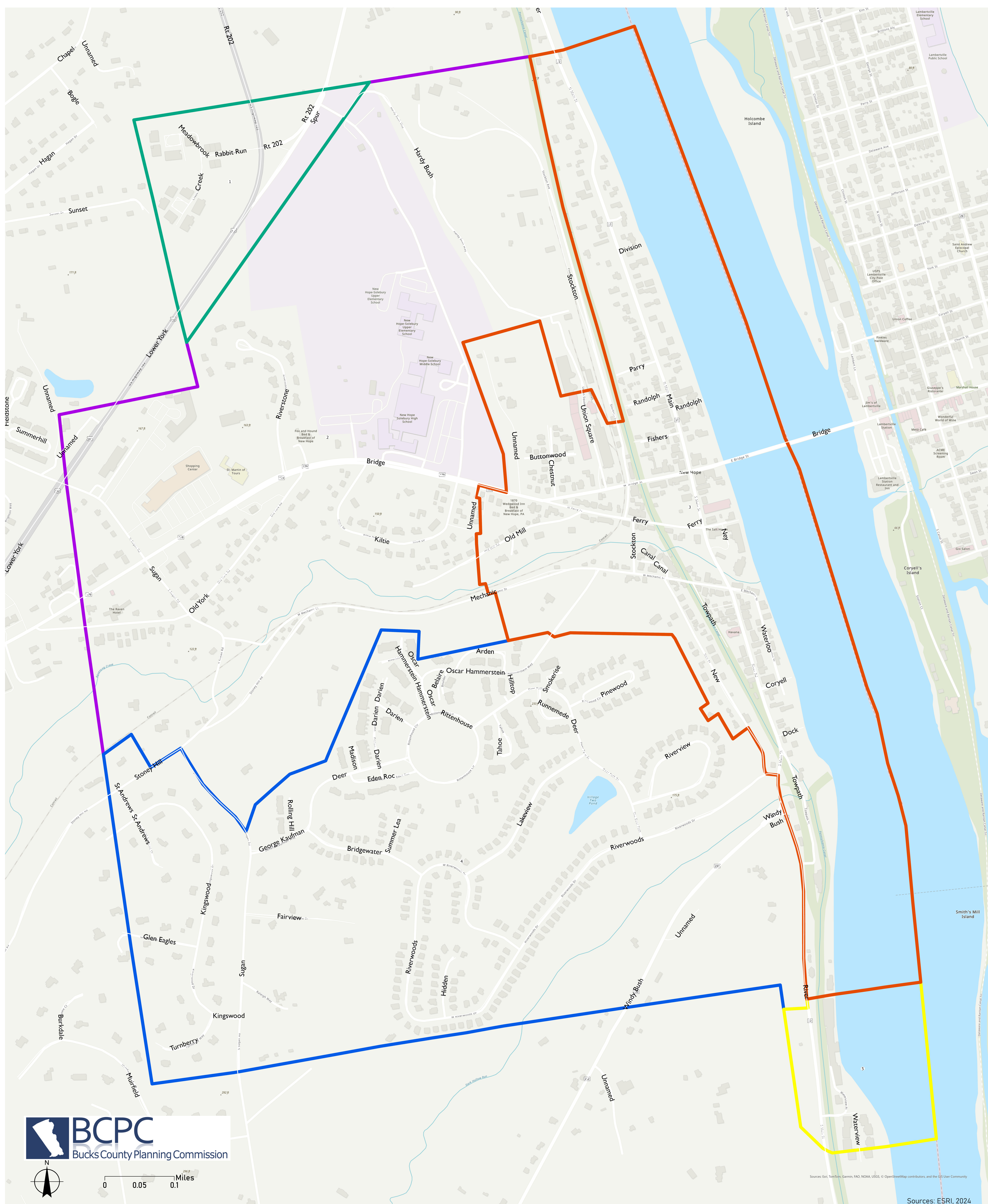




What We Heard

Strengthen Preservation

- Expand the historic district
- Give HARB real authority
- Enforce meaningful fines
- Limit developer loopholes

