOWN SHOULD BE THE PRIMARY AGENT FOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (RATHER THAN THE REC CTR) FOR YOUTH AND ELDERS

#5OS: THIS SHOULD BE MORE SPECIFIC AND INCLUDE STREAMS AND OTHER BODIES OF WATER, NOT JUST CONGAMOND LAKES

#13OS: RESTRICT THE USE OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND SO THAT IT IS NOT USED FOR BUILDING RENOVATIONS AND ROOF REPAIRS.

#5OS: CROSSING THE LINE WITH PRIVATE PROPERTY

#3OS AND #4OS: WHO PAYS FOR THIS?

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: I AGREE WITH #OSS1, 20S, 40S, 60S, 70S, 90S, 100S, AND 110S. ALSO, WE NEED TO PROTECT AGRICULTURAL LAND RESOURCES THROUGH AN EFFECTIVE LAND TRUST, INCLUDING ANIMALS, ENVIRONMENT, AIR, WATER QUALITY. DO NOT DRAIN ROADS ONTO AG LAND!

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: I GENERALLY AGREE!

#10S: NEED FAIR AND EQUITABLE TREATMENT FOR ALL!

#90S: WITHIN AN EXISTING COMMISSION SET UP?

#7OS: PRIORITY AND SHARING IN COST OF LAKE HEALTH

#13OS: CREATE PROHIBITED USED (SPECIFY THEM) IN IR ZONE WITHIN CERTAIN DISRANCE OF THE MAIN AQUIFER

OSS1: REPHRASE: MAINTENANCE, PROMOTION, <u>AND EDUCATION</u> OF THE TOWN'S NATURAL RESOURCES AS THE TOWN CONTINUES TO <u>SUSTAINABLY</u> DEVELOP THROUGH STEWARDSHIP OF AQUIFERS, AIR, SOIL, OPEN SPACES, TREES IN PUBLIC SPACES, FORESTS, WORKING FARMS AND WATER BODIES.

OSS2: PRIORITIZE THE MAINTENANCE AND CREATION OF DIVERSE AND ACCESSIBLE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES THAT DRAW BOTH TOWN RESIDENTS AND OUT OF TOWN VISITORS TO ENJOY THEM

#10S: HOW? THROUGH TOWN HALL COMMISSIONS? THROUGH NEW BYLAWS AND ORDINANCES?

2OS: HOW? THROUGH EDUCATION? WHAT DOES INAPPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT MEAN?

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: PROTECT LAND BY JOINING LIST OF MASSACHUSETTS TOWNS REQUIRING WRITTEN PERMISSION TO ENTER PRIVATE LANDOWNER'S PROPERTY. TAKE ONUS OFF OF LANDOWNER TO PUT UP NOTICES OF NO TRESPASSING EVERY 50 FEET.

#40S: IS THERE ANY TAX INCENTIVE FOR LANDOWNERS WHO WISH TO OFFER SOME OF THEIR LAND FOR TRAILS? I'D CONSIDER IF I WAS GIVEN TAX BREAK.

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: FOR LAKES, LIMIT NUMBER OF MOTORIZED BOATS ON THERE. TOO MUCH TRAFFIC AND POLLUTION CHEMICALLY AND NOISE-WISE. NOT APPEALING FOR PASSIVE USE OR SWIMMING, WHICH MEANS THERE IS A PREFERENCE BUILT IN FOR MOTORIZED BOAT OWNERS WHICH IS ELITIST. LAKE BELONGS TO ALL, NOT JUST THOSE WHO OWN LAND ON THE BANKS, IT'S NOT THEIR PERSONAL POOL. ALSO, LOOK INTO OTHER SOLUTIONS THAT CAN BOLSTER NATIVE PLANT VIBRANCY, NOT JUST CHEMICAL TREATMENT, DO A BLENDED APPROACH USING ECOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES TO SUPPORT REMOVAL OF INVASIVES. AND BEAVERS ARE FRIENDS AND ENGINEERS FOR HEALTHY WATERWAYS, NOT ENEMIES. LET'S JOIN 21ST CENTURY AND WORK WITH THEM TO MAKE LAKES AND WETLANDS HEALTHIER.

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: CAN MASTER PLAN BUILD IN PROMOTION AND EDUCATION ON NATIVE PLANT GARDENS AND POLLINATOR GARDENS IN PUBLIC SPACES? AT LIBRARY, TOWN HALL, PRIFTI PARK, WHALLEY PARK? IN PARKING AREAS FOR TOWN-OWNED PRESERVES? WOULD GIVE THEM CURB APPEAL TOO. CAN BE VOLUNTEER THING!

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: ATTRACT BUSINESSES THAT SPECIALIZE IN RECREATIONAL OFFERINGS, LIKE ROCK CLIMBING.

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: CAN YOU ADD PING PONG TABLES TO THE SPACE DOWNTOWN WHEN IT'S REVITALIZED? LOTS OF COOL TOWNS HAVE OPEN FREE TO USE PING PONG TABLES IN THEIR DOWNTOWN AREAS. NOT MUCH TO VANDALIZE.

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: CAN WE HAVE TOWN POOL?

GENERAL COMMENT: CAN WE PLEASE HAVE TREES PLANTED DOWNTOWN? WOULD MAKE IT LOOK NICER AND PROVIDE CLEANER AIR.

GENERAL COMMENT: IF TOWN USING HERBICIDES ON PUBLIC PROPERTY, GIVE NOTICE TO TOWN RESIDENTS AND ABUTTERS OF TREATED PROPERTY. HERBICIDES DON'T JUST STAY WITHIN PROPERTY LINES, WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW IF IT'S NEAR US AND NEAR OUR SOURCES OF WATER AND MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS. WE ARE PAYING FOR THAT TO BE SPRAYED WITH OUR TAXES, SO PLEASE INFORM US.

TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY CHAPTER- DID WE HEAR YOU?

HOW CAN ANY OF THE STATEMENTS BELOW CAPTURE YOUR PERSPECTIVE BETTER?

If you disagree with any statements, please take an index card and write down the number of the statement and write down how you would rephrase the statement!

WHAT IS MISSING FROM THIS CHAPTER? WHO IS BEING LEFT OUT? PLEASE OFFER YOUR OPINION ON AN INDEX CARD!

STRATEGIES:

TMS1: Continue to provide and invest in a complete and well-maintained, safe system of roads and sidewalks.

TMS2: Create safe and improved nonmotorized transportation opportunities and provide additional transit options within Southwick.

ACTIONS SOUTHWICK CAN TAKE:

1TM: Collaborate, seek technical assistance from regional and federal agencies regarding future transportation needs.

2TM: Discover and establish procedures around ways to fund for the future improvements to the transportation infrastructure.

3TM: Prepare the transportation infrastructure for newer and future technologies that will require updates.

