

Beaver Island Master Plan

May 9, 2022



Photo Credit: Taffy Raphael

What are we doing?

Updating the Peaine and St. James Twp. Master Plan

What will we be considering?

- Most recent master plan updates: 2006 & 2017
- Utilize and build upon existing Master Planning efforts
- Address current challenges/opportunities the townships are facing
- Collaborate and coordination with the public/private initiatives already accomplished or underway

Today's Agenda

- Review/Discussion of LIAA's Questions
- Goals & Objectives
- Timeline



All photos curtesy of Taffy Raphael

What Changing Conditions and Circumstances?

2017 Plan:

- Aging population
- Workforce housing
- Access to health care
- Reliable Access to broadband technology
- Education
- Year-round economic viability for residents
- The next unknown shift

What Changing Conditions and Circumstances? NOW:

- Affordable Housing
- Economic Development
- High-Speed Internet
- Dark Skies
- Coastal dynamics
- Other???

Group Exercise

Question #1

1. What new ideas or information could we bring to help the island?
 - Economic Development
 - Placemaking
 - Changing demographics
 - Small business
 - Connectivity (internet, transportation)
 - How to balance development with natural resources/environment
 - How to pursue funding

Question #2

2. What concerns do you have about the island and its residents/organizations?
 - Accessibility
 - Sharing/communicating with other similar communities
 - Housing – employees, tourists
 - Internet, government entities, healthcare, transportation
 - Experimenting – development/sustainability
 - Natural resources/coastal management

Question #3

3. How could the master plan strengthen the island?

- Achievable and attainable/reasonable shared vision and goals
- Shared vision for the island
- Balance preservation of resources/development
- Grant funding
- Resiliency and unity

Question #4

4. What has changed on the Island in the time that you have been here?

- More rentals/season residents
- Access – better healthcare and improved community assets such as schools and the marina
- New residents - population is skewing younger
- More remote workers
- Emphasis on natural resources/trails
- Excessive light pollution

Question #5

5. How could _____ be improved on the island?

- Access to:
 - Affordable housing
 - Healthcare (dentistry, physical therapy, counseling/psychological, fitness)
 - High-speed internet
- Services:
 - Maintenance (trades)
 - Garbage transfer station
- Resiliency
 - Environmental
 - Partnerships & cooperation (Twps, Chamber)

Question #6

6. How is the island already working to meet changing conditions and circumstances?

- Healthcare options
- Grant applications
- Resilience – coastal protection
- Facilities – marina, schools, waste transfer station
- Collaboration & outreach
 - Dark skies campaign
 - Newcomers getting involved
 - More organizations working together
- Updating the Master Plan!

Recap of 2017 Master Planning Effort

Vision

"In 2045, Beaver Island will be a thriving community: economically diverse, socially vibrant, and environmentally rich. High-quality ecosystems will be preserved and managed in a sustainable way, but also leveraged to support ecotourism and economic development. Historic and cultural resources will help define the Island, telling stories of its rich past and attracting visitors and new residents. There will be a diversity of affordable housing options that meet the needs of all residents and pave the way for changing demographics. A connected network of bike paths, sidewalks, and paddling routes will link recreational assets, community services, and residences."



Recap of 2017 Master Planning Effort

Guiding Principles

- 1) Preserve the Island's character, scenic vistas, water quality, high-quality natural ecosystems, and clean environment.
- 2) Support a comprehensive and collaborative marketing strategy both on and off the island.
- 3) Invest in technology and public infrastructure that positions Beaver Island to attract young families, retirees, and new business ventures.
- 4) Ensure that high-quality healthcare is available to all Island residents and visitors at an affordable price.
- 5) Expand educational opportunities offered within the public school system and to the broader community.
- 6) Grow the local economy by capitalizing on tourism opportunities, expanding recreation into the shoulder season, and leveraging existing capital to grow businesses.
- 7) Enhance collaboration and foster open dialogue between the two townships, and between local government and community members. In addition, learn from other communities grappling with similar issues and continue conversations with fellow Great Lakes islands

