

# Sustainable Jamestown: Phase I Summary

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Prepared for:  
Planning Commission, Jamestown, RI

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March 10, 2017

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## Project Background

In August 2016, the Town of Jamestown's Planning Commission (PC) and Town Planner began leading the community through a process of developing a plan called **Sustainable Jamestown**. This effort was conceived as a way to maintain Jamestown's quality of life into the future through an actionable plan.

**Sustainable Jamestown**, as a project, was divided into two phases. Phase I involved reaching out into the community and asking what "sustainable" means to those living and working in Jamestown, and what should be part of Jamestown's action plan. The main focus of Phase I was a large public workshop with smaller outreach efforts leading up to that event. The focus of Phase II was the development of the action plan.



This report summarizes all the activities that took place during Phase I and provides a discussion of proposed next steps for Phase II, including expected research, questions, and decision points that will need to be addressed with the community.

## Messaging, Marketing, & Website

Phase I of Sustainable Jamestown made the case to the public for a sustainability plan and asked for the direction in which the plan should go. It was entirely focused on public outreach and education leading up to a town-wide public workshop. A Public Participation Plan organized outreach efforts and ensured that information about the project was clear and understandable, everyone involved in promoting Sustainable Jamestown knew their role, and outreach methods used were appropriate for the community. Primary tools included messaging, marketing, and a project website.

### Messaging

Because "sustainability" has different meanings in different communities, developing "messaging" for the project was the first step. Messaging ensures that everyone speaking on behalf of Sustainable Jamestown is giving the same information and communicating the same objectives.

Town staff and the PC wanted to emphasize the idea of maintaining quality of life on the island for future generations; therefore, messaging should resonate with average Jamestowners and get them invested in the project. A set of key messages served as talking points and were used for the project website, outreach to community stakeholders, op-eds in the Jamestown Press, and other communications. Below are the key messages for Sustainable Jamestown:

- Sustainable Jamestown is an **action plan** with concrete steps we can all take as a community to ensure that what we love about Jamestown is still here for future generations.
- Sustainable Jamestown looks to **meet local needs** that support our community on-island and grow these support systems to the extent possible. Examples include retail goods and

commercial services, drinking water, public safety, quality schools, local government, and our volunteer network.

- Sustainable Jamestown is about **planning for change** and **becoming stronger and more resilient**, so that we can adapt, bounce back from problems quickly, and maintain quality of life for all islanders.
- Sustainable Jamestown is about **caring and providing for members of our community** who may need more support and a home designed to meet their needs.
- Sustainable Jamestown **looks at issues** like sea level rise, climate change, and increased intensity and frequency of storms and works with the community to develop strategies that address impacts from these anticipated future events.
- Sustainable Jamestown recognizes the need to provide islanders with **opportunities and places to connect**, share their stories, argue their differences, and make new friends.
- Sustainable Jamestown is about **listening to everyone** who has a stake in Jamestown's future so we can learn about living and working on the island and addressing the biggest issues our community will face.

## Marketing

The Public Participation Plan emphasized spreading the word about the project through existing, local organizations and networks to build a foundation of contacts for Phase II. Because Jamestown is such a small and tight-knit community, hearing about this project from trusted neighbors and friends was by far the best way to get people involved. Local marketing efforts included the following:

- Members of the PC volunteered to write op-eds for the Jamestown Press, expressing what sustainability means to them and why they support developing a sustainability plan (*Water service has been a problem for more than a century*, by Rosemary Enright and Sue Maden, January 19, 2017, and *Community asked to help with sustainability project*, editorial by Mick Cochran, January 26, 2017).
- Members of the PC sent informational notices to a dozen or more local groups and organizations, asking them to share information with their members. These included the Jamestown Chamber of Commerce, local realtors, Jamestown Historical Society, garden clubs, neighborhood associations, and many others.
- Members of the PC posted information on various local Facebook pages.

**Sustainable Jamestown**  
Our Island, Our Future

What is Sustainable Jamestown?  
Sustainable Jamestown is an action plan with concrete steps we can all take as a community to ensure that what we love about Jamestown is still here for future generations.

Sustainable Jamestown is about **planning for change** and **becoming stronger and more resilient**, so that we can adapt, bounce back from problems quickly, and maintain quality of life for all islanders.

