

GREENWICH POCD: Community Outreach

DIY Kit Workshop

POCD Superbowl

Sunday, February 4th, 2018

Approximately 11 people in the twenties attended this workshop. Shanice Becker, Planner I for the Town of Greenwich, introduced the Plan of Conservation and Development project and the purpose of the workshop. This is, broadly speaking, to identify participants' concerns and aspirations for Greenwich. The following summary is a selection of what was discussed and is not intended to be a complete transcript of what was said or a recommendation of particular actions.

Top Issues

Most of the workshop was devoted to the participants developing a list of the issues facing Greenwich. This list includes 17 issues, of which participants were asked to select the three most important. Combining some into broader categories, the subjects that garnered the most votes are:

- Rising property taxes – 4 votes
- Lack of entertainment/night life – 4 votes
- Need to attract young population – 3 votes

The individual issues, organized by category, include:

- Millennials
 - Lack of entertainment/night life – 4 votes
 - Need to attract young population – 3 votes
- Parking/Traffic
 - Street parking for larger cars – 1 vote
 - Stricter residential parking – 1 vote
 - Sound barrier along I-95 – 1 vote
 - Train parking – 0 votes
 - Greenwich Ave. parking – 0 votes
 - Merging at exits 3, 4, and 5 – 0 votes
- Taxes/Budget
 - Rising property taxes – 4 votes
 - Town spending – 2 votes
- City Services
 - Excessive beach regulations – 2 votes
 - Use of Greenwich facilities by non-Greenwich residents – 2 votes
 - Snow removal – 1 vote
 - Restrictive liquor licensing – 1 vote
- Commercial
 - Greenwich Avenue vacancies – 2 votes
 - Too many banks – 0 votes
- Housing
 - Lack of affordable housing – 2 votes

Recommended Actions

When asked what specific actions should be taken to improve Greenwich, participants suggested ideas about infrastructure, parks, recreation, and public safety. Ideas included:

- Grow Town assets
- Build first responder's station
- Lower taxes
- Build more infrastructure for water access
- Build running and biking paths
- Reorganize the beach
- Extend liquor licensing to include brunch
- Increase parking on Greenwich Avenue and in Central Business District
- Host concerts geared toward younger audience
- Improve public transit
- Make Central Business District more lively
- Attract more young buyers
- Better supervise tax assessment
- Make all Christmas lights on Greenwich Avenue uniform
- Increase parking by train
- Allow rooftop entertainment
- Lease venues at Tod's Point, etc. for bars/drinking
- Increase outdoor dining in the Central Business District

Greenwich's Strengths

When asked what is best about Greenwich, participants focused on the town's economic, governmental, environmental, and social attributes. Participants mentioned:

- Beaches/water access
- Schools
- Safety/security/lack of crime
- Beauty
- Coastline/islands
- Parks
- Sense of community
- Reputation
- Downtown
- Proximity to New York
- Architecture
- Trash and recycling services