4TM: Identify regional opportunities to address alternative transportation options in town.

5TM: Integrate a "complete streets" approach to future roadway projects. (NOTE: Complete Streets is an approach to planning, designing, building, operating, and maintaining streets that enables safe access for all people who need to use them, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.)

6TM: Enhance warning markings on roads frequented by pedestrians and cyclists to improve safety for all users.

Identify opportunities to add access points to the Southwick Rail Trail at potential locations on Powder Mill Road, Feeding Hills Road, and Sam West Road.

7TM: Identify gaps in the sidewalk network and prioritize projects to fill gaps while updating the current network to meet ADA standards. Add benches in areas where spacing allows.

8TM: Participate in the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School program in order to improve non-motorized access to the schools.

9TM: Work with the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) to identify opportunities to add fixed route service and/or the cost and feasibility of implementing Microtransit (the FRTA Access program) in Southwick. Consider requesting a town wide transit survey to identify the demand for expanded transit service and the demand for connections to local colleges and universities, hospitals and health centers, employers and connections to other transit providers.

FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC ON 6/17/2023:

#TMSI: DIRECT FOCUS TO REPAIR THE EXISTING ROADS BEFORE MOVING TO FUTURE PROJECTS. IT IS NOT FUN TO TRAVEL THE ROADS AS THEY EXIST IN SOUTHWICK. NO PLAN HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED REGARDING REPAIRS.

#ITM AND #2TM: AREN'T THESE ONGOING & REQUIRED COMMITMENTS OF HOW OUR GOVT WORKS? WHY IS THIS IN A MASTER PLAN? ARE YOU PROPOSING THAT TOWN HALL/DPW FIND NEW WAYS TO 'COLLABORATE, SEEK TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ..FROM REGIONAL AND FED AGENCIES RE: FUTURE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS?' IF YOU AREN'T PROPOSING A NEW APPROACH OF HOW TO 'COLLAB, SEEK TECH. ASSISTANCE ETC', THEN THIS IS REDUNDANT AND IS A WASTE OF TAXPAYER MONEY TO INCLUDE IT IN THE MASTER PLAN. YOU'RE TELLING US SOMETHING WE ALREADY KNOW AND DO.

GENERAL COMMENT FOR THIS CHAPTER: WITHIN THE TOWN CENTER MOVE TOWARD STREET DESIGNS THAT ENCOURAGE SLOW, STEADY, AND SAFE TRAFFIC MOVEMENT RATHER THAN HAVING THE FEEL OF A HIGHWAY THAT ENCOURAGES A PSYCHOLOGY OF SPEED AND DOESN'T REALLY SAVE SIGNIFICANT TRAVEL TIME. I RECOMMEND READING THIS BOOK: "CONFESSIONS OF A RECOVERING ENGINEER TRANSPORTATION IN A STRONG TOWN" BY CHARLES MAROHN JR, WHICH HAS LOTS OF GREAT IDEAS ON HOW TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.

#10TM: IDENTIFY AND CONSTRUCT POINTS OF SERVICE LIKE BUS STOPS.

GENERAL COMMENT FOR TRANSPORTATION: NEED PARKING FOR RAIL TRAIL, ADDITIONAL PARKING FOR LAKE VISITORS

GENERAL COMMENT FOR TRANSPORTATION: EV CHARGING STATIONS ARE MY ABSOLUTE LOWEST PRIORITY FOR TAX \$\$

GENERAL COMMENT FOR TRANSPORTATION: WE DEFINITELY NEED TRANSPORTATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, NOTHING AVAILABLE NOW. ALSO TRANSPORTATION FOR THE ELDERLY TO APPOINTMENTS, SHOPPING, ETC. I KNOW PVTA DOESN'T GO TO SOUTHWICK, BUT WE NEED SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN TOWN. PVTA ONLY GOES WHERE THE PVTA LINES GO.

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER WE NEED TRANSPORTATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: WHAT DOES NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION MEAN EXACTLY?

#TMS1, #1TM, #2TM: IMPROVE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE BY ELIMINATING MANY POT HOLES AND DAMAGED ROADS

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: DON'T WASTE MONEY BY NOT REDOING ROADS ENTIRELY WHEN REPAVING THEM. USING THE METHOD OF ONLY GOING HALFWAY TO GROUND SURFACE AND REMILLING ROAD/ASPHALT IS CHEAPER BUT DOING IT CHEAP COMES OUT \$\$ IN THE LONG RUN BECAUSE THOSE ROADS FALL APART FASTER AND YOU'RE BACK TO PATCHING IT AND BACK TO DESTROYING CARS THAT TRAVEL ON THEM (WITHOUT REIMBURSING VEHICLE OWNERS FOR THE DAMAGE). LONGEVITY AND QUALITY ARE IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER WHEN USING TAXPAYER MONEY. GO ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE SUBSURFACE AND DO IT RIGHT, EVEN IF IT MEANS MORE MONEY UP FRONT. EDUCATE THE PUBLIC THAT ROADS AREN'T CHEAP AND MAYBE WE SHOULD INVEST IN REVITALIZATION OF TOWN CENTER TO ATTRACT NICE BUSINESSES TO LINE TAX BASE BECAUSE NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LUNCH AND NO SUCH THING AS FREE OR CHEAP ROADS.

#5TM: ISN'T THIS HAPPENING STATEWIDE? YOUR STRATEGY IS TOO VAGUE. PLEASE SPECIFY WHAT FROM THIS PROGRAM COULD BE GOOD FOR SOUTHWICK. EXAMPLES: "BEAUTIFY SIDEWALKS AND STREETSCAPES IN ON ROUTES 57, 202 (FOR EXAMPLE) WITH MONEY FROM COMPLETE STREETS PROGRAM"

"ESTABLISH BASIC PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN SOUTHWICK BY 2040 WITH MONEY FROM COMPLETE STREETS PROGRAM"

"REDESIGN CROSSWALKS FOR SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY ON ALL MAJOR ROUTES IN SOUTHWICK WITH MONEY FROM COMPLETE STREETS PROGRAM"

#7TM: WORK WITH STATE TO ADD SAFE CROSSWALKS ALONG THE "CORRIDOR".

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: I GENERALLY AGREE.

#3TM: PREPARE HOW?

#5TM: WHAT IS THE EXPENSE?

#7TM: WHO PAYS?

#8TM: WHAT IS WRONG WITH BUSES?

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: DID THIS CHAPTER FORGET ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRYING TO LOWER CARBON FOOTPRINT? NO MENTION IN STRATEGIES OR ACTIONS. EV CHARGING STATIONS ARE SUCH A BASIC THING TO HAVE DOWNTOWN/COMMERCIAL AREAS NOWADAYS. PLEASE ADD THAT TO ACTIONS. CARPOOLING PROGRAMS WITH INCENTIVES?

