

December 13, 2019 Visioning Session – Town Hall

Group 1

Question 1: Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
3	Senior center
3	Respect for history
1	Access to water (harbor)
1	Civic volunteerism
2	Community involvement, awareness, Schools
3	Town staff & Town services
1	Open space and parks
1	Library
	Public transportation
2	4 th of July parade
	Churches, places of worship
	Extracurricular programs

Question 2: Least Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
3	Foster school issues
	Hingham bubble – diversity is lacking
6	Senior center – enlarge, more services, updating, transportation to and from, more parking, chef/more meal service
1	Transportation for seniors around town to destinations
	Traffic
2	Need an additional fire station/fire services
3	Housing options lacking for low income senior citizens, workforce, and special needs adults
	Cost of living too high
1	Parking downtown and at town hall is insufficient
2	Beal street development – too large, not in context of the neighborhood or town
	Problem intersections: Cushing street; main/central; middle/main
2	Funding for public events, charitable giving is challenge
	Hingham information guide is needed (Hingham for dummies)
	More volunteers always needed

Question 3: What's missing?

- A new and improved Senior Center or intergenerational center
- Intergenerational opportunities, facility options, gathering spaces, involvement

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- Town pool
- Accessibility to a food bank
- Transportation in town
- Need to address climate change issues – at the harbor, at foster school, and for businesses
- Environmental awareness needs to be increased; need better planning for wind, solar, more green options in town and with developments
- Better parking at town hall, senior center, downtown and shopping areas

Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?

- Need more housing options for senior population, low income, disabled, workforce
- Population growth has resulted in stress on infrastructure
- Need to address school overcrowding, senior population growth and needs
- Water supply, draining valuable resource – need to look at more conservation options
- Public event funding – need more corporate involvement
- Sea level rise – wharves, walls, route 3A, private homes, businesses and utilities will all be impacted
- Migration away from school after completing college
- Transportation and the reliance on the MBTA and other transportation, boat, for commuters
- Need better real time news source and aggregation of communication at Town Hall

Question 5: one thing to improve Hingham

Dots	Response
5	New – improved – accessible Senior Center
5	Better funding for all stakeholders and increased awareness and understanding of municipal budget
4	Issues facing town from sea level rise – need better awareness and more urgency
4	Need better/more housing options for seniors, low income, town workers, disabled

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Group 2

Question 1: Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
3	Water – harbor and use of harbor by citizens, access, facilities and beach
1	Main street
1	Streetscapes look today as it did years ago
2	Village feel
2	World’s End – open spaces
2	Volunteerism – people who care about the town are willing to serve
	Old ship
1	School system
3	Historical resources/preservation, including the cemeteries
3	Library
	Friendliness of the town
2	Convenience to Boston
1	Public transportation
	Regulatory structure to retain and enhance the feeling of the town that everyone likes while allowing thoughtful growth
2	Indoor recreation options – movie theaters, restaurants, shopping and concerts all available in town
4	Outdoor recreation – public golf courses, park, pool
1	Farmers market, downtown, the square, the center of town, the village feel
1	Services – police, fire, ems

Question 2: Least Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
1	Beal Street housing project – bad, too big & ugly and overpowering
7	Traffic
2	Parking at downtown, town hall and senior center is insufficient
2	Hingham spirit being diluted and lost as new families move in but are not invested in or connected to the town
4	Lack of diversity – economic and racial
1	There aren’t sidewalks everywhere in town. We need more.
	Silos – school committee, town, we need more collaboration internally
2	Burnt out/dilapidated houses are eyesores.
2	It is difficult to cross 3A from the Downtown to access the harbor
2	Poor quality beach
7	Lack of adequate senior center facility. Ours is 5000 sf. Too small, not useful, no library, no kitchen, no chef, not enough classrooms
2	Main street/Cushing st intersection very hard to navigate
	Not enough traffic lights or traffic calming
1	Not enough solar
1	Cell service is poor
1	Lack of participation at town meeting

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Question 3: What's missing?

- Diversity
- Outdoor pool
- Sufficient affordable housing
- Shuttle services in town to Greenbush, boat and 220 bus
- Respectable sized senior center facility with amenities
- Multi-generational center
- Facilities manager for town regarding capital facilities and capital needs
- Cell towers

Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?