What will this Plan Address?  
That's largely up to you! Below are the Town's thoughts about the issues we expect to address as a community, but over the next few months, we want to hear what YOU feel is most important.

Below are some examples of the types of questions we can answer together!

<b>Economics of Place</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How can Jamestown attract and support local, year-round businesses that serve island residents?</li><li>• What are the best ways to balance the tourism industry with protection of the environment and community character?</li></ul>
<b>Climate Change &amp; Resilient Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How is climate change likely to impact daily life on the island?</li><li>• How will the town address issues such as continued drought conditions and sea-level rise?</li></ul>
<b>Energy &amp; Resource Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How important is it that locally generated energy options be available for use by Jamestown citizens, neighborhoods and businesses?</li><li>• Should Jamestown invest in more energy efficient building infrastructure, even if it is more expensive?</li></ul>
<b>Healthy Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is access to healthy food a problem for anyone you know?</li><li>• What would make it easier for you and your family to have more active play and exercise in Jamestown?</li></ul>
<b>Community Resiliency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How can the Jamestown community best work collectively to preserve the town's quality of life into the future?</li><li>• How can we support the people and families in town most vulnerable to economic or social struggles so they can stay in Jamestown as part of our community?</li></ul>
<b>Housing Diversity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can your children afford to buy a home in Jamestown? Can your aging parents afford to stay here?</li><li>• Cost aside, do you think Jamestown has the housing types needed to attract and retain young adults, families, and aging seniors?</li></ul>

- A general 2-page handout promoted the project overall, and copies were made available at Town Hall, the library, and other municipal departments.
- For public events, advertisements were placed in the Jamestown Press, flyers developed and distributed electronically and as paper, and informational posters were displayed in Town Hall and on sandwich boards at prominent intersections in town.

## Website

The project website, [www.sustainablejamestown.com](http://www.sustainablejamestown.com), continues the link between Phase I and Phase II. It has the following features:

- Home page with all of the key messages developed for the project.
- Basic information, data, and questions to consider for six broad “Issue Areas” often included in sustainability plans. These included:
  - Economics of Place
  - Resilient Infrastructure
  - Energy & Resource Conservation
  - Diversity of Housing
  - Community Resiliency
  - Healthy Communities
- Local, state, and national resources for the Issue Areas
- Calendar of events
- Blog function to post any op-eds or other articles
- Contact page with a form that allows people to sign-up to receive more information on the project.

## Sustainable Jamestown

JAMESTOWN SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

ABOUT ISSUE AREAS EVENTS RESOURCES WRITE ABOUT IT! CONTACT



[CLICK HERE to Take our Survey!](#)

[CLICK HERE for info on the Public Workshop](#)

## Sustainable Jamestown

JAMESTOWN SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

ABOUT ISSUE AREAS EVENTS RESOURCES WRITE ABOUT IT! CONTACT

### Resources for Climate Change & Sea Level Rise

Click on the links below to learn more. Or visit STORMTOOLS for Beginners, type in your home address, and explore an interactive map showing other resources in Jamestown that may be vulnerable to sea-level rise.



[Coastal Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge: Transportation Fact](#)



[Jamestown Sea Level Rise: Map Atlas Grid](#)



[Sea Level Rise Scenarios, Town of Jamestown](#)

## Sustainable Jamestown

JAMESTOWN SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

ABOUT ISSUE AREAS EVENTS RESOURCES WRITE ABOUT IT! CONTACT



[Economics of Place](#)



[Climate Change & Resilient Infrastructure](#)



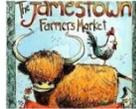
[Energy & Resource Conservation](#)



[Diversity of Housing](#)



[Community Resiliency](#)



[Healthy Communities](#)

## Sustainable Jamestown

JAMESTOWN SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

ABOUT ISSUE AREAS EVENTS RESOURCES WRITE ABOUT IT! CONTACT

### Economics of Place

For decades, Jamestown has maintained its identity as one of the quieter, but most picturesque destinations along the Rhode Island coastline. This "sense of place" provides the foundation for a steady, but not overwhelming, tourist economy on the island. The Narragansett Avenue corridor leading to the waterfront has helped to define Jamestown for over a century and maintains a scale of buildings and activity that typifies the traditional "per area" commercial center that is special to coastal New England. Outside of the commercial center, Jamestown has some of the most stunning coastline and natural landscapes in Rhode Island. As Jamestown looks to the future of a sustainable local and regional economy, access to these unique assets will be essential to maintaining a



**Resources for Economics of Place**  
 What resources are available? [CLICK HERE](#) for some basic information on the local economy in Jamestown and resources for local businesses.

