



Planning Board Briefing for the Westbard Sector Plan Charrette and Results



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**Completed: 12.11.14**

Description

*Summary*

Staff will update the Planning Board on the planning Charrette conducted during the week of November 10, 2014 and review the preliminary Concept Framework Plan that resulted from numerous meetings with community members, property and business owners, developers and County and State agencies.

*Outreach*

Staff has engaged in extensive outreach with the Westbard community since the beginning of the Sector Plan in July 2014. The table below documents number of meetings and types.

Meeting	When	Where
Zoning and Sector Plan Primer	Thursday, June 12, 2014	Unitarian Church, River Road
Information Table	Saturday, Sept 6	Giant Food Store - Westbard
Information Table	Saturday, Sept 13	Wholefoods - Westbard
Food Truck Rally	Saturday, Sept 20	Giant Food Store - Westbard
Kick-off and Opportunities and Constraints meeting	Tuesday, Sept, 23	Walt Whitman HS Cafeteria
Meeting with WMCCAB	Monday, October 6, 2014	Regional Services Center
Meeting with CCCFH	Thursday, October 9, 2014	Somerset Town Hall
Brief Community on Scope of Work	Thursday, October 21, 2014	Walt Whitman HS Cafeteria

### *Outline of Charrette*

The Charrette took place during the week of November 10 in the Westbard community. During the day the planning team met extensively with stakeholders from State and local agencies, Citizens Associations, property and business owners, and individual residents. On Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings the planning team held visioning and feedback sessions on plan concepts and ideas produced through interaction between the planning team, community and other stakeholders. On Tuesday evening, November 18<sup>th</sup>, the Westbard Planning team presented a Concept Framework Plan that resulted from the Charrette.

### *Concept Framework Plan*

The Concept Framework Plan took the extensive input received during the charrette and translated it into two Concepts with preliminary ideas for density, height, public facilities, transportation improvements, parks and open space as well as environmental considerations. The Plan seeks to transform the Westbard area from an auto-oriented suburban strip mall/service center into a pedestrian friendly, local town center that preserves the local services that the community depends upon.

### *Next Steps*

The Westbard Sector Plan team will spend the next several months refining the Concept Framework Plan. The team will continue to meet with the various stakeholders to address the various challenges and issues highlighted by the Concept Plan.