



# TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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## PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

December 12, 2023 | 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Citizen Comments
3. Approval of Minutes
  - a. October 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes
4. Work Session
  - a. Trail Towns Work Group
5. Discussion Items
  - a. Riverwalk Planning Update
  - b. Strategic Planning Update
  - c. Planning Commission Priorities Update
    - North Woodbridge Town Center
    - Alpine X
    - Belmont Bay Expansion Project
6. Adjournment

Eliot Perkins  
Chair, Planning Commission



**TOWN OF OCCOQUAN  
PLANNING COMMISSION**  
Town Hall - 314 Mill Street, Occoquan, VA 22125

**MEETING DATE: 2023-10-26**  
**MEETING TIME: 6:30 PM**

**Present:** Chairperson Eliot Perkins, Commissioners, Darryl Hawkins, Ann Kisling, Bob Love, Ralph Newell, Ryan Somma, Don Wood

**Town Staff:** Matt Whitmoyer, Management Fellow

**1. Call to Order**

6:30pm

**2. Citizen Comments**

None

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**a. September 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Kisling motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Love seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**b. October 5, 2023 Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Kisling motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Newell seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**c. October 17, 2023 Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Kisling motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Newell seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**4. Discussion**

Chairperson Perkins gave an update on the NVRC Trails Summit. He said he learned about funding, engaging communities, volunteers, safety, data, and mapping. Commissioner Somma said he learned about the VDOT criteria for trails and the prioritization of regional connectivity.

**4. Work Session**

**a. Beautification Work Group**

Chairperson Perkins gave an overview of the new recommended template for work session artifacts. For the Beautification plan, he presented the Theme of Fostering a Distinct Identity for the Town and the Vision Statement, why the effort matters and why it benefits Occoquan. He said the program would use the notion of placemaking, beautification, and a public arts program to create special kinds of places that people want to visit multiple times. He gave an overview of the sections Past Accomplishments, what has OCQ done before; the SWOT Analysis; Goals; and Action items. For action items, he introduced the concept of pocket parks, empty spaces in Town that can be enhanced, such as the grassy area between Gift and Gather and Glory Be. He talked about incentives for weeding and maintenance for private property owners. He talked about establishing an Occoquan Volunteer core.

Chairperson Perkins requested feedback from the Commissioners on the document. Commissioner Somma suggested including a section for stakeholders and update action items table to align with Comprehensive Plan items. Commissioner Love said this document provides a framework and follows the same process as the Riverwalk Plan. Commissioner Wood asked if the document should include past failures or what actions other towns took that didn't work. Commissioner Love suggested past initiatives and what didn't work. For example, a lack of funding or in the SWOT analysis concerning municipal Wi-Fi. They found at one point the Town did have it, but it was overcome by technology and personal unlimited data plans and individual businesses providing Wi-Fi. Commissioner Newell noted Tanyard Hill as a past initiative.

Commissioner Kisling brought up the Town's status as a Bird Sanctuary as a theme and actions to support that. This included planting perennials around town that are lower maintenance and support birds, decorative bird houses in places, and the Audubon At Home program. Chairperson Perkins also noted Occoquan's status as a Tree City.

Commissioner Wood asked about going into specific ideas from the strategic framework. Chairperson Perkins said to email ideas.

Chairperson Perkins gave an overview of the proposed Public Arts Program. He said it will draw in visitors and contribute to community identity. He provided an overview of the goals and the NOVA Arts and Cultural District history. Commissioner Wood asked about funding for the Arts District. Chairperson Perkins there was none for this initiative.

Commissioner Kisling said that Henderson, North Carolina raised hundreds of thousands of funds with their Bearfootin' Art Walk & Auction. It provided 20 artist-painted bear statues which were auctioned to raise money for the non-profit. The company Icon Poly has a program to make paintable items such as these bears. Occoquan could do the such as for OCQ osprey, eagle, fox, that relate to this area. Puts OCQ on the map and on Instagram.

Commissioner Somma suggested drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to define and track progress on the NOVA Arts and Cultural District. Mr. Whitmoyer said an MOU was created in 2017. It made the Workhouse the financial agent to create a logo, website, and sign off. The Town will need to follow up on it with the new leadership at the Workhouse.

Commissioner Love said that one element missing from the framework is who is responsible for each action item. Chairperson Perkins said there is a need for timelines as well. Commissioner Love suggested the same as was used for the Riverwalk roadmap, including long term, midterm, and short-

term goals. Mr. Whitmoyer said timelines and responsible parties can fit in with the Comprehensive Plan table.