## Community Engagement Efforts

### Interviews, Focus Groups, and Open Houses

Leading up to the public workshop, a series of one-on-one interviews and focus groups were held with key stakeholders across the island. These meetings helped identify and confirm major issues in Jamestown and shape the content of the public workshop.

Interviews and focus groups were held with the following:

- Local grange/farmers
- Jamestown Art Center
- Jamestown Philomenian Library
- Recreation Department
- Teen Center
- Local realtors
- Met School
- Senior Center



Additionally, three open houses were held at Town Hall on January 19, February 1, and February 13, 2017. During these times, anyone from the public was welcome to drop in, read some informational boards, and answer some questions. The boards were kept up in the Town Hall lobby for several weeks so visitors could continue to respond to questions and leave ideas.

In order to maintain consistency and to be able to compile and compare answers, all of the interviews, focus groups, and open houses asked the same questions. These included:

***What are the three things you value most about Jamestown?*** People were asked to think about places, events, character, traditions, or any other aspect of Jamestown that they would like to be around 20, 50 or more years from now.

***What are the biggest future threats to what you value most about Jamestown?*** People were prompted with some examples, such as Climate Change, Rising Cost of Living, and Environmental Damage, among others, and could also list their own ideas.

***Communities define sustainability in different ways. Tell us what it means to you.*** We listed several common sustainability issues addressed by communities throughout the country, and asked people to select their top three most important issues or write down an issue not listed.

***A sustainable future depends on more than just government action – all of us need to do our part. What sorts of things might you be willing to do to preserve Jamestown’s quality of life into the future?*** We listed several possible ways for people to be sustainable in their own lives, and asked them to select from the list or write down an action not listed.

### Met School Interviews and Video

Brad Martin, a Jamestown resident and Principal of the Met School-East Bay in Newport, graciously worked with three of his students from Jamestown on an interview project of their own. The students interviewed about a half a dozen people in the community, using the same four questions discussed

above. They filmed the interviews and edited them down into a seven-minute video that was shown at the public workshop and is posted on the project website. Their work was very well received, and really helped to emphasize that the concerns and ideas raised in the summary below have come from real Jamestown residents who care deeply about the community.

## Results of the Interviews/Focus Groups and Open Houses

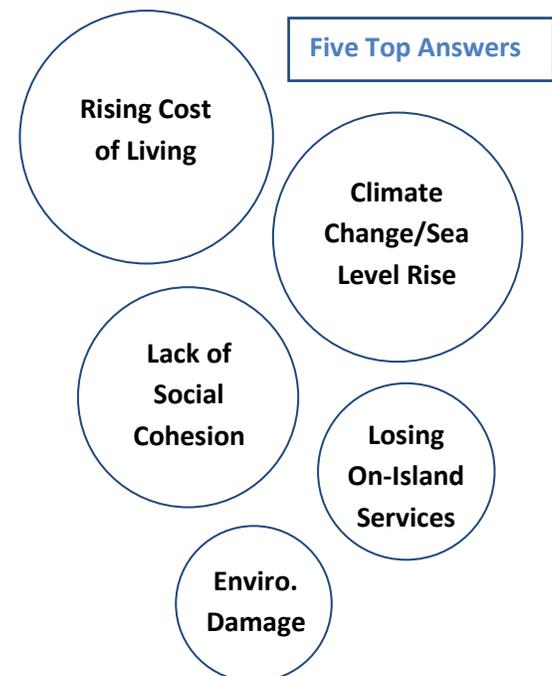
### Three Things You Value Most About Jamestown

