



Edgartown Planning Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Edgartown Planning Board is looking for residents to participate in a two-year process to develop and revise the Edgartown Master Plan.

The Master Plan Steering Committee, expected to begin work in early 2020, will establish goals for the Master Plan, prepare a Request for Proposals for consultant assistance in preparing the plan, and deliberate and establish areas of focus. The Committee will also conduct public comment and visioning sessions, and coordinate meetings with other municipal and regional boards and committees.

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Planning Boards are authorized to develop a Comprehensive Municipal Master Plan by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, 81D. Generally, a Master Plan has a ten-year useful life. The Town's current Master Plan was last updated in 1990.

By law, a Master Plan must include sections on Natural & Cultural Resources, Economic Development, Housing, Land Use, Open Space & Recreation, Facilities & Services, and Circulation & Transportation. A Master Plan must also have an implementation section, describing how – and when - goals are to be achieved.

The Master Plan may also include sections on other areas, such as energy, climate, emergency planning, or health services. Existing management plans for the B-II Business District, Housing Production, Harbor and Marine, and Municipal Vulnerability will be included in the planning process, and incorporated into the final Master Plan.

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When completed, the Edgartown Master Plan will provide broad direction in support of the Town's long-term goals. "A Master Plan helps the Town to make short-term decisions that support long-term goals," said Douglas Finn, Planning Board Administrative Assistant. "It brings clarity – and defensibility - to every decision-making process."

Finn noted that an important goal of the process is to generate broad consensus. "The Master Plan will become a roadmap for the Town, and will help to ensure that individual town projects and procedures align with the Town's long-term goals."

While the Planning Board expects to hire a special consultant to guide the two-year process, public input and feedback will be valued, and welcomed at every step of the way.

"We want to hear from residents, businesses, boards, and committees, to find out what's important to them," said Lucy Morrison, Planning Board Member. "We want to consider and include these ideas and opinions, so we can build town-wide consensus, and support for the final plan."

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Residents interested in serving on the steering committee should submit a letter of interest to: Master Plan Steering Committee, c/o Edgartown Planning Board, PO Box 5130, Edgartown, MA 02539.

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