

Natick 360
Honoring Our Past. Planning Our Future.



Staff Input Meeting Results
February 13, 2007

Introduction

On February 13, 2007, the Natick Town Administrator and *Natick 360* invited the senior staff to provide input into the Town's strategic planning process. A total of 18 staff members participated in the exercise to identify barriers that prevent Natick from achieving its vision.

In small groups, participants identified barriers to achieving Natick's seven vision statements. They were asked to look at all the vision statements, and to look across them all to identify the big issues facing the Town.

After several minutes of brainstorming, each group was asked to report the most important issue it had identified, in turn, without repeating what an earlier group had said. After more than four rounds, all groups reported that all of their issues had been reported. The facilitation team recorded their input, presented below.

Issues, Gaps and Barriers to Natick's Vision

Money: shortage, expectations for service delivery not supported by budget.

Short-term emergency in FY 2008-2009, then plan to cover FY 2010 and beyond.

Citizen involvement: 300-400 involved: how get more involved in shaping Town?

Communication: consensus for future; communicate to departments for short-term goals

Access to transportation: not easy; options not easy to reach.

Affordability of housing for aged and young families limits community diversity.

Managing growth: neighborhoods; downtown; transportation impacts; public safety impacts; infrastructure impacts; municipal resources to deal with growth.

Promote growth of residential and commercial balance; healthy.

Lack of a compendium (inventory) of resources and Town-wide information; example: programs for youth, parenting, training, human services, recreational; communications to citizens about volunteer, recreational and other opportunities.

Aging buildings and infrastructure: inability to keep up.

Public understanding of how government works: what's available; how to get it; how much cost?

Access to health care and health care resources is limited supply and choices in the community; specialized treatment.

Desire for economically viable downtown: businesses close at 5:00 p.m.; parking and traffic; limited goods and services.