- Preserved Open Space and Parks (23)
- Water Related Activities/Access (19)
- Community Spirit (Amiability, Town events, etc.) (16)
- Village Business District/Local Businesses (13)
- Rural Character/Small Town Feel (10)
- Privacy/Peace/Laid back but close to everything (9)
- Socioeconomic Diversity/Affordability (8)
- History/Historic Resources/Architecture (6)
- Natural Beauty (6)
- Controlled Development (6)
- Agriculture/Aquaculture (5)
- Biking/Walking/Fresh Air (4)
- Bio-diversity/Native Species/Marine ecosystems (2)
- Safety (2)
- Others . . .
  - Water Supply
  - Ability to Age in Place
  - Quality of Schools
  - Abundance of artists, makers, designers



### Biggest Threats to these Valued Things

- Rising Cost of Living (42)
- Climate Change/Sea-Level Rise (30)
- Lack of Social Cohesion/Sense of Community (26)
- Losing On-Island Businesses, Services, and Jobs (24)
- Environmental Damage (24)
- Stress on Public Infrastructure & Services (22)
- Others . . .
  - Lack of Coordination/Cooperation (3)
  - Tear Downs (3)
  - Declining Youth Population (3)
  - Over-Development (3)
  - Exclusivity (3)



- Housing Type (smaller homes) (2)
- Difficulties for Aging in Place (2)
- Not continuing to protect existing agriculture
- Storms/Storm Surge
- Cost of Services (due to lack of regionalization)
- Aging, Inefficient Buildings
- Lack of Diversity
- Visitors/Tourists who don't share the Town's conservation values
- Government Regulations

### ***Your Three Top Priorities for a Sustainable Jamestown***

- Conservation of Farms, Forests, and Open Spaces (12)
- Conservation of Drinking Water (10)
- Housing Diversity/Affordability (7)
- Maintaining Local Shops and Services (6)
- Socioeconomic Diversity (6)
- Climate Change/Sea-Level Rise (6)

### ***What sort of role might you play in preserving Jamestown's quality of life into the future?***

More than 50% of respondents said . . .

- Commit to shopping locally
- Volunteer for a local organization
- Make changes in energy and water consumption
- Vocally support housing that is affordable to seniors on a fixed income or working families

## **Online Survey**

An online survey was developed and linked to the project website. It included variations on the same four questions that were used for the Interviews/Focus Groups and the Open Houses, in order to ensure consistency. The survey was open from January 9 to February 26, 2017, and received 56 responses.

Below is a summary of what people said.

### **Q#1: Three Things You Value Most About Jamestown**

- 1. Nature/Parks/Open Space (34)**
- 2. Community (People/Spirit/Events) (28)**
- 3. Quality of Life/Small Town/Rural Atmosphere (26)**
- 4. Vibrant town center/Local, small businesses (22)**
- 5. Access to the shore/water (21)**
6. Farmland/Aquaculture (12)
7. Community Institutions/Services (8)
8. Natural Beauty (8)
9. Socioeconomic Diversity (7)
10. Historic Sites/Architecture (7)

11. Low Population Density (6)
12. Clean Environment (water and air) (4)
13. Others (Environmental Diversity; Low Crime; Location (quiet, but close to things); Recreation/Biking/Walking; Schools; Environmental Awareness)

### **Q#2: Biggest Threats to these Valued Things**

1. Environmental Damage (35)
2. Rising Cost of Living (housing, commercial space, utilities, etc.) (31)
3. Climate Change/Sea-Level Rise (30)
4. Lack of Social Cohesion (22)
5. Increased demand on public infrastructure and services (particularly water) (21)
6. Reduced access to amenities on island (20)

### **Other Responses**

- Over-Development
- Homes occupied only part time or as vacation rentals; Military families artificially raise rental costs; Leads to housing costs that are too high to maintain a socioeconomically diverse population.
- Plastics
- Lack of Transportation Alternatives (particularly for the elderly and youth)
- Too many regulations/Too many town expenses

### **Q#3: Your Top Priorities for a Sustainable Jamestown**

On a scale of 0 (should not be part of Sustainable Jamestown) to 5 (high priority for Sustainable Jamestown), how would you rate the following topics?

#### **Top Five Priorities (Most scores of '5')**

- Conservation of Drinking Water
- Conservation of Forests, Farms, and Open Space
- High Quality Public Education
- Maintaining Pride of Place/Community Character
- Recreational Opportunities, Parks, Beaches, Bike Paths, etc.