Protect New Hope's Character

- Discourage oversized or modern construction
- Promote thoughtful renovations
- Highlight success stories like the Carriage House Hotel

Improve Public Engagement

- Educate residents on preservation
- Make HARB more approachable

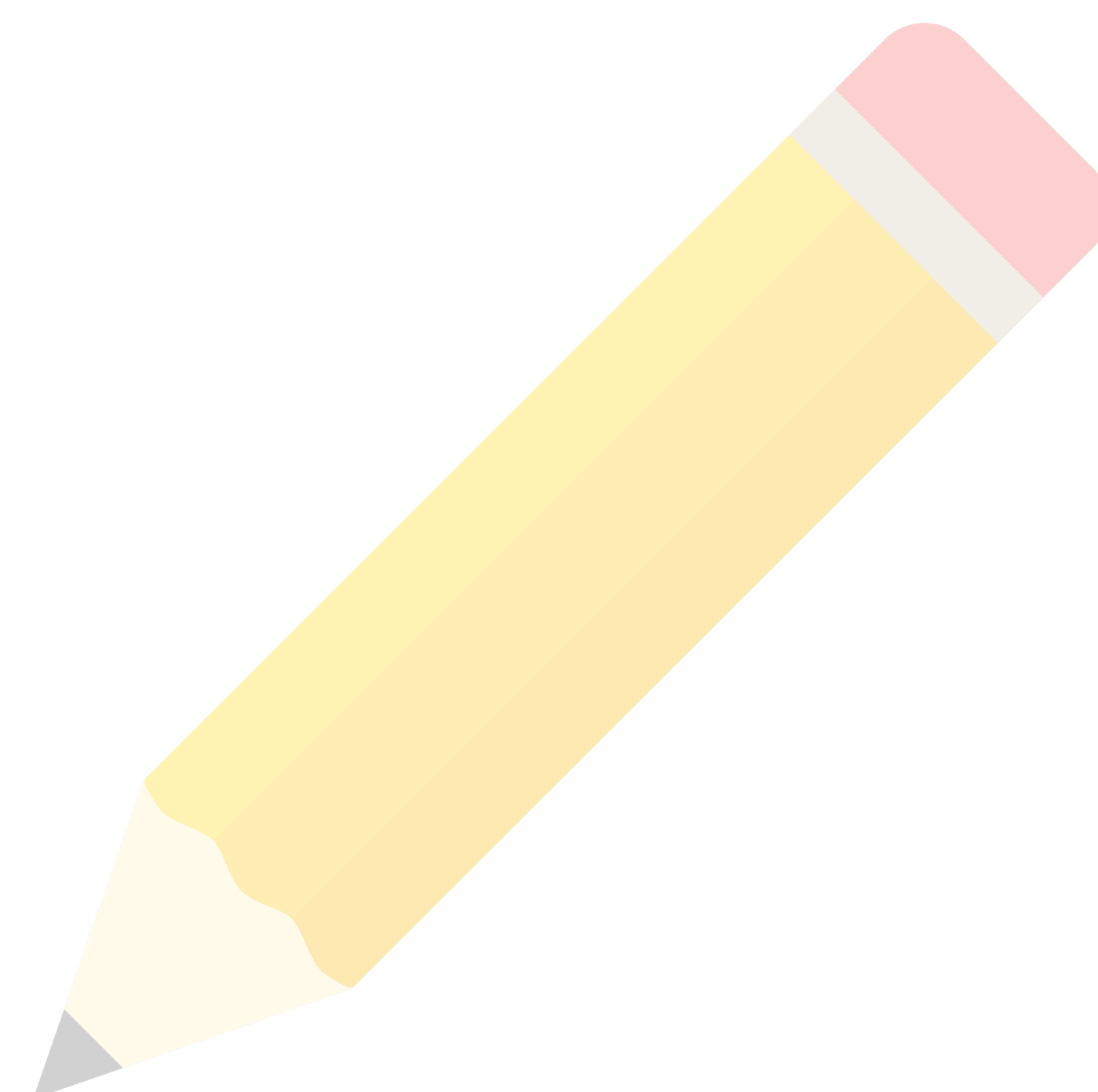
Identify & Celebrate Key Sites

- Add more historic markers and plaques
- Partner with the Historical Society

Address Barriers to Preservation

- Help with cost of upkeep and find ways to discourage neglect
- Apply rules consistently (e.g. what is a hardship?)
- Prioritize community over developer profits