Recap of 2017 Master Planning Effort

Summary – Vision

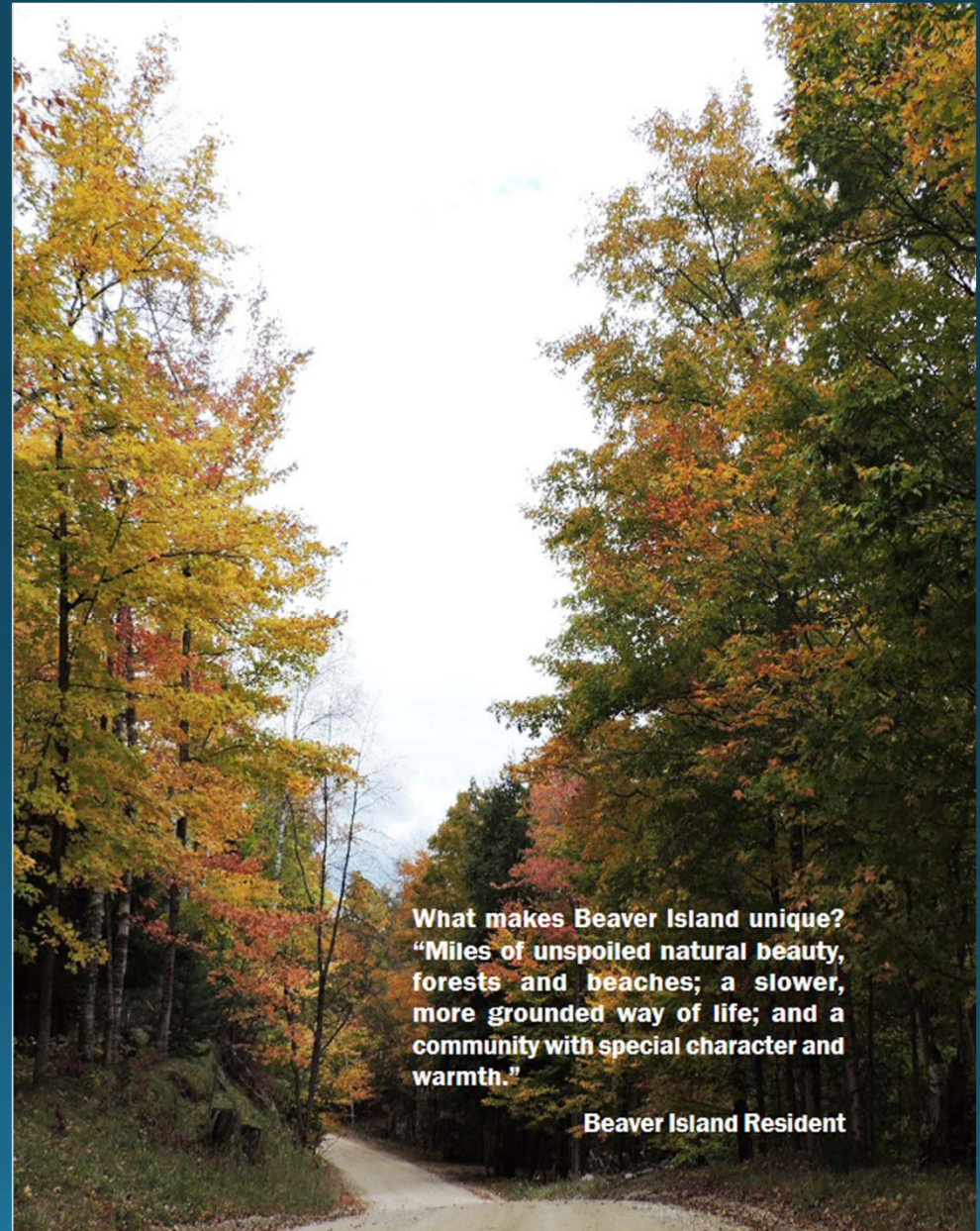
- Economically diverse
- Socially vibrant
- Environmentally rich
- Preserved and managed
- Eco-tourism
- Diversity of housing



