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To: [Kristin Alexander](#); [Jim Purdy](#); [Margaret Busse](#); [Roland Bartl](#); [Daphne Politis](#)
Subject: comments on burning issues list
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I reviewed the burning issues list:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mRgHM099ULEufg3sH4lkrb8HeQWfTPjYVDmGNhw33BE/edit?hl=en&authkey=CMLF-oAJ>

Here's some topics I'd like us to seriously consider from that list for the 6 issues we will cover in the three 'burning issue' meetings:

Issues 12/17A/19 (open space / Recreation vs. Agriculture vs. Trees):

The new Open Space & Recreation / Conservation Committee subgroup is in the middle of doing prioritization, so it might be a tad too early to have a useful public discussion of this. But this seems like a burning issue -- I'm sure a few of those folks, including me, could put a good short presentation together & get some dialog going. Need a good rec advocate to be involved so my biases don't slant the presentation.

Issues 13/22 (Sustainability):

There's a lot of background & education to be done before there can be informed public agreement on a lot of this stuff, so let's get started. I would be willing to work with reps from Green Advisory Board, Green Acton, WRAC on a short presentation to get the discussion going.

Issues 6 / 17B (Community Center / Senior Center).

IF we could get an informed person or two to put together a starting-point presentation, this could be great. I'd recommend trying to get Mike Gowing - selectmen, and previously involved in the senior center, and has been deeply involved in the community center discussions. I don't know much about all this.

Issues 1 / 20 (Housing / Housing that is affordable versus 'affordable housing')

If we can get the right expertise in the room, and if we can keep the tone productive, this would be an awesome and important discussion. Those are big ifs, but it would be a great win for town-wide dialog if we could pull it off. I don't have any special expertise to offer here.

Many of the other burning issues in the larger list might be good. For a lot of them I don't know enough about the topic to understand if there is useful controversy we can review. Others seem to fit better in to the future scenario-related discussions we are planning for May(?). Others seem either seem too underspecified to have a useful discussion (like the taxes vs. services ones), or seem to pivot on a lot of technical analysis that we won't have time to gather in time (North acton fire station).

One topic would be great IF Planner's collaborative could get us the expertise: #21, Density vs. Sprawl. This issue talks a lot about learning from elsewhere about what works and what doesn't, and if we

could gather up lessons from elsewhere soon enough it would be great.

I also would like to discuss water issues, but after meeting with WRAC I think a bunch of key issues now lie in the mandated but still unwritten and still largely undiscussed issues around stormwater, and I think it would be too soon to bring that together.

-Jim