#### **Top Five Priorities (Highest Average Scores)**

- Conservation of Drinking Water (4.4)
- Maintaining Pride of Place/Community Character (4.27)
- Recreational Opportunities, Parks, Beaches, Bike Paths, etc. (4.21)
- High Quality Public Education (4.18)
- Conservation of Forests, Farms, and Open Space (4.18)

Note that the same five topics rise to the top (in different order) regardless of the calculation.

**Top Five Priorities (Most scores of '5')**

**Bottom Four Priorities (Most scores of '0')**

**Highest Five Average Scores**

Topic	0	1	2	3	4	5	Total Score	Av. Score
Conservation of Drinking Water	0	0	2	7	13	<b>33</b>	55	<b>4.40</b>
Maintaining Pride of Place/Community Character	0	0	4	5	19	<b>28</b>	56	<b>4.27</b>
Recreational Opportunities, Parks, Beaches, Bike Paths, etc.	0	0	4	7	18	<b>27</b>	56	<b>4.21</b>
Conservation of Forests, Farms, and Open Space	1	2	3	5	14	<b>31</b>	56	<b>4.18</b>
High Quality Public Education	0	1	4	8	13	<b>29</b>	55	<b>4.18</b>
Viability of Local Shops and Services	0	1	3	12	20	20	56	3.98
Historic Preservation	1	1	9	8	23	13	55	3.64
Access to Fresh and Healthy Foods	1	5	7	11	13	19	56	3.55
Energy Conservation/ Renewable Energy at the Town Level	<b>4</b>	4	5	11	11	21	56	3.50
Housing Diversity and Affordability	1	5	9	8	14	17	54	3.48
Socioeconomic Diversity	<b>3</b>	3	7	10	18	15	56	3.46
Climate Change/Sea-Level Rise	<b>7</b>	6	4	8	6	25	56	3.34
Cost of Living	2	3	11	13	12	14	55	3.31
Energy Conservation/ Renewable Energy for Individual Homes and Businesses	<b>5</b>	4	9	7	14	17	56	3.29
Diversity of Jobs in Jamestown	2	5	11	17	8	12	55	3.09

**Q#4: What sort of role might you play in preserving Jamestown's quality of life into the future?**

	Yes	Maybe	No	Total
Commit to shopping locally in Jamestown whenever possible	41	11	3	55
Make changes in energy and water consumption in your home or business	41	13	2	56
Volunteer for a local board, commission, or non-profit organization	38	14	4	56
Talk to and educate your neighbors and friends about sustainability	32	12	10	54
Champion a local project that will help Jamestown become more sustainable (for example, a new bike path, preserving a farm or other natural space, be an advocate for historic preservation, etc...)	30	18	7	55
Vocally support housing that is affordable to seniors on a fixed income or working families	25	16	13	54
Pay more in taxes to support resilient infrastructure projects	21	24	11	56
Help raise funds for resilient infrastructure projects (protecting roads and bridges from floods, expanding the Town's safe drinking water infrastructure, etc.)	16	25	14	55

## Public Workshop: February 15, 2017

The public engagement for Phase I culminated in a public workshop held from 7-9pm at Town Hall on February 15, 2017. Over 50 people attended. A brief presentation was given describing the project, the six proposed Issue Areas, and the results of the public engagement to date. The presentation was closed with the premier viewing of the Met School interviews video.

Participants were then asked to visit seven stations around the room: one for each of the six “Issue Areas” and one for “Wildcard” ideas that did not fit in any of the other categories. Each station had an information board (largely based on the data and resources on the project website) and a feedback board asking people to write down what issues they thought were unique to Jamestown for each topic, as well as any “big ideas.” The Open House display boards were also available if people wanted to vote on ideas or add their own.

After everyone had a chance to visit each station and write down their thoughts, the whole group was reconvened to discuss next steps and a Call to Action. People were encouraged to write down their contact information and any projects they are working on related to sustainability. The idea is to post this information on the project website, so that other interested neighbors can find out what’s going on and get involved. Jamestown resident Kate Petrie offered an example by sharing her desire to work on bringing residential compost collection to the island.

## Results of the Public Workshop

### *Big Idea!*

People were asked to write down any big ideas they have for sustainability in Jamestown, whether or not related to a given Issue Area.