Challenges

- Population density
- Nimbyism
- Teardowns are eliminating smaller more affordable housing units
- Water sources
- Rapidly increasing senior populations need spaces and facilities that are usable and accessible to seniors and older people
- Traffic - volume and management
- How do we collaborate to meet capital needs in town – fire/police/foster school/senior center/library

Opportunities

- We can work together to solve problems collaboratively
- Engage more residents in the discussions for solutions
- Make Hingham more of a tourism destination – consider a cultural or tourism district downtown
- Increase the utilization of bare cove park – also use Wampatuck more
- Think about how to make the town more diversity friendly and inclusive
- Make the waterfront more user friendly and usable
- Secure more grant money for town projects

Question 5: one thing to improve Hingham

Dots	Response
	Build an ice hockey rink and outdoor pool at Carlson Field
1	Affordable housing opportunities
2	Addressing increasing population density with more aesthetic consideration to retain the beauty and character
4	Better control over development and contractors is needed
3	More robust tree preservation bylaw is needed
2	Better access to harbor
3	Traffic management, calming and lights

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9	New senior center with adequate parking
	new foster school
1	Better communication forums
2	Improve use of 2 ½% and spend money out of reserve funds to meet capital needs
	pool

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Group 3

Question 1: Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
1	Historic preservation/beautiful antique homes
3	Open spaces (world's end/BCP)
16	Senior center and the variety of programs
1	Trees
2	Sense of community
1	Main street
1	Proximity to the ocean
1	Schools
4	The harbor, Whitney wharf

Question 2: Least Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
1	Growth – increase in population, development, large apartment buildings
2	Traffic – lack of enforcement, speeding
	Not affordable to stay in town
12	Lack of senior housing
1	Number of smaller homes being demolished and replaced with large homes
	Too expensive for young families to settle here
2	Too many variances being issued by the boards
1	Lack of parking downtown
10	Lack of parking at town hall

Question 3: What's missing?

- Small stores (affordable)
- A senior center with more space to accommodate activities and parking
- Affordable senior housing
- Newly paved streets
- Maintaining sidewalks
- Year round swimming pool
- Lack of maintenance of private roads

Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?

- High commercial rent
- Clean energy – solar and wind
- Walkability
- Senior tax reduction
- Transportation to senior center
- Transportation around town – an on call shuttle for transportation for seniors

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- Schools keeping up with growth
- Affordable senior housing due to increasing senior population
- Bigger senior center
- Water supply
- Infrastructure
- More fire/police stations

Question 5: one thing to improve Hingham

Dots	Response
10	Take care of the seniors
2	Limit building and development
4	Change form of government to mayor/city council and eliminate town meeting
1	Put senior citizen related issues earlier in the warrant for town meeting
11	More affordable housing

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Group 4

Question 1: Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
	Kids at school with diverse population
2	Town is urban and bucolic
	Sidewalks
	Town services – fire and police
2	Fire police and town hall staff
1	Conservation and preservation efforts in the town
1	Open space
2	Downtown – walkability – train
1	Collaboration of residents
1	Community feel of town – opinions are respected
	Town hall building
	Balance of land uses
2	Preservation of history and preservation of military history
3	School system
	Retail diversity
1	Harbor
3	Boat/train/boat access
1	Senior center

Question 2: Least Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
6	Lack of affordability and diversity in housing and population
3	Traffic/bikes – intersections
2	Public transportation/van service
	Electric vehicles
1	Too conservative with energy updates
1	Spread burden of paying for government – too dependent on tax base from residents. Need more appropriate commercial development
2	More conservation and preservation safeguards needed – the demolition delay by-laws should be upgraded
2	More design review or upgrade the process we have now
1	Better harbor and downtown connectivity and activation needed
1	More collaboration and better communication across boards is needed

Question 3: What's missing?

- Newspaper
- Bookstore
- Hotel/place to stay
- Appropriate land use

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- Bike paths
- Senior conveniences walk/ride van – should be electric
- Traffic/transportation plan

Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?

- Traffic
- Design review needed for complex projects
- Senior center expansion and more parking
- Growth and preservation conflicts
- Regionalism of services
- Growth of senior population

Question 5: one thing to improve Hingham

Dots	Response
	More collaboration in the community
	Support increasing staffing in town hall
	Traffic
	Have 5 selectmen instead of 3
	Think jointly – youth and seniors could have a multi-purpose/flex space
	Have 5 instead of 7 school committee members