What We Missed



Example Goals / Principles

1. Preserve and Enhance Community Character

- Safeguard the historic architecture, streetscapes, and cultural resources that define New Hope's unique identity and charm.

2. Strengthen Preservation Standards and Enforcement

- Ensure consistent application of historic preservation regulations that balance authenticity with practicality and prevent inappropriate alterations or demolitions.

3. Promote Education and Public Awareness

- Foster a community-wide understanding of New Hope's historic assets and their value through interpretation, signage, and accessible guidance for property owners.

4. Expand and Protect Key Historic Resources

- Identify, designate, and protect additional properties, districts, and landscapes of historic significance to ensure long-term resilience and continuity of the town's heritage.

Example Opportunities / Action Steps

1. Strengthen Enforcement and Compliance

- Action Step 1: Provide HARB with clear enforcement authority and meaningful fines to deter violations.
- Action Step 2: Require correction of unauthorized changes rather than allowing nominal penalties.

2. Expand and Clarify the Historic District

- Action Step 1: Consider expanding the district to include additional historically significant areas.
- Action Step 2: Identify priority landmark properties for heightened protection.

3. Increase Public Education and Engagement

- Action Step 1: Partner with the Historical Society to expand markers, plaques, and interpretive signage.
- Action Step 2: Host community workshops to improve understanding of preservation rules and benefits.

4. Support Property Owners in Preservation Efforts

- Action Step 1: Provide technical and financial assistance for maintaining historic structures.
- Action Step 2: Create an anonymous channel for residents to ask questions or raise concerns about preservation.

5. Protect Community Character Against Incompatible Development

- Action Step 1: Prohibit demolition or oversized modern construction in sensitive areas.
- Action Step 2: Require stronger coordination among HARB, Planning Commission, and Borough Council for reviewing development proposals.

Comments?



What We Heard

Support Small Businesses

- Provide incentives/grants to help small, local businesses thrive
- Encourage businesses appealing to both residents and tourists
- Limit large corporate developments and hotel projects

Manage Tourism Impact

- Tourism is vital but must be balanced with residents' needs
- Promote quality tourism: arts, theater, dining, local culture
- Address noise, traffic, parking, and overcrowding issues