- Bring Back Hay Day with combined effort with Land Trust and Conservation Commission (x2)
- More electric charging stations (need a first, actually)
- Small [reverse osmosis] plant at South Pond to keep the pond full
- Sea-Level Rise – North Road and connecting to Beavertail
- WWII Building mine storage warehouse at Fort Wetherill – reuse for aquaculture research center
- Bay Island Park System – starting with Dutch Island. Education.
- Having Jamestown be independent using solar and wind power is extremely realistic. It is an opportunity to help low-income families decrease their cost of living. Grants and donations can provide “start up” money and will pay for itself fairly quickly. Because of Jamestown’s higher than average income this can be a very good place to start a project like this. Street lights could be the first thing to be changed to solar.
- I think having more places for young people to go to would help with community involvement, opportunities to educate, and more businesses/jobs in town. There are very few options that are cheap and people want to go to. They are mostly family/child oriented. It is much easier for

me and my friends to take a bus to Newport or Providence and there are many more things to do/places (restaurants, concerts, etc.) for us to go to.

Some ideas/wants I have heard from my community:

- Movie theater (not a full size movie theater, but a projector with chairs/couches and a concession). Not many of the movies at the library are attended by teenagers.
- Opportunities for teenagers to sell/buy art at lower costs. T-shirt making and other products are fairly easy to make. I believe a platform for people to do this would be a great opportunity. I would be happy to be involved: [caroline.crabtree@metmail.org](mailto:caroline.crabtree@metmail.org)

## *Economics of Place*

### Issues Unique to Jamestown

- Support businesses that are essential to residents (i.e. drugstore, food store, hardware, etc.), not just businesses for tourists. (x4)
- It is important to have a busy downtown – to avoid being just a suburb (x2)
- Water rates
- Access to organic vegetables and other foods year round – place to buy on island
- We need to be able to shop locally for food too.
- Be able to walk to work and shop/eat locally after work.
- Not unique, but our seasonal economy creates a fragile commercial center.
- Buy local, act local, art local
- Much cheaper options for young people in Providence, etc. Students also want more options for places to go to, especially during the summer. Low-income, working class families cannot afford Jamestown. Scholarships and free programs are great, provide community involvement.



### Big Ideas for Economics of Place

- We need to make it affordable to add solar and wind to private homes to reduce reliance on fossil fuels (grants, communitywide purchasing) (x4)
- Can the Town raise the minimum wage?
- Affordable renewable energy

## *Community Resiliency*

### Issues Unique to Jamestown

- Make sure we support the library as a center of the community and ensure that it evolves as the community does. (x4)
- The constant threat to water quality and security (x2)
- Volunteering and asking folks for their opinions and expertise. So much knowledge on this island! (x2)
- There are businesses outside the downtown area – if we could support them also. Example: artists working out of their homes studios.

- Educate students and get them involved! Adults can volunteer a small amount of time to make a large impact on the community.
- Schools, community centers, and programs connected, have people volunteer after school, etc. Introduce youth to careers, etc.
- Military families are good for Jamestown – they maintain and enrich the schools, and many community organizations.
- How do we work with our neighbors more (i.e. Newport)?

### Big Ideas for Community Resiliency

- We need to start mapping causeways over Mackerel Beach and Zeek’s Creek so that people have a visual of the next decades. Pictures/diagrams will tell the story. (x4)

### *Housing Diversity*

#### Issues Unique to Jamestown

- Affordable housing! Can we age in place? In-law apartments are key to living here in Jamestown. (x5)
- I worry about too many weekend/vacation homes – vacant most of the year (x4)
- Preservation of historic houses (x2).
- Multifamily homes will allow for lower income families, young people, and seniors to have better housing options. (x2) Can provide:
  - Lower costs
  - Stronger community!
  - More diversity socioeconomically
  - Less likely to be vacant for part of the year
  - Can provide a starting out/test run for renewable energy such as solar power, etc., help low-income individuals
- We need realistic small homes for community members, not McMansions for people who are rarely here.
- Establish housing trust to rent or sell property for affordable housing.
- Concept of a housing trust. Buy – improve through construction and rent to preserve middle income housing stock.
- Housing pricing affordability and diversity is most important. Housing trust development. Meet requirements for affordable housing.
- Make multifamily housing more zoning friendly.
- I’m concerned about the number of new houses being built each year. How much growth can we really handle?
- We talk about affordable housing all the time, but . . . we don’t allow structures that could accommodate multiple units on multiple levels that could be affordable. Two levels isn’t high density, which may be the only way we can create affordable housing, so . . . talk is talk.
- Cottage style development centrally located to MD, church, food, PO, etc.
- Designated tiny house neighborhoods

- The need for more affordable housing is pressing.
- Ensure adequate affordable housing in general. Develop strategies for local working people (town employees) to be able to live here.
- Cost of housing. Least expensive house right now well over \$300K.