Commissioner Wood said he was wondering if the Volunteer Corps is something overarching over all these initiatives. We have brilliant staff who are being overloaded with ideas. We need additional talent to get help. He noted the Food Rescue application, which makes volunteering very convenient. Chairperson Perkins agreed the Town needs to find a simple way to connect people.

## **5. Discussion Items**

### **a. Riverwalk Vision Planning Update**

Commissioner Love gave an overview of the Riverwalk Roadmap. He said there are three high-level steps. The first step is the responsibility of the Planning Commission to identify why the Town benefits from a Riverwalk, and what are the options for a Riverwalk with pros and cons for each. At the end of step one is a decision by Town Council to proceed to step two and authorize funding. Step two is the development of a strategic plan. This actionable plan to move forward on the Riverwalk includes pre-construction activities such as assessments, surveys, architectural drawings, and other specifics with costs. Step one is short term and will be complete by December 2023, step two is longer term, and step three is the actual construction and contracting with firms. Step two includes Subject-Matter Experts (SMEs), Town Staff, and other responsible parties.

Commissioner Love said there were three options for proceeding on the Riverwalk. The first is a traditional basic boardwalk as a midterm goal with a long-term goal would be putting in bump-outs, a Ferris wheel, or other enhancements. The second option is to build it with all known enhancements. The third option is to not do anything, which is a throw-away option. Commissioner Love provided an overview of potential phases for implementing the Riverwalk.

Chairperson Perkins encouraged members to provide feedback. Mr. Whitmoyer asked if comments should be sent in emails or with collaborative working documents. Chairperson Perkins said to use working documents comments.

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39pm

*Minutes Prepared by Ryan Somma, Planning Commission Secretary*



# TOWN OF OCCOQUAN PLANNING COMMISSION

## Agenda Communication

<b>4. Work Session</b>	<b>Meeting Date:</b> December 12, 2023
<b>4A: Trail Towns Work Group</b>	

**Attachments:** a. Strategic Planning Working Document

**Submitted by:** Matt Whitmoyer  
Deputy Town Manager

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### **Explanation and Summary:**

This is a work session to discuss the goals and action items related to making Occoquan a Trail Town. The work group of Chair Perkins and Commissioner Somma will present their research and conclusions and lead discussion on action items and next steps.

# Strategic Planning – Trail Town Program

Theme:

Vision Statement:

[Amy Camp, author of Deciding on Trails, defines a trail town as, “a community through which a trail passes that supports trail users with services, promotes the trail to its residents, and embraces the trail as a resource to be protected and celebrated.” Other terms for Trail Towns include “Gateway Communities” and “Nature-Base Placemaking.”](#) With four national cycling trails connecting the Town to Mt. Vernon, Fredericksburg, and other attractions; a prime location on the Occoquan River as a water trail; and a soon-to-be destination at the end of the Occoquan Greenway trail, Occoquan is a focal point for outdoor recreational traffic. This echoes Occoquan’s history as a waypoint for travelers passing through after driving over the bridge that preceded today’s footbridge. Occoquan’s past and present are tied to the multimodal trails bound to it.

The Town also has an established character of promoting environmental stewardship and public health as a bird sanctuary, Tree City, and with its Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) river cleanups. The trails running through Occoquan reinforce this identity in promoting alternative modes of transportation and physical fitness.

Economically, organizations, such as the Progress Fund, have published reports on how promoting a town’s trails and incorporating them into the town’s identity can promote economic revitalization. Additionally, the 2017 JMT Parking Study recommended "marketing Occoquan as a bicycle tourism destination and providing additional, strategically-located bicycle amenities for day trip and overnight riders." Regionally, there are multiple efforts underway in Northern Virginia and at the state level to connect regions via multimodal trails.

Occoquan is already a Trail Town. This recommendation includes actions to incorporate that character into the Town’s programs and initiatives, promote that identity to visitors, and encourage travelers to stop in Town on their way to other destinations. [All of the efforts listed in this proposal to incorporate Trails into Occoquan’s identity are efforts that benefit the Town as a whole.](#)

## Goals: Promote Occoquan as a Trail Town

*SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound. The art is to meet all five criteria in a succinct and understandable sentence. Succinct, widely understood language and keeping to 3-5 goals or less also helps focus resources and attention, increasing the likelihood of success.*

1. Cultivate and promote Occoquan’s existing identity as a Trail Town with historical markers, wayfinding signage, and attractions to bring outdoors enthusiasts into Town.
2. Establish reciprocal promotion between attractions and municipalities sharing trails with Occoquan via participation in regional summits, celebrations, and trail advocacy outside of the Town’s jurisdiction.