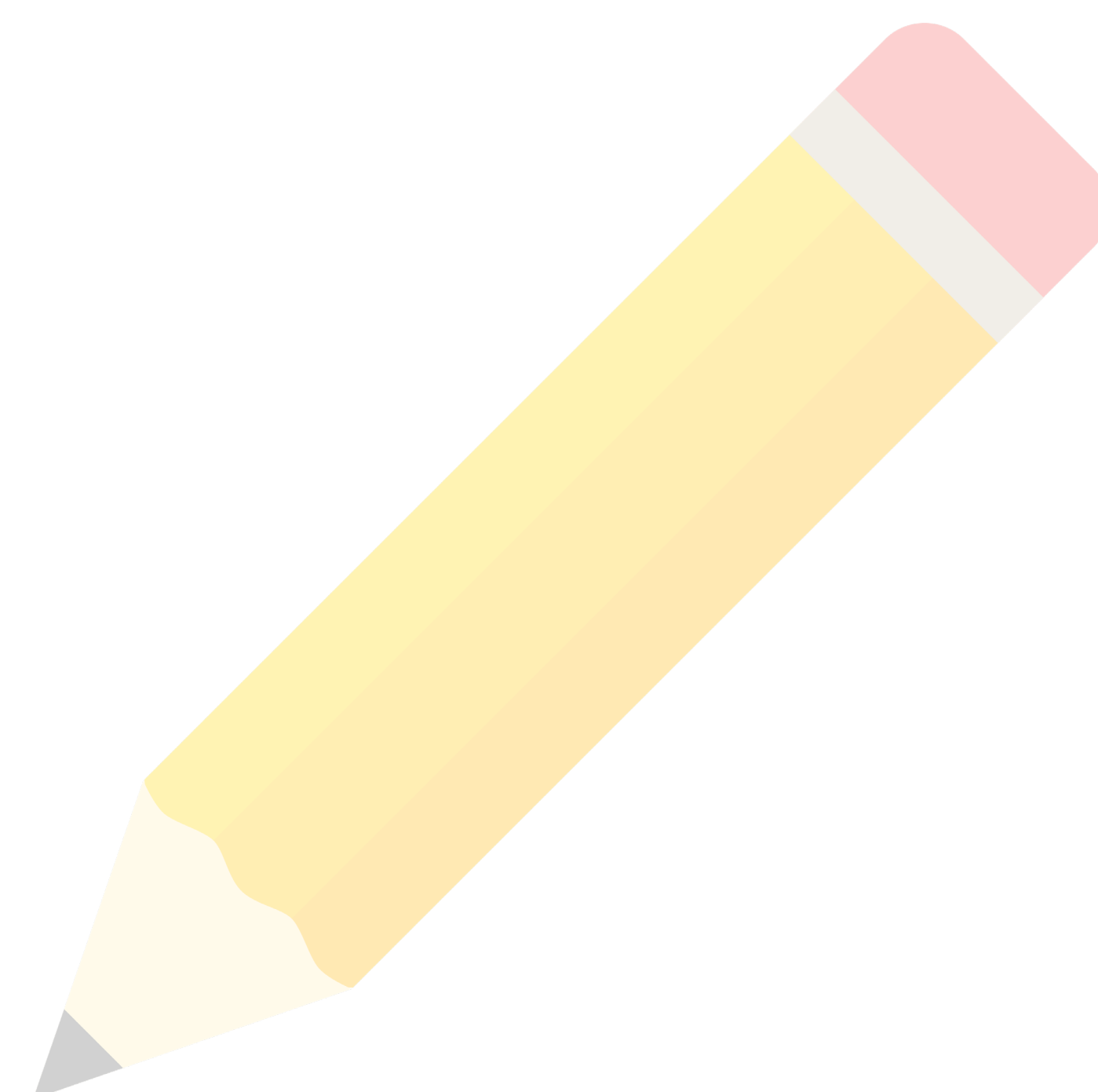
Improve Visitor Experience & Infrastructure

- Enhance directional signage for tourists
- Improve parking availability and offer resident permits
- Use tourism revenue for infrastructure and beautification
- Develop visitor center and better event promotion (social media, calendars)

Address Social & Workforce Concerns

- Support affordable housing for workers and residents
- Regulate short-term rentals to keep housing available
- Consider impacts of immigration policies on service sector
- Ensure businesses serve diverse community needs, not just tourists

What We Missed



Example Goals / Principles

1. Support a Diverse and Sustainable Business Community

- Foster a mix of locally owned, independent businesses that serve both residents and visitors, reducing reliance on seasonal tourism and supporting year-round vitality.

2. Balance Tourism and Resident Needs

- Promote a tourism economy that enhances quality of life for residents by providing essential goods, services, and amenities while maintaining affordability and community character.

3. Manage Growth and Development Responsibly

- Guide the scale, type, and location of commercial and tourism development to protect New Hope's historic charm, small-town feel, and environmental resilience.

4. Enhance Visitor Experience and Stewardship

- Improve wayfinding, cleanliness, access to green space, and cultural programming to encourage positive visitor experiences that benefit both the economy and the community.

