



PART I. VISION STATEMENT (REVISED)

The Town We Want

In 2035, Hingham will be a place that ...

- protects its coastal New England heritage. Hingham's historic resources will be financially resilient and productive, and the Town's comprehensive approach to preservation will encourage their vitality.
- makes sustainability the guidepost of its environmental, social, and economic policies, practices, and programs.
- increases public access to the harbor and its amenities while protecting the coastline.
- strengthens its pride of place and sense of community through town-wide events, celebrations, and activities in Downtown Hingham.
- provides infrastructure and services to encourage multimodal mobility, enhances intra-town transportation options, and links the Shipyard and Downtown.
- promotes the safety and well-being of older adults and encourages aging in community by operating a well-designed, full-service senior center, providing accessible and affordable transportation services, and requiring universal design in housing and neighborhoods.
- supports families and attends to the needs of children and youth by providing excellent schools and state-of-the-art school facilities, a wide range of recreation, athletic, social, and cultural activities, and a place for teens to gather.
- provides for a strong, resilient economy by encouraging a wide range of businesses and institutions and reducing regulatory barriers to economic growth, encourages colocation of housing and businesses in vibrant commercial districts, and reinforces Downtown Hingham as the town's economic, social, and civic hub.
- welcomes racial, cultural, and economic diversity by providing for a range of housing types and prices. Hingham has a variety of appropriately scaled, well-designed housing that compliments established neighborhoods and strengthens the pedestrian customer base for local businesses.
- systematically plans for and invests in planned preventive maintenance and capital improvements to municipal and school facilities and infrastructure. Hingham is in the forefront of regionalization of services on the South Shore.
- maintains and values its tradition of public participation in government.

PART II. GOALS (REVISED)

Note: For the time being, please ignore the numbering of goals. We can reorganize them after the content of this section has been settled. Asterisks (*) indicate specific goals or supporting ideas that we think need particular attention based on comments from committee members.

Goal 1: Preserve Town Character

- Continue to document, prioritize, and protect historic buildings and resource areas.*
- Provide stewardship of priority open space and natural resource areas, connecting passive and active recreation lands wherever appropriate and possible.
- Improve the connectivity between Downtown and Hingham Harbor for the benefit of the community and visitors alike.*

Goal 2. Protect the environment and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

- Prepare and implement a comprehensive sustainability plan.
- Reduce municipal energy and water consumption.
- Protect property along the coast from sea level rise.*
- Increase public access to the harbor while protecting the coastline.*

Goal 3. Improve safety for all modes of travel and reduce traffic congestion.

- Provide and maintain a connected, accessible network of trails, walkways, sidewalks, and bike lanes.
- Encourage multimodal transportation and provide additional public transportation services.
- Improve water transportation and support facilities.

Goal 4. Provide a variety of housing to support population diversity and aging in community.*

- Encourage the development of housing appropriately designed, managed, and located for older adults and people with special needs.
- Continue to create and preserve housing affordable to a wide range of incomes.
- Explore opportunities for creative retrofit of existing structures and infill development for a variety of housing.

Goal 5. Support a vibrant, resilient local economy.

- Support existing local businesses and attract new establishments that provide goods and services to the local community.
- Encourage mixed-use development in business districts.
- Guide development to desired locations with regulatory incentives and adequate infrastructure.

- Promote Hingham as a destination and each commercial district as a unique experience.

Goal 6. Provide high-quality services that support the health and wellness of residents of all ages.

- Maintain excellence in education.
- Provide facilities and services that support older adults to age in community.
- Provide a range of opportunities for recreational, leisure, and social activities for all ages and abilities.

Goal 7. Provide public facilities and infrastructure that support the Town's need to manage growth.

- Conduct long-range capital planning with the foresight to anticipate and address future needs.
- Explore opportunities for instituting planned preventive maintenance (PPM).
- Provide adequate spaces to support municipal facilities in their missions.
- Increase the wastewater treatment capacity.
- Support the Hingham Municipal Light Plant and [municipal water company] in their efforts to increase capacity and conserve resources.

PART III. COMMITTEE COMMENTS REQUIRING FURTHER DISCUSSION

Historic Preservation:

"In large part, I would argue that as a town we need to preserve only the most appropriate section of historic areas of significance and permit a greater, modern lifestyle design of community."

"It is my desire to see this committee be bold and lead the town to what is going to be the inevitable future. This will require the committee to 1) allocate a specific effort to identify those parts of history seen on the landscape to preserve, then let the rest go the way of time."

"Preservation of our unique historic character should be Goal #1 based on public feedback and it is what truly makes Hingham unique in the region. I also think it is what is likely a "non-negotiable" for residents in terms of their capacity for change."

"We need to prioritize our historic properties and landscapes that citizens are not willing to live without. What are Hingham's Top 25 that are not already legally or publicly protected? This is different than the existing Historic Inventory."

Housing:

"What about the concern expressed by many that there has been too much multi-family development that does not reflect or reinforce the existing single-family character of the town??"

Protecting the Harbor:

“There is one elephant that has a secure place in the room. That is sea level rise. It is undeniable and will potentially make parts of town un-occupiable. This could be a significant part of what we call downtown. Let’s put a plan together that negotiates with the elephant now and prepares the town for this rather dramatic sea change.”

“We need to have an honest discussion about increasing access and amenities on Hingham Harbor. Which harbor is this referring to -- bathing beach, the entire harbor, Shipyard? The area along 3A has very limited capability to be a nice place to expand for enjoyment due to the proximity to the road, traffic, flooding, parking, etc. You can't sit and watch the sunset there (like people say they want in the survey) because it faces East. The water is sludge and muck and has limited swim time due to the tides. I don't know how we can create a goal for something that is not possible to create like people want.”

General Vision:

“How do we include in our vision statement an ethic of community? If sense of “Community” is something people love about Hingham, how do we educate newcomers that the sense of “community” is on the backs of a lot of paid and volunteer work? How do we cultivate and ethic of working for the greater good? Can the master plan highlight that Hingham has a rich history of individual generosity - and sacrifice - for the greater good? There has been an insatiable appetite for services and capital projects. Not every household in Hingham can absorb or will be able to absorb after the pandemic extra tax burden. Can a Master Plan include as a Goal to encourage or build that complex understanding of what it means to live in a community?”

Emergency Preparedness:

Prepare an emergency preparedness plan that addresses a wider scope of emergencies than those covered in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan (e.g., a pandemic)?