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: PLEASE FIX ROADS CORRECTLY ESPECIALLY WHERE BIKE ROUTES ARE. MISSING PRIME OPPORTUNITY TO REEL IN WELL-HEELED CYCLISTS WHO COME THROUGH SOUTHWICK AS PART OF THE BIGGER BIKE ROUTE THROUGH CT. OUR ROADS ARE AN EMBARRASSMENT AND THEY WILL LIKELY SPEND MORE OF THEIR MONEY IN GRANVILLE OR GRANBY THAN IN SOUTHWICK BECAUSE WE ALSO HAVE NO SIGNAGE INVITING THEM DOWNTOWN TO PATRONIZE BUSINESSES.

GENERAL COMMENT FOR CHAPTER: ARE THERE ANY REGIONAL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT PUBLIC TRANSIT WITH LIGHT RAIL? ISN'T THIS SUPPOSED TO LOOK TO FUTURE? DOES SOUTHWICK HAVE COMMITTEE THAT TALKS TO OTHER TOWNS IN AREA AND REPORTS TO BOSTON ABOUT NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM AROUND HERE, NOT JUST SPRINGFIELD? CAN YOU SET UP EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE FOR THAT?

DATA FROM FINAL MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP "DID WE HEAR YOU?"

STATION 3 "FUTURING OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT"

DESCRIPTION:

16 DIFFERENT VISUAL SCENARIOS OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT (BUILDINGS, BUSINESSES, LAYOUTS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE) THAT COULD HAPPEN IN FUTURE SOUTHWICK.

NB – most of these scenarios could be funded with currently available grant money

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS:

UNDER EACH OF THE 16 DIFFERENT VISUAL SCENARIOS, PLEASE PICK A RED
(I DISAGREE) OR GREEN (I AGREE) STICKER THAT EXPRESSES YOUR
OPINION ON THIS IDEA AND PLACE UNDER THE PHOTO!
ALSO, YOU ARE WELCOME TO LEAVE A STICKY NOTE UNDER EACH PHOTO
WITH YOUR THOUGHTS!

STATION 3





IT IS THE SAME BUILDING! THIS IS 'ARCHICTECTURAL REVIVAL'

TAKING
PLAIN, MODERN
LOOKING
BUILDINGS
AND
REVIVING THEM
TO FIT
AN OLDER,
CLASSIC
LOOK/STYLE

GRANTS AVAILABLE AS OF 2023:

https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcmppf/mppfidx.htm https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/fund.htm https://www.culturalheritage.org/about-us/foundation https://historicfunding.com/

 $\frac{https://www.preservationmass.org/ma-historic-preservationmatchinq-q}{matchinq-q}$

16 PARTICIPANTS SAID YES 3 SAID NO

NOTES LEFT BY PARTICIPANTS:

"Maintains Southwick's character"

"These buildings are already here. We can put them to good use instead of demolishing which pollutes the environment."

"Would attract more high-end businesses, which could generate more tax money."

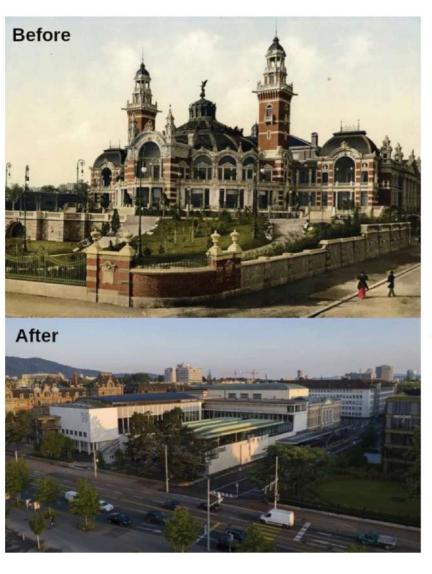
"Seems superficial, waste of resources."

"Spend the money elsewhere"

"Who pays for this? Is it required of businesses?"

"I like modern buildings"

"I like historical-looking buildings"



IT IS THE SAME BUILDING!

GRANTS AVAILABLE AS OF 2023:

THIS IS TAKING
OLDER
BUILDINGS
AND KNOCKING
THEM DOWN
OR CLADDING
THEM TO CREATE
A MODERN
LOOK.

OPPOSITE OF 'ARCHICTURAL REVIVAL' 1 PARTICIPANTS SAID YES 25 SAID NO

NOTES LEFT BY PARTICIPANTS:

"Seems like an initial big investment to restore historical buildings or make new buildings look "classic" so they're fit for modern use but they ultimately become attractions and can make Swk a draw for interesting architecture that can attract interesting and new kinds of businesses.

Large boxy companies aren't the only way to make \$\$. That's so 1995."

"Old stuff is better than most materials made today. Old buildings are more American-made than new ones. We should use what we got already and improve it. Look at the Prifti Motors renovation, it looks really good, glad it wasn't knocked down."

(In response to comment above): "YES + more sustainable to reuse what we have, and lower carbon footprint"



DOWNTOWN MIXED-USED AREAS THAT FEATURE
BUSINSSES, RESTAURANTS, LIVING SPACES, WALKABILITY and SOME
GREENERY WHILE KEEPING IN STYLE WITH SMALL-TOWN
NEW ENGLAND AESTHETIC



GRANTS AVAILABLE AS OF 2023:

https://www.herox.com/BuildingsUP

https://www.energy.gov/scep/eecbg-programformula-grant-application-hub

https://www.mass.gov/service-details/affordable-housing-trust-fund-ahtf

https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massworks-infrastructure-program

25 PARTICIPANTS SAID YES 5 SAID NO

NOTES LEFT BY PARTICIPANTS:

"Critical to increase density of town center with businesses <u>and HOUSING</u>. Must include apartments and townhouses."

"Will existing areas be required to alter their design structure to fit this look?"

"For town to grow in population, you need more housing. Smaller lots will fit more population. Putting it closer to existing sewer will alleviate pollution issues. You can't fill the schools w/o residence options like condos, apts, and small scale residential is needed to make it happen."

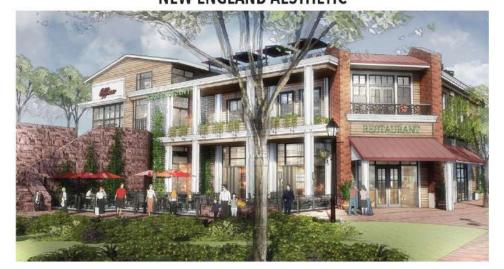
"This would be an investment but would pay off as it would attract a wider array of clientele and traffic from other communities, who will spend their money in our local economy and bolster our taxes. We must remember RETURN ON INVESTMENT 101!"

"We need nice mixed use that offers nice RENTALS with cool businesses nearby. Young people need rental options! Not everyone wants/need to buy a house right off the bat."