Example Opportunities / Action Steps

1. Establish Business Support Mechanisms

- Action Step 1: Create a small business ombudsman or business improvement coordinator role to provide assistance and advocacy.
- Action Step 2: Connect business owners with available grants, incentives, and technical resources.

2. Implement Policies to Manage Rents and Business Turnover

- Action Step 1: Explore incentives for landlords to maintain affordable commercial rents.
- Action Step 2: Investigate grant or tax credit programs that stabilize key small businesses.

3. Align Tourism Revenue with Community Needs

- Action Step 1: Dedicate a portion of hotel tax, parking revenue, or other tourism-related revenues toward infrastructure and cultural programming.
- Action Step 2: Prioritize reinvestment of revenues into resident-serving businesses and amenities.

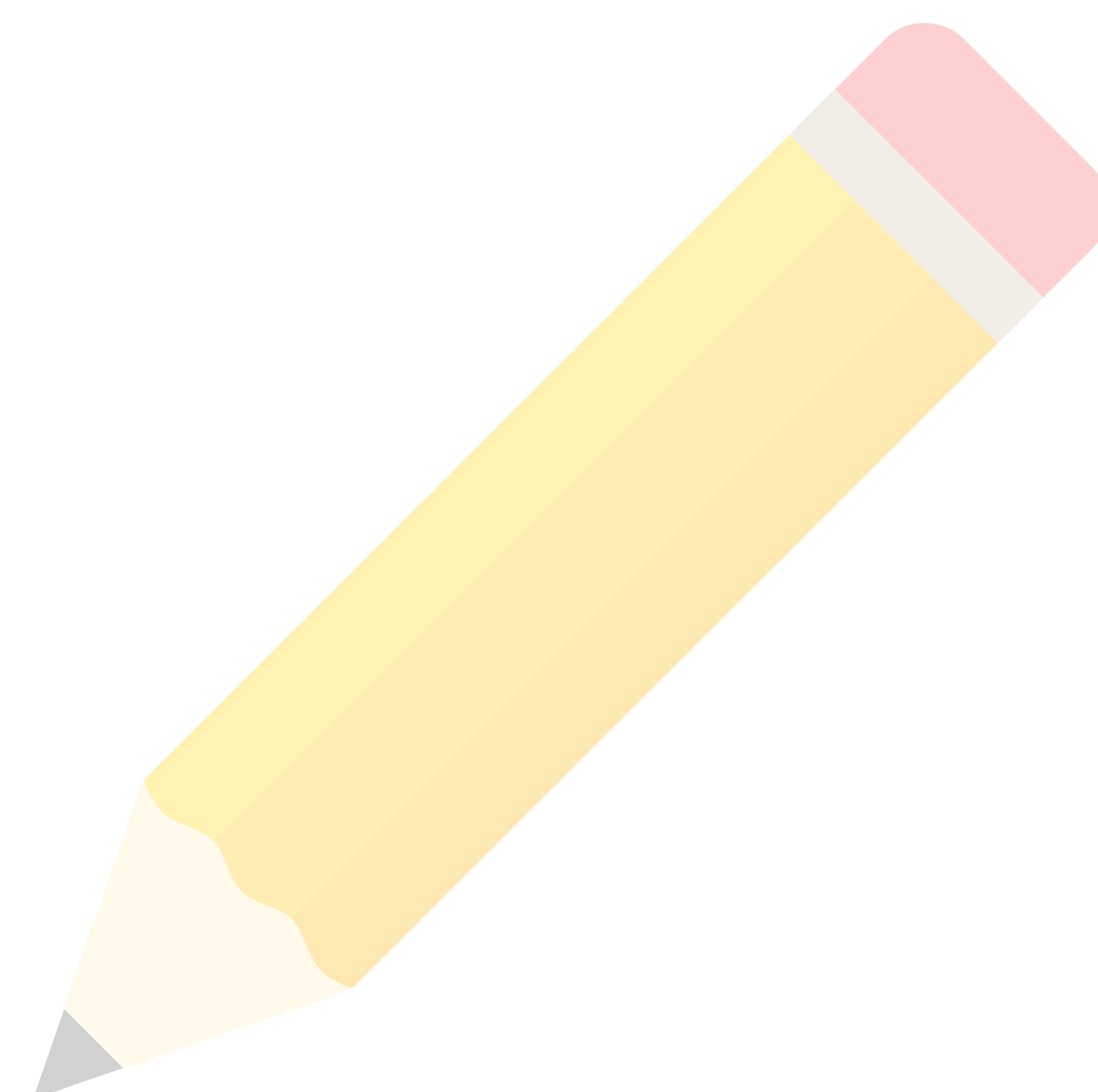
4. Improve Visitor and Resident Experience