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3. Increase the value and accessibility of Tanyard Hill park with a volunteer maintenance plan, trail connections to the Occoquan Greenway, crosswalks, and clearly marked parking.

## Action Items and Responsible Parties

No.	Action Item	Goal No.	Comp Plan Themes					Responsible Parties	Funding Source	Target Completion Date
			Community Character/Life Circulation and Mobility	Economic Vitality/Diversity	Environmental Stewardship	Regional Coordination				
	<a href="#">Town Council Passes a Resolution Recognizing the Community Values its Trails</a>									
	<a href="#">Define an Occoquan Trail Town Vision</a>									
1	Assess Community Interest in a Trail Town Program		X	X	X					
	Enhance Tanyard Hill Park		X	X			X	Town Budget / VDOT / Grants		
	Maintain Tanyard Hill Park			X		X		Local Volunteers		
	Build Trail Connections Between Tanyard Hill Park and Occoquan Greenway			X			X	Town Budget / Grants		
	Advocate for a Trail Under the 123 Bridge in Fairfax			X			X			
	Post a "Trail Town"/"Gateway" information sign Near the Footbridge and/or 123 Bridge		X	X			X	Town Budget		



Post Signs for the Potomac National Heritage Trail	X	X				X		National Parks Service	
Participate in Trails Day		X	X					Town Budget	Yearly on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of April
Present a Yearly Progress Update at the NVRC Trails Summit						X			Yearly in October
<a href="#">Town-Sponsored Geocaches</a>									
<a href="#">Offer Camping in Tanyard Hill and Connecting Trails</a>									
<a href="#">Gather Metrics on Occoquan's Trail Use</a>									
<a href="#">(Optional) Creation of a Local Advisory Committee</a>									
<a href="#">Pursue "Bicycle Friendly Community" status</a>									
<a href="#">Research Virginia's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)</a>									

- **[Town Council Passes a Resolution Recognizing the Community Values its Trails:](#)**
  - [Pending](#)
- **[Define an Occoquan Trail Town Vision:](#)**
  - [Town Officials, Staff, and Citizens should collaborate on a shared vision of what a Trail Town program ultimately means and the "who, what, and how" of getting there.](#)
- **Assess Community Interest in a Trail Town Program:**
  - Solicit feedback from Town residents using a "Gut Check" survey to determine the feasibility of a larger Trail Town program that goes beyond what's outlined in this document.
- **Enhance Tanyard Hill Park:**

- Occoquan has a wonderful resource in this park and needs to better protect and promote it. The Town should put up signage as part of entrance enhancement efforts, a crosswalk from the parking lot due to the heavy commuter traffic there, and clearly mark parking across the street from the park. Educational signage along the trail can also greatly enhance the hiking experience there.
- **Build Trail Connections Between Tanyard Hill Park and Occoquan Greenway:**
  - A limitation for Tanyard Hill Park is that it is somewhat inaccessible [beyond](#) foot to Occoquan residents, who must walk outside of Town along Old Bridge Road to reach the park. Connecting the park to the Occoquan Greenway will provide an accessible route to residents. The trails should be engineered by professionals and hopefully maintained by volunteers.
- **Maintain Tanyard Hill Park:**
  - Set up a volunteer program for maintaining the trail in the park and the trails connecting the park to the Greenway.
- **Advocate for a Trail Under the 123 Bridge in Fairfax:**
  - Almost all pedestrian visitors to Occoquan Regional Park come from the PWC side of the river. Entering the park on foot involves a steep hike up 123 road, crossing six lanes of traffic, and then a steep hike down into the park. A trail under the 123 Bridge into the park would increase its accessibility to foot traffic that is buffered to vehicular traffic and improve regional connectivity.
  - Because the trail is outside of Occoquan's jurisdiction, but would benefit the Town, the Town should assist Fairfax with lobbying for the trail and finding grants.
- **Post a "Trail Town"/"Gateway" information sign Near the Footbridge and/or 123 Bridge:**
  - The model for this sign would be the signs at the trails gateway into Harper's Ferry, which provides a map of the region, illustrates the many trails connecting to the town, and the attractions to which they lead.
  - This sign would also include Occoquan's history as a waypoint for travelers.
  - For trails included on this sign, it is important that the branding for the trails be consistent with that used in connected communities along the trail.
  - Brochures with maps of the regional trails as well as advertising local businesses of interest to travelers may also be provided.
  - Reintroduce the "Walking Tour of Occoquan" as a brochure for visitors to curate their visit, updated to include recent developments in the town such as Tanyard Hill Park.
- **Post Signs for the Potomac National Heritage Trail:**
  - As a signatory, Occoquan needs to honor its commitment to the PNHT memorandum of understanding by placing signage for the trail at appropriate locations within Town. Representatives at NVRC recommended having the National Park Service put up the signs.
- **Present a Yearly Progress Update at the NVRC Trails Summit:**
  - The NVRC has expressed a high level of interest in following Occoquan's efforts to establish a Trail Town Program. This yearly summit provides representatives from our Town an opportunity to present an update on our progress, participate in workshops for Trails advocacy, and network with other municipalities to enhance nearby trails outside of our jurisdiction.