DOWNTOWN MIXED-USED AREAS THAT FEATURE COMMERCIAL SPACE AND OUTDOOR EATING.

ALSO FEATURES: WALKABILITY, SOME GREENERY & LANDSCAPING IN-TEREST WHILE KEEPING IN STYLE WITH SMALL-TOWN NEW ENGLAND AESTHETIC



GRANTS AVAILABLE AS OF 2023:

https://www.herox.com/BuildingsUP

https://www.energy.gov/scep/eecbgprogram-formula-grant-application-hub

https://www.mass.gov/service-details/affordable-housing-trust-fundahtf

https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massworks-infrastructure-program

25 PARTICIPANTS SAID YES 3 SAID NO

NOTES LEFT BY PARTICIPANTS:

"For this to work, public parking is needed."

(in response to comment above):

"Then let's design for integrated public parking. Might cost more initially to get a well-designed space but think of return on

investment if it becomes res, commercial + cultural. No such thing as a free lunch. Attract this kind of private investment in Swk via Master Plan zoning changes"

"No, if going to do mixed use, then must include residential"

(in response to comment above): "Isn't that what is meant by 'mixed use'?"



MORE MODERN STYLE BUILDINGS THAT HOUSE BUSINESSES



4 PARTICIPANTS SAID YES 17 SAID NO

NOTES LEFT BY PARTICIPANTS:

"Need to compromise between town aesthetic guide and corp/owner costs."

(In response to comment above): "If they're a large multi-billion \$ company, they can afford to meet our standards. Other towns ask for it and if company is really a good partner for the community, they'll spend \$\$ to be in our town and get a good ROI"

"In moderation, don't want to be too restrictive on business"

"HATE the modern look – consider current building changes to façade to make more "colonial" looking."

(In response to comment above): "DITTO!!"

"Could we have at least one modern building where there could be a design club for kids?"

"Another grocery store, gas station or office space?"

(In response to comment above): "Modern can be well-designed. A square box is not design it's the cheapest/most thoughtless way to build. I don't want to shop in a grocery store or work in a place that looks like a correctional house."



INDUSTRIAL-STYLE COMMERCIAL BUILDING

5 PARTICIPANTS SAID YES 19 SAID NO

NOTES LEFT BY PARTICIPANTS:

"Increased tax revenue, JOBS!, lower property tax!"

(In response to comment above): "We need Master Plan/PB to require a 10-20 year forecast from companies who wish to do this in town to project NET tax benefit to town AFTER ongoing infrastructure costs and pollution costs. Also need transparent wage/salary projections. Is this going to be hourly jobs or salaried well-earning jobs where workers can afford to live in town and spend that \$\$ in OUR town?

(Also in response to first comment above): "Buzzwords are nice, but we need data and net #s to make informed decision."

"Proper zoning"

"Anywhere besides here!"

"Only industry appropriate to our infrastructure and roads"

"Low impact only"

"Cap on maximum building size for industrial"

"Only if:

- Design appropriate to New England Style
- Landscaped to present aesthetic view from street
- Accessible by foot, bicycle, and public transport
- Accounts for environmental and climate impact"

(in response to comment above): "SECOND. If company unwilling to pay and go extra mile to do this for our town, they aren't welcome."

"Depends on where/zoning"

"Designs can be modern without being ugly or tacky"

"Yes, only in industrial zones currently existing – don't create/expand industrial zones and limit size of buildings"

"This is way too big for Southwick. I don't care how many jobs this brings in. Not worth the change in our scale. Figure out different size."



REUSING and REFURBISHING HISTORICAL BUILDINGS FOR LIVING AND/OR BUSINESSES

GRANTS AVAILABLE AS OF 2023:

https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcmppf/mppfidx.htm

https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/fund.htm

https://www.culturalheritage.org/about-us/foundation

https://historicfunding.com/

https://www.preservationmass.org/ma-historic-preservation-matching-g

24 PARTICIPANTS SAID YES 1 SAID NO

NOTES LEFT BY PARTICIPANTS:

"Preservation is positive."

"Refurbishing is great."

"Maintaining out oldest treasures is critical – it's our history."

"I believe preserving historical buildings is important to the community."

"I think we should turn old buildings into museums to get money."



DOG PARK EXAMPLES



GRANTS AVAILABLE AS OF 2023: https://barkforyourpark.petsafe.com/

11 PARTICIPANTS SAID YES 0 SAID NO

NOTES LEFT BY PARTICIPANTS:

"A park off of the rail trail would be good, provided we have more ACCESS POINTS to the trail."

"Could attract more visitors to Southwick if it's a nicely designed dog park and trees for shade. I travel to other towns with nice dog parks and then spend time there."





WAY-FINDING SIGNS IN DOWNTOWN AREA TO DENOTE SIGHTS OF INTEREST, HISTORY, BUSINESSES



GRANTS AVAILABLE AS OF 2023:

https://www.mass.gov/sharedstreets-and-spaces-grantprogram https://walkboston.org/ (now renamed WalkMassachusetts)

16 PARTICIPANTS SAID YES 5 SAID NO

NOTES LEFT BY PARTICIPANTS:

"Tasteful signs"

"Helpful for visitors to know about other points of interest."

"If we encourage more tourism and recreation, these would be helpful. Otherwise, no real purpose."

"Yes, but...would like to see standardized designs enforced."

"Would make our town and

infrastructure seem more organized and cohesive. Could help businesses know we welcome them and encourage them to come to town."

"Signs would make downtown seem friendlier to walking."



SCULPTURE GARDENS THAT SERVE AS GREEN OPEN SPACE, ART SPACE, WALKING AREA, AND PLAY SPACE



GRANTS AVAILABLE AS OF 2023:

https://www.publicgardens.org/public-garden-funding-resources
https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-topic/funding-resources
https://www.bloomberg.org/arts/supporting-public-art/public-art-challenge/

21 PARTICIPANTS SAID YES 0 SAID NO

NOTES LEFT BY PARTICIPANTS:

"I love that this is a community play space that is also artistic!"

"I like the idea of bringing art to open spaces."

"Yes, as long as art is from town residents (past or present)." $\,$

"Why only town residents? We could rotate it with both local and non-local artists. If a renowned artist participated, it would put us on the map!"

"Look at Yorkshire Sculpture Park. They are doing it as a private entity and thriving. Can Southwick incentivize entities like that to come into town via the Master Plan?"





PUBLIC SENSORY GARDEN THAT IS ACCESSIBLE AND FUN FOR ALL GENERATIONS.
HEALTH BENEFITS FOR ALL, FROM KIDS TO OLDER ADULTS WITH DEMENTIA





GRANTS AVAILABLE AS OF 2023:

https://ngb.org/therapeutic-grant-program/ https://www.publicgardens.org/public-garden-funding-resources

21 PARTICIPANTS SAID YES 0 SAID NO

NOTES LEFT BY PARTICIPANTS:

"Yes but...who oversees this? Which dept in town?"

