



## **Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island**

80 Boston Neck Road  
North Kingstown, RI 02852-5762  
Phone: (401) 294-3331  
Fax: (401) 885-7373  
Web: [www.northkingstown.org](http://www.northkingstown.org)

To: Town Council  
From: Planning Department  
Date: August 30, 2016  
Re: Comprehensive Plan Re-Write Update

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As you are aware, the Town of North Kingstown has embarked upon a re-write of the comprehensive plan. We have been working with Interface Studios since the spring of 2015. Interface has recently sent the Planning Department a draft of the comprehensive re-write. Planning staff has completed an initial review of the draft and begun widely distributing the plan for public review.

The Planning Department is in the process of putting together our comments and questions that we would like addressed by Interface in the next draft. There are some areas of the plan where additional information might be needed. For example, planning staff was asked to draft an accomplishments section for the natural and cultural resources element. Additionally, staff is looking at the Quonset element to ensure that critical components of the previous plan are incorporated.

We distributed this first draft via email to boards and commissions, steering committee and focus group members, the Statewide Planning Program, survey and public workshop participants, as well as walking tour and stakeholder interview participants. We anticipate scheduling a meeting with the Steering Committee towards the end of September. The Planning Commission will begin their review sometime this fall with public hearings with the Planning Commission to follow once they have a chance to thoroughly review the document. The Planning Commission will then make a recommendation to the Town Council who will then hold their own public hearing on the re-write.

As a part of the review process, the Planning Department would like to offer access to a web-based review tool to provide a collaborative platform to streamline the review process. We have established a ReviewStudio portal to provide an easy-to-use markup tool that allows you to submit comments digitally to the Planning Department as you review the plan. ReviewStudio allows direct accessibility to the public and the capture of public comment in a fast and efficient manner. Our intentions are to compile comments and publicize them on a regular basis as we move through the review process. We have distributed additional information on ReviewStudio, including how to access the tool from the town's web site, via the email blast referenced above.

We appreciate your thorough review of this draft and look forward to your extensive input. If you should have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at 268-1570 or [nlafontaine@northkingstown.org](mailto:nlafontaine@northkingstown.org) or Becky Lamond at 268-1571 or [blamond@northkingstown.org](mailto:blamond@northkingstown.org).