➤ **Participate in Trails Day:**

- Hosted on the fourth Saturday of April, Celebrate Trails Day is an annual spring celebration of America's trails. Started by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in 2013, the celebration encourages people across the country to get outside and enjoy the nation's exceptional trails and trail systems. Participating in this event promotes Occoquan's identity as a Trail Town.

<https://www.railstotrails.org/experience-trails/celebrate-trails/>

• **Town-Sponsored Geocaches:**

- Geocaching is still a very popular activity. The Town and local businesses can place geocaches around the Business district that promote local businesses and gather data on usage.

• **Offer Camping in Tanyard Hill and Connecting Trails:**

- Occoquan's biggest weakness for thru-travelers along its trails is a lack of places to stay overnight. A cyclist who has travelled tens of miles will not stop in Occoquan for dinner unless there is a place to sleep nearby. Camp sites—preferably with showers—offer travelers a reason to stay in Town as a destination instead of a lunch stop.

• **Gather Metrics on Occoquan's Trail Use:**

- "If you don't count, your trail doesn't count." surveys and tallies of trail users are needed to measure how many people use our trails and which trails are most popular. Metrics should also track how much money the average trail-user spends in Town.

• **(Optional) Creation of a Local Advisory Committee:**

- As a long-term program, most trail town designations require a dedicated committee to inform the program similar to Mainstreet America. As there is currently no program for Occoquan to apply, this action would be optional.
- The committee will provide guidance to the Town on Trail-Related Educational Programs, events, gathering metrics, and protecting the Trails.

• **Pursue "Bicycle Friendly Community" status:**

- The League of American Cyclists manages this program: <https://bicyclefriendly.secure-platform.com/a/page/community>

• **Research Virginia's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP):**

- Pending

## Conclusion and Next Steps

*What are the work group's final thoughts and conclusions on the above items? What does the work group believe are the best next steps to take in order to achieve the above goals and realize the above vision?*

### Next Steps

1. *Example: Work with Town Council and Boards to start a program*
2. [Insert Recommendation]

# Appendix:

## Additional Notes and Narrative

*Insert any other notes or comments that help explain the vision, goals, and action items outlined in this report.*

[Insert]

## Past Initiatives

*What has the Town already done that was successful or unsuccessful in helping realize its vision?*

1. **Tanyard Hill Park:** [the Town has taken advantage of this property to preserve it as a natural resource and build a trail loop within it. The trail needs better access and maintenance to improve its usage.](#)
2. **National Arbor Day Foundation, Tree City USA Designation:** [this designation successfully takes advantage of Occoquan's natural resources.-](#)
3. **Bird Sanctuary:** [this designation takes advantage of the Occoquan river and other natural resources.](#)
4. **Friends of the Occoquan Cleanup events:** [these events bring together connected communities along the Occoquan River.](#)
5. **Tour of the Towns Cycling Event:** [this event, starting and ending in Occoquan, took advantage of the cycling routes in PWC, and connected the Town to other communities in the County.](#)
6. **Kayaking/Paddleboarding Races:** these events take [advantage of and promote the Town's water trail.](#)
7. **Mainstreet America:** the Comprehensive Plan lists enrollment in this program as being highly beneficial to the Town; however, the Town has never successfully assembled the required board of volunteers to work on this program. Forming a Trail Town committee faces the same challenge.