"Great idea, but who pays for this and manages/oversees?"

"Could be managed by school children as part of their science curriculum and adult volunteers during summer."



FOOTPATHS FOR WALKING TRANSIT BETWEEN PLACES OF INTEREST & BUSINESSES.

ALSO SERVE AS OPEN GREEN SPACE AND PLACE FOR EXERCISE AND WELLNESS



GRANTS AVAILABLE AS OF 2023:

https://www.mass.gov/shared-streets-and-spaces-grant-program https://americawalks.org/programs/community-change-grants/ https://www.mass.gov/guides/masstrails-grants https://www.solomonfoundation.org/ http://fieldspond.org/

21 PARTICIPANTS SAID YES 1 SAID NO

NOTES LEFT BY PARTICIPANTS:

"No taking of private property by eminent domain or right of ways."

"We need more tree canopy lined streets."

"Walking is probably not a Southwick option w/o massive zoning changes." (Someone responded to this and said "Let's change the zoning.")

"Would make for a healthier and more beautiful community, which translates into more economic outcomes long term for Southwick."

"If footpaths are nice and connect to corridors within town close to businesses/attractions, could be good. I'd donate a piece of my land to contribute to this in return for a tax break."





RE-PURPOSING EXISTING FARM BUILDINGS INTO COMMUNITY SPACE, EVENT SPACE, RENTALS, RESTAURANTS (FARM TO TABLE POSSIBLY)





GRANTS AVAILABLE AS OF 2023:

https://www.massdevelopment.com/

26 PARTICIPANTS SAID YES 1 SAID NO

NOTES LEFT BY PARTICIPANTS:

"Great idea"

"Not town owned."

"Agree if privately owned."

"Town owned or private? Agree if private."

"We definitely need more event spaces."

"Again, would agree if private. Can Master Plan build incentives into it so these kinds of businesses come to Southwick?"



BENCHES FOR SITTING/REST IN PUBLIC SPACES THAT ARE DESIGNED FOR ACCESSIBILITY, COMFORT & ENCOURAGE MOVEMENT. ALSO CAN BEAUTIFY AN AREA AND HOUSE GREENERY/LANDSCAPING ELEMENTS. CAN BE USEFUL IF PLACED IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS





GRANTS AVAILABLE AS OF 2023:

https://www.massdevelopment.com/news/420k-to-improve-public-spaces

17 PARTICIPANTS SAID YES 2 SAID NO

NOTES LEFT BY PARTICIPANTS:

"Responsibility for maintenance?"

(In response to comment above): "I second that! ^"

"I like the idea but who would clean them?"

(in response to comment above): "Maybe start a commission dedicated to volunteer cleanup/beautification of downtown areas. We could get one local business to sponsor each bench/garden well. I've seen it other towns. Good PR for businesses."

(also in response to comment above): "After school kids programs! Kids are bored downtown afterschool. Send them here and then treat them to ice cream at Summer House. Would build some job skills too and get them into design/engineering thinking."

"If people respect and appreciate the beauty of a place, they are more likely to clean up after themselves"

"We lack public spaces like this. Need more public gathering areas before worrying about seating" (in response to comment above): "lack of seating in public areas leaves out older folks, people with disabilities, small kids. Seating seems an essential part of how we design public gathering areas"

"Would be nice to have this by lakes. Public space for summer concerts and plays like photo in bottom left. Maybe even charge cheap like \$10 for shows to help pay for it. Keep it affordable but make some entrance fee if using for shows.)







DIVERSE, FUN SPACES FOR RECREATION & SAFE PLAY

GRANTS AVAILABLE AS OF 2023:

https://www.accessfund.org/grants/climbing-conservation-grant-program

https://everlastclimbing.com/pages/climbing-wall-funding-support

https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Grant-Fundraising-Resources/

https://www.mass.gov/service-details/parkland-acquisitions-and-renovations-for-communities-parc-grant-program https://www.massdevelopment.com/

20 PARTICIPANTS SAID YES. 0 SAID NO

NOTES LEFT BY PARTICIPANTS:

"Absolutely!! Additional guests coming in town for lake, etc."

"Let's keep our kids in Southwick for recreation."

"Would love to see one recreational complex with many activity options in one building" (One child built this with blocks at the children's table)

"Also include indoor pool for rental to hold swim meets, etc."

"I like the rock climbing venue idea."

"Private? Who owns/pays for this?"



COMMUNITY GARDEN BY LIBRARY SO CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS HAVE EASY ACCESS TO GARDENING AS AN EDUCATIONAL & WELLNESS ACTIVITY. ALSO, ENHANCES AESTHETIC AROUND LIBRARY.



GRANTS AVAILABLE AS OF 2023:

https://www.publicgardens.org/public-garden-funding-resources

https://keepmassbeautiful.org/what-we-do/beautification-community-greening/plant-something-beautiful.html https://www.pollinator.org/grants

https://www.gardenclub.org/youth-pollinator-gardens-grant (specifically grant for youth-led gardens) https://www.nfwf.org/programs/monarch-butterfly-and-pollinators-conservation-fund

27 PARTICIPANTS SAID YES 0 SAID NO

NOTES LEFT BY PARTICIPANTS:

"That would be a great location"

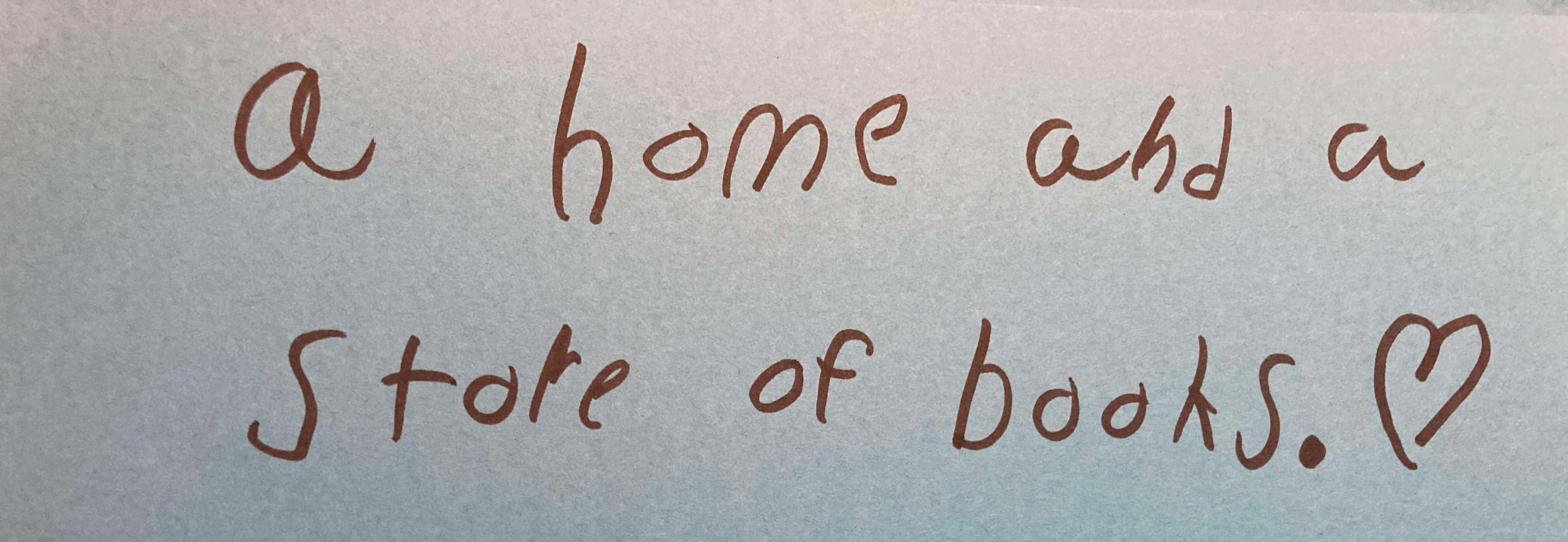
"Also a garden dedicated to food pantry"

