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Vaughn Street Study Circle 2003



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What we love about Portsmouth:

- Open Downtown Area
- The Music Hall
- Beautiful Water Views
- Vibrant Arts & Culture



- Mix of Small, Unique Businesses (e.g., Emilio's)
- Historical Preservation
- Working Port with Active Shipping Trade
- Great Neighborhoods

Overarching Theme

Intelligent Growth Management

- ❖ We like a mix of uses in downtown: residential, retail, service and entertainment venues for all ages
- ❖ Cooperative Ventures for Business (Share space/rent) to lower occupancy costs and increase the potential for diverse small businesses
- ❖ Need a proactive plan to bring together diverse, locally-owned businesses that meet the needs of all residents
- ❖ Manage access points and traffic flow (*e.g.*, driveway designs, etc.) along corridors such as Route 1/Bypass, etc.

Recommendations

1. **Housing that's affordable for residents at all stages of their lives (from young singles/families to elderly residents)**
 - ❖ Allow greater density in housing lots such as 5,000-10,000square foot lots
 - ❖ Use sliding scale for senior property taxes
 - ❖ Tax incentives and/or enhanced first-time buyer programs for city employees
 - ❖ We **MUST** alleviate property owners of the tax burden through alternate tax strategies and sources.

Recommendations

2. Preserve Cultural & Natural Resources

- ❖ Strongly support local artists by providing affordable rental space for artists and promoting them at Market Square Day
- ❖ Encourage resident accessibility to local cultural venues: Children's Museum, Strawberry Banke (*e.g.*, "free to residents" hours)
- ❖ Include energy efficiency as standard practice in all facets of city business
- ❖ Take care of the natural (air, water, etc.) & built environment and promote sound/clean/green design of spatial environments

Recommendations

3. Build Connectedness Through Community Activity for Residents

- ❖ We can smile a lot more
- ❖ Know our neighbors/fellow citizens and our city and be willing to get involved (let politicians/city/orgs. know, etc.). Make Portsmouth truly “The Open City”
- ❖ Hold “off-season” events geared towards residents (not visitors) (*e.g.*, Bar Harbor’s “Shop in Your Pajamas Day”)
- ❖ Encourage more corporate partnerships supporting cultural events/ museums, such as the program at Fleet Bank
- ❖ Don’t allow a few people/interests to shut down community-building events, like the Bike Race