## SWOT Analysis

What are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that the Town faces in setting its goals and realizing its vision? Simple explainer: <https://www.businessnewsdaily.com/4245-swot-analysis.html>

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Currently a waterfront town with boat access, few other trail towns have water trail access.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Public Restrooms and Water Fountains are hugely important for travelers.</a></li> <li>• Existing trail-support from businesses providing kayak and electric bike rentals.</li> <li>• Numerous restaurants make the town an attractive lunch stop.</li> <li>• Projects promoting interconnectivity with other jurisdictions get higher priority for government funding.</li> <li>• Existing paved trails meet many of VDOT’s criteria for multi-use trails.</li> <li>• The Post Office provides a resource for cross-country cyclists needing trail supply drops.</li> <li>• Amtrack access allows cyclists access to Occoquan for “out-and-back” riding along connected mountain biking trails.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of lodging dissuades through-travelers from having dinner within town.</li> <li>• Trail enhancements and maintenance are all outside of the town’s jurisdiction.</li> <li>• <a href="#">123 Bridge bypasses the Town.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Could not get volunteers for the Mainstreet America Program.</a></li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With no official Trail Town designation in Virginia, Occoquan has the potential to be a trail blazer for such a program.</li> <li>• Opportunities for businesses catering to outdoor outfitters, bike repair, boating, and hiking.</li> <li>• Interconnectivity with greater Prince William County and Fairfax Counties.</li> <li>• Interconnectivity with Workhouse Arts Center, Occoquan Regional Park, Mt. Vernon, Fredericksburg, and other attractions and municipalities along shared trails.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public opposition to trail traffic.</li> <li>• Lack of resources, such as volunteers or Town budgeting.</li> <li>• Lack of government funding.</li> <li>• Lack of cooperation between organizations.</li> </ul>

## Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder	Type (Individual, Government, Business, Non-Profit, Other)	Location (In or Out of Occoquan)	Connection	Level of Interest (Low, Medium, High)	Power (Low, Medium, High)	Frequency of Contact (None, Low, Medium, High)
Occoquan Citizens	Community	Occoquan	Residents in the Town.	Needs Assessment	High	High
Occoquan Government	Government	Occoquan	Town governance	High	High	High
Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRCC)	Government	Northern Virginia	Commission for coordinating trail connection efforts across NoVa municipalities.	High	Medium	Medium
Fairfax County Government	Government	Fairfax	Town's neighbors across the river.	Unknown	High	Medium
Prince William County Government	Government	Prince William County	Town's surrounding county.	Unknown	High	Medium
PWC Trails and Blueways Council	Government	Prince William County	Advises PWC on trail programs and priorities.	High	High	Medium
VDOT	Government	Virginia	Newly established Trails Department.	Medium	High	Low
Rails to Trails Conservancy	Non-Profit	Washington DC	Resource for guidance on Trail Towns.	Low	Low	High
Progress Fund	<del>Non-Profit</del> <a href="#">CDFI</a>	Pennsylvania	Resource for guidance on Trail Towns.	Low	Low	High

## Key Terms

Define any terms that prove vague or complex due to their technical nature or the need to apply them to Occoquan

1. **Trail Town:** a Town that acknowledges its trail connections, incorporates them in its identity, and connects with other communities along the shared trails.

2. **Gateway Community:** alternative term for a Trail Town.

1.3. **Multi-use Trails:** the focus of VDOT's statewide trails plan. Trails that meet the following criteria will be given priority:

- a. **Multimodal:** serving those who walk, bike, or roll
- b. **Safe:** preferably separated from motor vehicle traffic
- c. **Accessible:** preferably have a hard surface and strive for a grade of less than 5%
- d. **Regionally Connected:** strive for regional connectivity by linking people to places and other trail facilities

2.

## Resources

**VDOT Virginia State Trails Office:** recently established office in VDOT, directed to Develop a State Trails Plan and State Trails Information Clearinghouse consistent with recommendations in the January 2022 Report of Virginia Multi-Use Trails Initiative.

[https://vdot.virginia.gov/programs/virginia\\_state\\_trails\\_office.asp](https://vdot.virginia.gov/programs/virginia_state_trails_office.asp)

**Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council:** The mission of the Council is to advise the Prince William County Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism and the Board of County Supervisors on the development of a County-wide trails and blueways system in Prince William County.