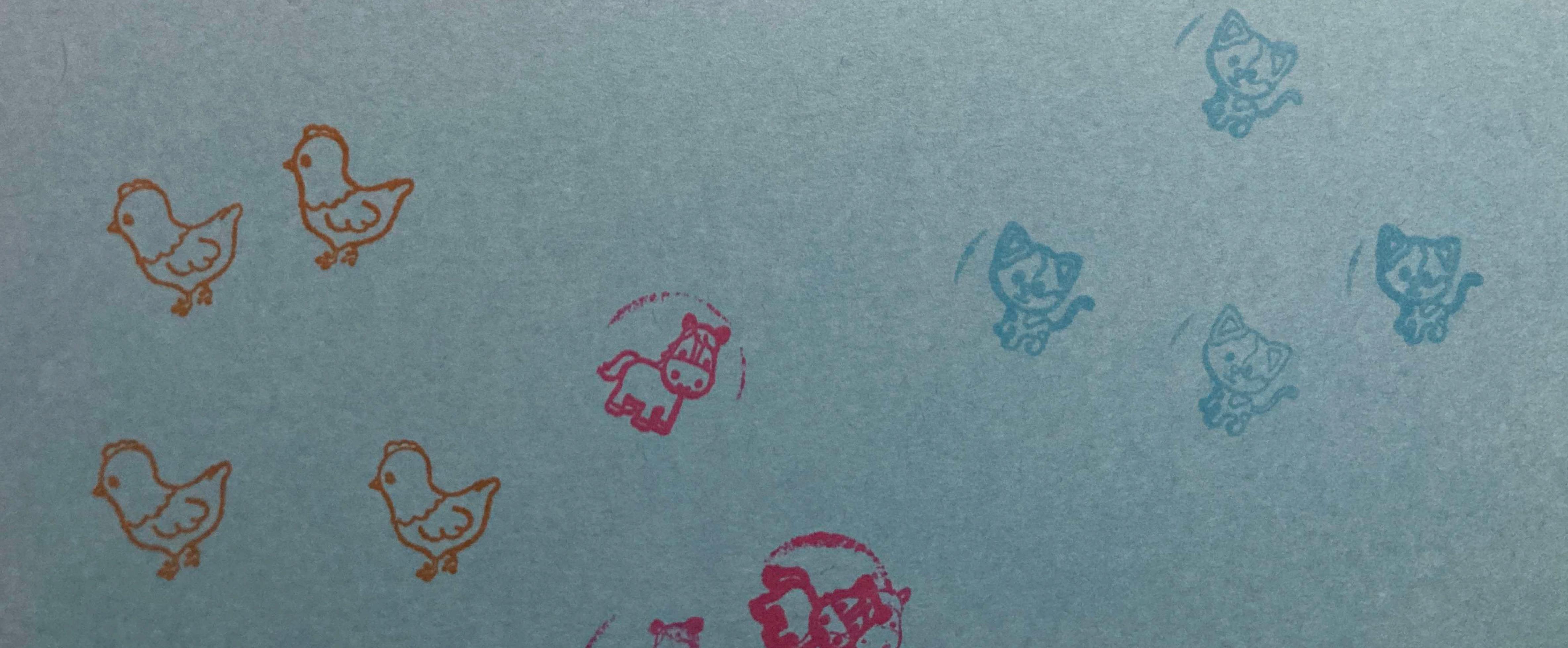
"Ag education will beget future farmers/farmer-friendly residents @ "

"Kids should be exposed to nature and agriculture. They will appreciate the beauty and usefulness of both."

"Would increase perception of Southwick as cohesive community if more town buildings had gardens and/or more beautiful landscapes around it."