#### Big Ideas for Housing Diversity

- *None listed*

#### *Climate Change & Resilient Infrastructure*

#### Issues Unique to Jamestown

- Adequate drinking water supply for municipal and well users (x8)
- Erosion and damage to roadways and public and private resources (x3)
- Protecting the water treatment plant (x2).
- Emergency provision should one of our bridges become disabled by natural disaster or otherwise (x2)
- We need to plan ahead to raise the roads across Mackerel Cove and North Road across Great Creek (x2)
- Super important. This is a no-brainer. If we don't look at this, all the other things don't mean a thing for the future!
- Some of the most valuable and extensive salt marshes in RI. Planning for sea-level rise.
- Need to have plans for the Creek and Mackerel Cove so that community can discuss and prepare.
- North Road and Beavertail access will be under water – need to plan
- Will the South Reservoir be safe from sea-level rise?
- We need to generate more maps that show:
  - Sea Level Rise over 5 and 10 year increments
  - The causeways that will eventually need to be built at Mackerel Cove and Zeek's Creek due to rising waters. How will this impact the marsh areas?
  - We need to constantly and consistently talk about sea level changes with experts.
- Record keeping of water infrastructure, public and private.
  - Trends and vulnerabilities
  - Is salt water infiltration an issue?
  - Is ground water being drawn down?



#### Big Ideas for Climate Change & Resilient Infrastructure

- *None listed*

## *Energy & Resource Conservation*

### Issues Unique to Jamestown

- We need to grow more of our food on this island (x4)
- We need to protect our environment and ban the plastic bag (x3)
- Jamestown has struggled with the issue of renewable energy. We need to make progress in wind and solar power (x3)
- Bike and golf cart lanes (x3)
- Community Composting: Let's reduce the cost of shipping our trash off to the central landfill by composting. 30-50% of all trash is compostable. Jamestown Gold Compost (x2)
- Groundwater preservation and use, especially on the North end with mansion-ization of small lots (x2)
- We need to know the truth about what our power grid can withstand. Is there room for renewable energy to handle what's here already? (x2)
- Waste production is huge. Look at the waste from construction and remodeling – it's stupefying. What can be done to reduce this? (x2)
- Water quality and availability (x2)
- Environmentally friendly building incentives for things like solar (x2)
- Issue of wells: Close proximity to other wells in Jamestown Shores. Water flow, wells go dry in summer.
- Worried about dwindling resources due to the growing population
- Bike path connecting north and south island

### Big Ideas for Energy & Resource Conservation

- New solar array supporting town (municipal) electrical requirements (x2)
- We need to identify grants/resources to help homeowners buy and install solar and wind and geothermal energy systems.
- How much energy can our power stations handle if we "all" go solar and can send energy back to the grid?

## *Healthy Communities*

### Issues Unique to Jamestown

- Move farmers market to town. Better access (and increase days) (x3)
- We need more bike lanes and bike paths to reduce reliance on cars (x2).
- Prohibit over building. Huge, high homes being built on postage stamp size lots. Looks ridiculous!
- Ecological health – important to long term sustainability of community