<https://www.pwcva.gov/department/parks-recreation/trails-and-blueways-council>

**Rails to Trails Conservancy:** located in Washington DC, this non-profit provides resources on funding for trails and guidance on how to apply for grants.

<https://www.railstotrails.org/>

- **Federal Funding for Trails:** maintained by the conservancy, this web page provides up-to-date information on grants and [government funding](https://www.railstotrails.org/policy/funding/) for trail projects.

<https://www.railstotrails.org/policy/funding/>

**Cycle Forward, Amy Camp:** author of the book “Deciding on Trails, 7 Practices of Healthy Trail Towns” this Trail Town Consultant’s book provides guidance on establishing a Trail Town Program and

<https://www.cycleforward.org/>

**The Progress Fund, Trail Town Program:** [a Community Development Financial Institution \(CDFI\) that](#) promotes outdoor tourism across PA, WV and MD, but also provides free resources to municipalities outside of these states such as a guide to establishing a trail town and a “Trail Town Assessment” checklist for setting up a local program.

<https://www.trailtowns.org/>

**Made in America: Buy America Waivers for Federal Financial Assistance Awards:** US Department of Labor provides grants to municipalities for equipment made in America. Which could be used for equipment to maintain trails.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/oasam/centers-offices/office-of-the-senior-procurement-executive/buy-america-waivers>



## Strategic Planning Work Schedule (AMENDED)

To schedule a work meeting please email Matt at [mwhitmoyer@occoquanva.gov](mailto:mwhitmoyer@occoquanva.gov)

Work Session Date	Theme	Goal	Potential Action Item(s)	Responsible Parties
9/26/23	Increasing Walkability, Connectivity, and Accessibility	Goals E3, E4, and E5 (Increase Parking, Multi-Modal Transportation, and Regional Connections)	<p><del>Create regional connectedness strategy</del></p> <p><del>Create bike/ped plan</del></p> <p><del>Research innovative alternatives for parking scarcity</del></p>	Ryan, Don, Ralph
10/24/23	Fostering a Distinct Identity for the Town	Create Beautification Standards and Programs	<p><del>Create a community plan that sets standards for public infrastructure and improvements</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>• review and update Community Plan draft</del></li> </ul> <p><del>Create beautification programs for public and private properties, including locations such as:</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>• Town Entrances</del></li> <li><del>• Town Buildings and Parks</del></li> <li><del>• Private properties in the business district</del></li> </ul>	Ann, Eliot, Darryl

Work Session Date	Theme	Goal	Potential Action Item(s)	Responsible Parties
			<del>Create a public art program</del>	
CANCELLED 11/14/23	Leveraging the Natural Resources of the Town	Finalize and Implement the Riverwalk Vision Plan	<p>Review the Riverwalk Vision Plan deliverables</p> <p>Investigate additions and connections to the Vision Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulate next steps for the Riverwalk planning process</li> </ul>	Ann, Bob, Darryl
12/12/23	Leveraging the Natural Resources of the Town	Make Occoquan a Trail Town	<p>Hold work session to define what Trail Town means for Occoquan and the component parts needed</p> <p>Coordinate with Trail Towns program</p> <p>Create a work plan, including items such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory/map regional trails</li> </ul>	Eliot, Ryan

Work Session Date	Theme	Goal	Potential Action Item(s)	Responsible Parties
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail Town infrastructure needs</li> <li>• Regional coordination goals (Alpine X, LRPRA, Workhouse, NOVA Parks, NVRC Trail Summits, PHNST signage)</li> </ul> <p>Success metrics</p>	
1/23/24	Fostering Economic Development and Diversification	Attract and Recruit New Businesses	<p>Develop relationships with local businesses, realtors, chambers of commerce, and other relevant groups</p> <p>Create system for identifying and marketing empty commercial spaces with local business owners and realtors</p> <p>Create standards for and subsequent inventory of desired/needed businesses (i.e. grocers, restaurants, trail outfitters, etc.)</p>	Bob, Eliot

Work Session Date	Theme	Goal	Potential Action Item(s)	Responsible Parties
2/27/24	Protecting the Ecological and Public Health of the Town	Increase Green Infrastructure	<p>Research how small localities green their infrastructures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who leads the initiatives?</li> <li>• Types of plans and programs</li> <li>• Types of technology and BMPs</li> </ul> <p>Research green infrastructure BMPs, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• permeable infrastructure options (ULTISuDS)</li> <li>• stormwater and flood preparedness BMPs</li> </ul>	Ralph, Don