STATION 4 DRAWING



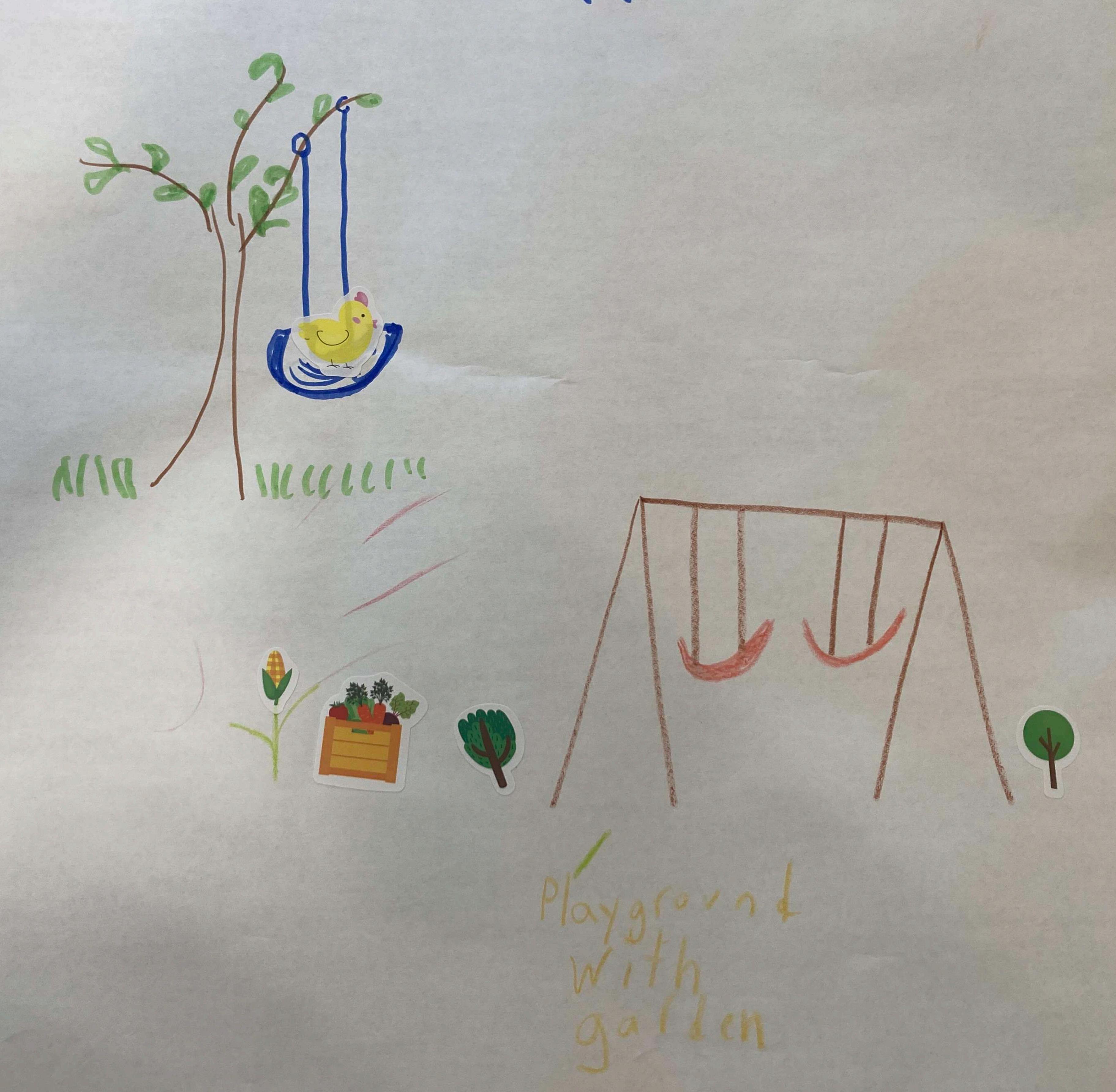


* Duild a Stage

*Make an ice cream shop.

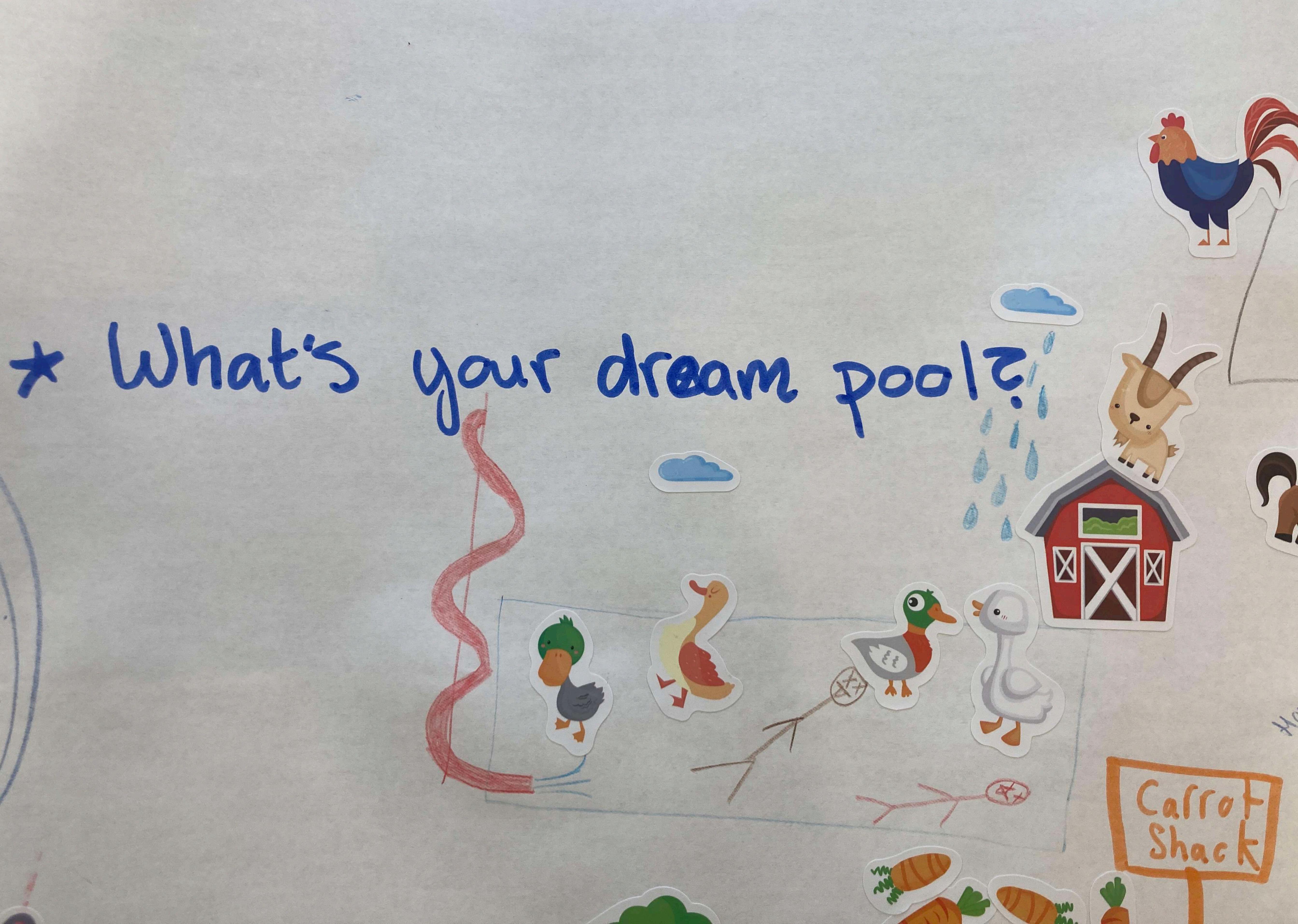
*Build a gardent

* Can you draw a playground?