### Big Ideas for Healthy Communities

- *None listed*

## *Wildcard*

- Become a plastic-free zone (x5)
- Artists are so important for the character of this island. Making them welcome and ways to keep them here is so important. (x5)
- Maybe think of ways to go beyond the idea of sustaining and think of regenerating. It isn't enough to leave nature as we find it but take proactive steps to leave Jamestown better than we found it. (i.e. biodynamic agriculture along with organic) (x4)
- Ban plastic bags, like Barrington, Middletown, Newport, and Portsmouth (x4)
- Set up community food composting to reduce our impact on the central landfill by 30% (x4)
- Cistern systems – hard zoning requirement (x3)
- Cultivate bee-friendly plants wherever possible. Become first bee conscious town in RI (x3)
- How terrestrial and aquatic species factor in, including extinction (x2)
- Dutch Island access (x2)
- Village can't survive on a three month economy (x2)
- We need a Town invasive plant management plan.
- Educate the public on the impact of pesticides on bees and wildlife
- Ask local businesses to not sell pesticides that are harmful to bees. No bees NO FOOD!
- Worm composting for school children
- Consider a land/real estate transfer tax to fund community resiliency projects
- Newport and Providence are important local assets
- The importance of Newport and Providence to our quality of life
- Danger of over pumping our drinking water wells leading to salt water intrusion to ground water
- Find a way to preserve and maintain the "old" families' properties and homes. These make the island what it is today.
- School garden: Teach local kids how to grow food. Education.
- Shops need customers – customers need parking – where is the plan?



## *How Important are these Issues?*

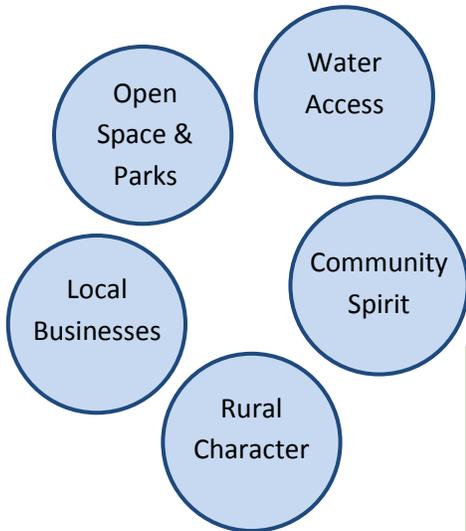
Using hard copy cards, participants were asked, on a scale of 0 to 5, how important do they think it is for Sustainable Jamestown to address each topic. 0 – should not be included . . . 1 – low priority . . . 5 – high priority. 17 cards were completed. The scores with the highest number of points per topic are highlighted below.

	0	1	2	3	4	5
Economics of Place	1	0	1	4	4	7
Housing Diversity	1	2	1	2	5	6
Climate Change & Resilient Infrastructure	1	1	1	3	3	8
Community Resiliency	1	1	2	7	5	1
Energy & Resource Conservation	0	0	3	3	4	7
Healthy Communities	1	1	1	5	6	3
Wildcard Ideas						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Production: We should try to reduce how much waste is being sent out to the greater, surrounding communities, state, etc.</li> <li>• Island Parks</li> </ul>						

## Community Engagement: Key Takeaways

From the feedback received during the Open Houses/Interviews/Focus Groups, the online survey, and the Public Workshop, a pretty clear story emerged about what Jamestown cares most about and what might threaten those things in the future.

Taken together, the same five topics rise to the top of the list of **things people care most about:**



People's views on **priority topics** for the plan diverge somewhat, but there are two things most people agree with:

Conservation of Farms, Forests and Open Space

Conservation of Drinking Water

Taken together, four of the same **threats** rise to the top of the list:



One thing everyone in Jamestown agrees with: they all love Jamestown! There is a strong sense of community and belonging, a love of the island's natural beauty and pace of life, and an understanding that protecting the island's quality of life for future generations has always and will continue to require collective action and hard choices.

When Jamestowners think about sustainability, they have strong feelings about protecting the natural environment, the character of the Town's commercial and institutional buildings and homes, and the ability for people of different socioeconomic backgrounds to live and stay on the island.

A common theme we heard was "inclusivity." People want Jamestown to be a place where children who grow up here can afford to stay here. A place where the local businesses cater to everyone on the island, and not just wealthy visitors. A place where anyone can access the beautiful shoreline, parks, and ponds of Jamestown.

The other common theme was "protection." Many people want to keep things on the island the same as they've always been. Others see the need for certain changes that can help protect the core of what they love best about Jamestown. This could involve planning now for building roads and bridges that won't be washed out during storms; making further strides to reduce water and energy consumption; improving the Town's recycling and composting rates, etc. Not all Jamestowners value such actions for their own sake, but most see their value as a means to an end for protecting their quality of life.