Chamber questionnaire_Worthley 2025

How do you view Downtown Gloucester today? What is working and what is not? What are 2 or 3 actionable items that you would implement in your administration to promote small businesses?

Downtown Gloucester has always been and should always be the lifeblood of our community. However, despite some tremendous businesses, Downtown Gloucester is on life support.

I have many, proven ideas to promote small businesses but three actionable items that I would implement immediately would be:

A. **Creating a more welcoming environment**: Putting lights back into the trees will create a better ambiance and improve customer feelings of safety; striping the parking lines so that limited customer parking is maximized, increase police presence (preferably via foot patrol), reconstituting an employee parking pass and creating a park and ride option for employees who don't need access to their cars.

B. **Reconstitute the Downtown Development Commission (DDC)**. I've served on the DDC for many years and we were the conduit to the City administration and the City Council to advocate for meaningful improvements.

C. **Bring on a proven Economic Development Director-** The City of Gloucester's Economic Development needs have been aboard a rudderless ship for nearly two years since the Mayor wrongfully terminated our effective Economic Development Director. Within one month of being inaugurated I will have this position filled with a very impressive and highly capable individual who is currently having great success in another community.

D. **I have to add an important 4th item: A Downtown Parking Garage:** it won't be built right away but I would implement a downtown Parking Garage Task Force. I proposed this when I first got on the City Council 3 ½ years ago and the Mayor told me he would not allow any staff to serve on it and the Council President (at the time) refused to put the creation of this task force on the Council agenda.

How would you propose to balance the competing interests on the future of Gloucester's waterfront? Would you propose to modify the DPA boundary uses and what nonresidential uses would you like to attract and retain?

Modifying the DPA Boundary is a State decision. The City of Gloucester gave control to the Office of Coastal Zone Management and The Department of Environmental Protection in

1978 and that authority expanded to include all of the filled tidelands in 1984. It's not up to us. That said, in 2014 the State removed much of the East Gloucester side of the Harbor from the Designated Port Area after the City lobbied and proved that much of that area wasn't compliant with the DPA and the City intended to change the local zoning to match that change. It still hasn't. I would propose allowing for a zoning designation of Neighborhood Business along East Main Street. Though most of the lots do not have access to the water, they are required to have a Marine Industrial Use.

The locations where fishermen are docked now should remain. The rest of the harbor that is currently designated for port activity should invite new, viable business ideas, like Biotechnology, Transportation, restaurants, and retail.

Tourism is a vital part of Gloucester's economy; how would you promote the city as a year round destination without burdening the local infrastructure and residents during the peak season and what investments would you make in visitor amenities?

I served on the Board of Directors for the North of Boston Convention & Visitor's Bureau for 6 years, 3 years on their Executive Committee. I'm very familiar with how this organization supports tourism through the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism. For 4 of those years I represented the communities of Cape Ann and 2 of those years I represented the City of Salem as well. Salem's October tourism marketing has increased the demand for hotel stays in Gloucester. We could definitely better position ourselves to capture that business. That said, we can also start our own marketing efforts to encourage visitors in the shoulder and off seasons.

I will see to it that ground is broken on a downtown parking garage within two years of taking office. I will work with CATA to improve bus routes. I will work towards having a spotlessly clean, handicap accessible public restroom in downtown Gloucester. And Gloucester will be litter free.

Many businesses in our community struggle to attract and retain workers because there simply isn't enough affordable housing available nearby. What specific steps would you take to encourage the creation of more workforce housing options—particularly approaches that update or rethink current local rules to make it easier to build the kinds of housing our workers need?

Specific steps I would encourage would be the creation of Tiny Homes, in some areas of the City, where appropriate, reduce the lot sizes of buildable lots, and I would reconsider my proposal to allow housing above buildings in the Industrial Parks.