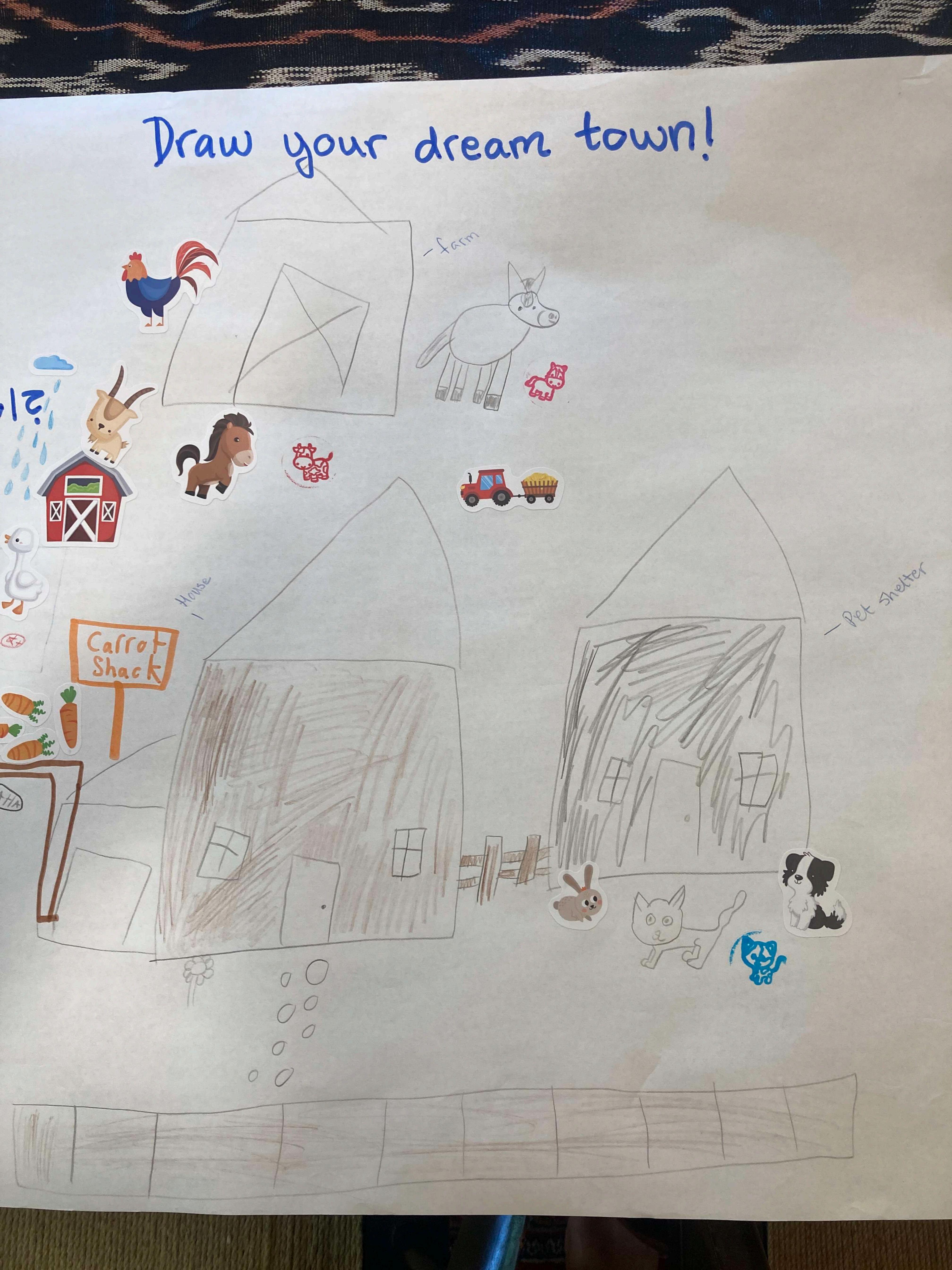


Swimming Pool with lights

4 /Wolf 10 wn beach. Somewhere to Play! Duings, Monkiey Lars 11



Bia building with a bia basketball hoop



DATA FROM FINAL MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP "DID WE HEAR YOU?"

SPECULATIVE DESIGN: CRAFTING AND VISUALIZING POSSIBLE FUTURE EXPERIENCES AND PRODUCTS

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE AND BACK AT THE PRESENT TO UNDERSTAND HOW THINGS MIGHT BE CONNECTED AND HOW THEY MIGHT AFFECT ONE ANOTHER. IT'S ABOUT BEING ABLE TO SEE THE POTENTIAL FOR THINGS TO DEVELOP, CHANGE, OR GROW OVER TIME, WHICH IS NECESSARY WHEN MASTER PLANNING!

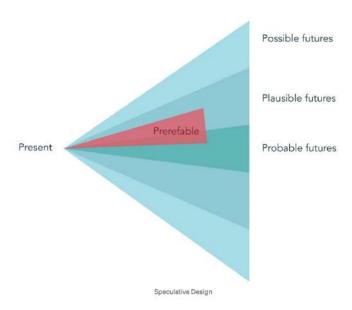
A TYPICAL DESIGN PROCESS = IDEA GENERATION, RESEARCH, IDEATION, ITERATION, AND TESTING
WITH SPECULATIVE DESIGN = TYPICAL DESIGN + TWO EXTRA STEPS
(EXPLORATION + VISUALIZATION)

DURING THE EXPLORATION PHASE, WE LOOK FOR INSPIRATION IN EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, CULTURAL SHIFTS, AND CURRENT EVENTS THAT COULD AFFECT OUR PROJECT IN THE FUTURE. IN THE VISUALIZATION PHASE, WE TAKE FINDINGS AND BRING THEM TO LIFE THROUGH SKETCHES, STORYBOARDS, INTERACTIVE PROTOTYPES, AND OTHER CREATIVE VISUALIZATIONS. MOCK-UPS AND SIMULATIONS BRING OUR IDEAS TO LIFE AND HELP US BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY FEEL LIKE IN THE REAL WORLD.

AT ITS CORE, IT IS ABOUT QUESTIONING THE PRESENT AND IMAGINING POSSIBLE FUTURES!

DATA FROM FINAL MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

"DID WE HEAR YOU?" SPECULATIVE DESIGN



- 1. THE PROBABLE IS WHERE TRADITIONAL DESIGN EXISTS, DESCRIBES WHAT WE CAN PREDICT THAT <u>PROBABLY</u> WILL HAPPEN JUDGING FROM HOW THE WORLD CURRENTLY IS.
- 2. THE PLAUSIBLE BEGINS TO DELVE FURTHER INTO THE AREAS OF BUILDING SCENARIOS AND FORESIGHT. IT DESCRIBES ALTERNATIVE FUTURES AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF COULD BE'S AND WHAT IF'S.
- 3. THE POSSIBLE GOES BEYOND, TO EXTREME SCENARIOS OF WHAT IS SCIENTIFICALLY POSSIBLE. THIS INCLUDES UTOPIAS AND DYSTOPIAS, WHILE NEVER CROSSING INTO THE REALM OF FANTASY OR SCIENCE FICTION. THERE IS A <u>PREFERRED VERSION</u> OF THE FUTURE THAT LIES SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE OF PROBABLE AND PLAUSIBLE SCENARIOS.

WHEN EDITING CHAPTERS & TAKING THE DESIGN FEEDBACK BACK FROM THE PUBLIC EVENT OF 6/17, REMEMBER IT IS OUR JOB TO BE MINDFUL OF WHETHER OR NOT THE FUTURE WE ARE PLANNING FOR WILL TURN OUT TO BE BETTER!