

From: [Cheryl Dowdell](#)
To: [Nelson, Kevin \(DOA\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Charlestown-Comprehensive Plan Update ID#: CHA-CP-21
Date: Friday, July 2, 2021 4:05:42 PM

Kevin Nelson, Supervising Planner
Division of Statewide Planning
235 Promenade St., Suite 230
Providence, RI 02908

Re: Charlestown-Comprehensive Plan Update
ID#: CHA-CP-21

Dear Mr. Nelson,

I have been a taxpayer and citizen of Charlestown, RI since 1982, 38 years, and our family business has been here in town since 1989.

The Charlestown Town Council passed a revised, almost 400 page, Comprehensive Plan for your department's review.

The vote was split, 3-2. Something this important should have had unanimous support, but sadly, this was not the case.

The two great concerns are these:

1. In 2019, a large turnout, compared to previous years, of Charlestown voters overwhelmingly defeated the town council's budget, which was very controversial. It allocated more than \$3 Million of our surplus to an unneeded and rushed proposal by the then town council for a community/senior center in Ninigret Park. There already was a recently renovated community/senior center in the park.

The citizens were so upset about this that there was a demand for a professional, statistically accurate town wide survey to determine the wants and needs of all the citizens and residents in town. Although the pandemic has delayed this survey, it will be going out next week.

The results of the survey will be in shortly and this comprehensive plan adoption should wait until the majority survey results are incorporated into the plan.

2. Another deep concern is that this proposed plan is overly restrictive to the

town owned 55 acres in Ninigret Park.

This land was purchased by the town many years ago and has very few restrictions. Unfortunately, this proposed comp plan negatively impacts its uses. The National Fish and Wildlife Department was not given this proposed plan for review. Once they were notified by a citizen of its existence, they requested time to review it, this 2 week request was overlooked by the Planning Commission, as far as can be viewed on remote webex virtual meeting videos.

Frankly, the town wide survey may show that citizens want sensible development in Ninigret Park. The proponents of the proposed comp plan have expressed that the park is to remain "dark and quiet" and want this set in stone before the survey is completed.

I ask that you let the citizens and residents speak before any Comprehensive Plan is approved by your department.

Very Truly Yours,
Cheryl P Dowdell
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