- Action Step 1: Expand directional signage, shade trees, and green space downtown.
- Action Step 2: Encourage public art, cultural events, and pedestrian safety improvements that reflect New Hope's identity.

5. Guide Development Scale and Focus

- Action Step 1: Limit large hotel development and prioritize support for B&Bs and small lodging establishments.
- Action Step 2: Strengthen design standards to ensure new projects complement community character and infrastructure capacity.

Comments?



Access to Open Space & The Outdoor Environment

What We Heard

Parks & Open Space

- Create park space with dog areas, playgrounds, and picnic spots
- Preserve and purchase key open spaces like Division St and Cintra properties
- Partner with schools on naturalization projects

Riverfront & Water Access

- Maintain towpath and canal; protect public river access
- Improve accessibility and add boat launches
- Clean waterways and remove debris

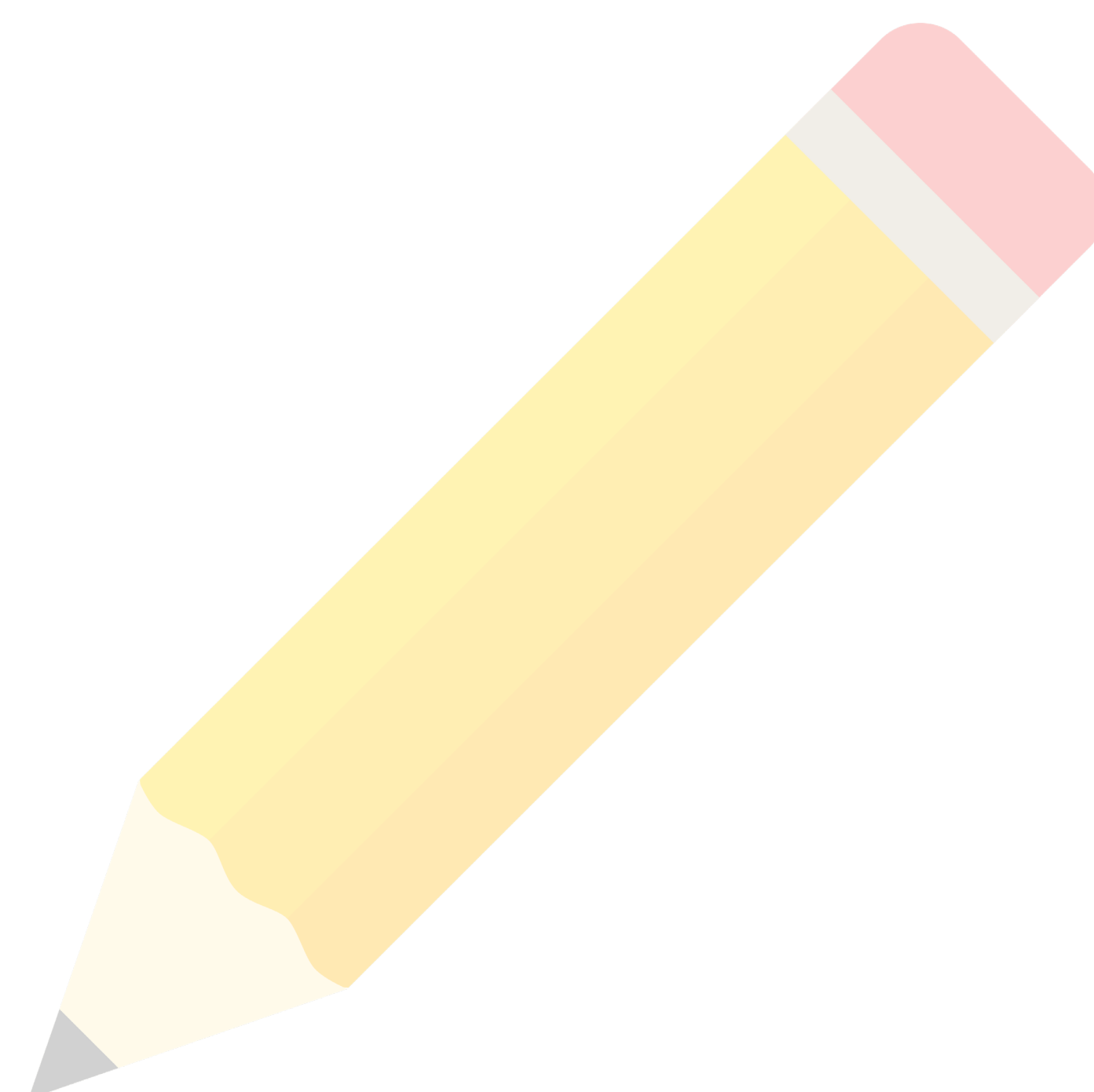
Integrate Environmental & Climate Initiatives