Recap of 2017 Master Planning Effort

Summary – Guiding Principles

- Preserve natural environment
- Comprehensive marketing strategy
- Invest in technology
- Access to healthcare
- Tourism – expand into shoulder season
- Foster collaboration between townships and learn from other similar island communities



Proposed Timeline

Approx. 1-2 months	<p>Task 1 – Review Planning Documents and Clarify Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review existing plans and data• Kickoff meeting with plan subcommittee:• Establish communications and logistics• Establish roles and responsibilities• Finalize clear goals and objectives
Approx. 2-3 months	<p>Task 2 – Facilitate Community Engagement Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and revise plan goals and objectives with plan subcommittee• Coordinate expectations for public input process• Facilitate public input• Create open house and other public input materials• Host in-person open houses• Engage with online audience to solicit input
Approx. 2 months	<p>Task 3 – Master Plan Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft changes to Master Plan• Organize and analyze public input• Draft updates to sections of the Master Plan based on public/subcommittee feedback• Review draft changes with plan subcommittee
Approx. 2 months	<p>Task 4 – Refine Plan and Support Adoption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refine draft Master Plan and review with plan subcommittee• Public engagement – second round• Share results from public engagement during a planning meeting (TBD – could be an open house or joint planning commission meeting)• Make minor modifications or changes to the plan• Submit final updated Master Plan to the townships for final adoption at public hearings

Land Information Access Association

Updated: 05/06/2022

[illegible]

Timeline

			April				May				June				July			
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Task 1 – Review Planning Documents and Clarify Goals																		
1.1	Project kick-off meeting(s)	50%																
1.2	Roles & responsibilities	100%																
1.3	Develop timeline/purpose of meetings	20%																
1.4	Review/Update goals & objectives	0%																
1.5	Conduct coastal resilience assessment	0%																

- April 18 – Joint PC Project Kick-Off Meeting
- May 9
 - ✓ Joint PC Project Input/Planning Meeting
 - ✓ Identify dates for future meetings
 - ✓ Review and revise 2017 Goals & Objectives

Timeline

			June				July				August				September			
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Task 2 – Facilitate Community Engagement Activities																		
2.1	Develop public input sessions	0%																
2.2	Hold in-person public input session(s)	0%																
2.3	Develop and conduct survey/tabulate and report	0%																
2.4	Review public input with planning commissions	0%																

- Public Input
 - In-Person Open-House – Date July/August???
 - Open House planning – Date???
 - Online Survey – provide minimum of 30 days to receive input via online survey

Timeline

			September				October			
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Task 3 – Master Plan Updates										
3.1	Organize public input and planning commission	0%								
3.2	Draft updates to relevant chapters of Master Plan	0%								
3.3	Distribute draft plan to committee and receive feedback	0%								

September/October

- Compilation of data and public input to revise Master Plan
- Distribute draft Master Plan to Joint PC for comment/revisions

Timeline

			October				November				December			
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Task 4 – Refine Plan and Support Adoption														
4.1	Revise Master Plan document based on committee input	0%												
4.2	Post Master Plan for public review	0%												
4.3	Hold in-person open-house or planning commission meeting	0%												
4.4	Make final modifications	0%												
4.5	Submit finalized plan to the committee for public hearings	0%												
4.6	Begin 63-day comment period (required by law) prior to	0%												

- Joint PC meeting(s) – Oct ____, Nov ____, Dec ____
 - Review Master Plan
 - Public comment
 - Make recommendations to Township Boards

Thank you!

Feel free to contact us throughout the process by
reaching out to:

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