- Consider public space as combined with environmental efforts (native trees; protection of wetlands and riverbanks; pollinator meadows)
- Integrate flood control and EV charging stations
- Display climate impact markers

Infrastructure & Maintenance

- Add recycling bins alongside trash bins
- Improve signage for parks and trails
- Manage trash and traffic to protect open spaces

What We Missed



Example Goals / Principles

1. Preserve and Expand Public Access to Natural Assets

- Ensure long-term public access to the Delaware River, canal, and key open spaces, enhancing opportunities for recreation, education, and scenic enjoyment.

2. Protect and Steward Environmental Resources

- Safeguard wetlands, floodplains, and sensitive landscapes from inappropriate development while actively managing the impacts of flooding, heat, and climate change.

3. Provide High-Quality Parks and Recreational Amenities

- Develop and maintain parks, trails, and open spaces that meet the needs of residents and visitors, including areas for active recreation, gathering, and quiet enjoyment of nature.

4. Enhance Connectivity and Accessibility

- Improve wayfinding, signage, and safe pedestrian/bicycle access to open spaces, while ensuring facilities are inclusive and accessible to all ages and abilities.

Example Opportunities / Action Steps

1. Expand and Protect Riverfront Access

- Action Step 1: Identify and plan for acquisition of riverfront parcels (e.g., Landing, Cintra, Old Mill Lane) when available.
- Action Step 2: Improve existing river access points for walking, boating, and passive recreation.

2. Enhance Park and Recreation Facilities

- Action Step 1: Develop a community park with play areas, dog park, picnic space, and active recreation amenities.
- Action Step 2: Partner with schools to expand shared access to fields, trails, or nature-based education spaces.

3. Improve Towpath and Canal Conditions

- Action Step 1: Work with DCNR and local groups to restore canal water levels and enhance towpath maintenance.
- Action Step 2: Add wayfinding and ADA-accessible entry points to improve public access.

4. Integrate Climate Resilience into Open Space Planning

- Action Step 1: Adopt a climate action plan addressing flooding, severe weather, and heat mitigation.
- Action Step 2: Restrict development in wetlands, floodplains, and hillside recharge areas to preserve natural buffers.

5. Strengthen the Outdoor Experience for Residents and Visitors

- Action Step 1: Install recycling bins, shade trees, and pedestrian amenities near open spaces.
- Action Step 2: Provide interpretive markers (e.g., flood history, river ecology) to enhance educational and cultural value.

Comments?

