

December 11, 2019 Visioning Session – Hingham Town Hall

Group 1

Question 1: Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
6	schools
5	Commuting options to Boston
5	Historic character
5	Green space - wompatuck
1	sidewalks
2	downtown
3	Proximity to ocean/harbor
2	Community involvement
	friendly

Question 2: Least Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
14	Traffic and hazardous intersections
4	40B impacts/Density, concentration of activity
2	Compressor station
4	Bathing beach/harbor
2	Water/chlorine
3	Excessive reliance on tax base for improvements
6	Quality of sidewalks and crosswalks and pedestrian safety
1	We don't have a multiuse community center/rec center

Question 3: What's Missing?

- Fitness area
- Waterfront with a variety of activities for different ages (see Wayland, long pond)
- Bookstore
- Cultural events
- Safe route to water from downtown
- Philanthropic naming opportunities for cultural facilities
- Town wide facilities plan
- Renewable energy sources

Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?

- Infrastructure that supports growth is needed
- Regional thinking for transportation linkages between activity nodes

- Address climate change
- Diversify tax base
- Town should provide development assistance
- Identify and target appropriate industries for Hingham
- Attract residents with work/live scenarios

Question 5: one thing to improve Hingham

Dots	Response
6	Better regional collaboration
5	Improved pedestrian and vehicular awareness of crosswalks
5	Designate downtown Hingham as a cultural district
17	Have more appropriate commercial development; have a traffic plan; have a town engineer; consider pedestrians, bikes, cars, busses, truck delivery hours and limits on them as part of review of commercial development

Group 2

Question 1: Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
2	Library
9	Open space
7	Volunteer culture
2	Well run town with committed volunteers
4	Historic character
	Good values and sense of responsibility
1	Town beauty
	Public transportation options
5	Schools
	Good businesses and services
	Desire to take care of each other in town
2	Public square and town center
3	Harbor
	Farmers market
	Great dump and swap shop

Question 2: Least Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
5	Senior Center is inadequate
2	Traffic congestion in town and getting to Boston
3	Rapid pace of development
5	Type of development – Massive homes and the Loss of trees due to development
2	We need to take better care of facilities
2	Procrastination culture
1	High cost of living
9	Lack of diversity
2	Affordable housing is needed
1	Housing/job opportunities for disabled folks isn't available
1	Decline of local newspaper
1	Social media splintering communication and idea sharing
3	Better communication needed among town boards for problem solving
2	Need better walkability/bike-ability

Question 3: What's Missing?

- An adequate senior or community center (size and facilities)
- Parking in the square
- Progressive approach for climate change
- Trash pick up
- Housing/jobs for folks with disabilities
- Subsidized housing
- Sensitivity to working families

Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?

Opportunities

- New school leadership – fresh look
- Grants – climate initiatives, schools
- Rethink role and function of the library; get a grant
- Build a senior/community center
- Energy efficiency to save money and improve the environment
- Renewable energy sources

Challenges

- Dependency on Residential tax base now heavily financial services
- Finding funding for town capital projects
- Dealing with Town issues in a timely fashion
- Using the master Plan
- Convincing folks of the seriousness of climate change (floods, downed tree risks)
- Development impacts on environment
- Find commonalities across topics/issues to achieve more
- Work across the silos
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Question 5: one thing to improve Hingham

Dots	Response
9	Manage capacity for growth and plan for it
4	Broaden income range of folks who can live here
7	Reduce carbon footprint
1	Build a senior/community center
2	Improve transportation and housing opportunities to address diversity
5	Address lack of diversity

Group 3

Question 1: Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
	Open space
	Historic charm and character
2	Volunteers
5	community
2	waterfront
2	Transfer and swap center
2	Town meeting
1	Amenities
3	Library & educational programming there
1	Schools
1	Civic pride
2	Tranquility grove
1	Commuting options
2	Downtown and the square

Question 2: Least Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
	Traffic/drivers/congestion
3	Lack of diversity – both racial and ethnic
5	Lack of green projects
2	The gateways to town don't equal or project the character of the town
4	Lack of town wide walking paths or bike paths
2	Mcmansions
2	Younger volunteers
5	Overdevelopment of the town
1	Streetscape
1	Carbon footprint
4	Car dependent community
2	Not enough composting

Question 3: What's Missing?

- Full access intergenerational community center
- Lack of town bike/walking path
- Diminished resources
- Small diverse restaurants

- Bookstore
- Music store
- Diversity – income, racial, ethnic
- Downtown parking
- Diverse economic base
- Alternative energy sources

Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?

Opportunities

- Attractive town for young and old
- Financial standing – AAA bond rating
- Waterfront/shipyard
- Legacy and heritage
- Solar energy
- Tourist opportunities
- Forward thinking

Challenges

- Climate change
- Capital needs are many and resistance to commercial growth is great so how do we pay for things without raising taxes
- Many capital needs coming due at once (foster school, climate change, senior center, fire station, library)
- Balance preservation and development – how do we do it?
- Affordability
- Motivating qualified or interested volunteers of younger generations
- Conservation of the limited resources while allowing growth

Question 5: one thing to improve Hingham

Dots	Response
1	Need town wide Bike and walking paths
4	Manage traffic and slow it down
6	Address climate change
9	Rigorous promotion of historical preservation education
4	Build an intergenerational community center
5	Alternate transportation options needed in town and to connect to transit hubs

Group 4

Question 1: Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
3	Schools
4	Harbor – water, it’s a coastal new England town
2	Natural areas, i.e.: world’s end, wompatuck
4	Commuter boat
1	Community & community spirit
3	Restaurant scene downtown
3	The snug
	The variety of neighborhoods in town
	Main street
	Town meeting
	South shore country club
2	Derby street shops – shipyard-downtown (variety of shopping options)
2	Volunteer community/pto/town government

Question 2: Least Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
5	Traffic – signals on derby street not synchronized
5	Lack of diversity – racial and ethnic
1	Divisiveness
5	Underutilized harbor
2	Need more sidewalks
2	New money and new residents = lack of community engagement
2	Poor hockey facilities for hockey families
1	Lack of future development plan – i.e.: facilities and infrastructure plan
2	Historic regulations are strict

Question 3: What’s Missing?

- More recreational facilities – like a pool, a hockey rink
- Hotel
- Restaurant on the water
- Teen center
- Adequate senior center
- Traffic lights in sync on derby street
- New foster school
- More activated waterfront

- Better beach
- Sewer throughout town
- Access across 3A to the harbor
- Cohesive information sharing from town hall
- More recycling/composting

Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?

Opportunities

- South shore country club – add more facilities like a pool and clubhouse
- Develop the harbor more
- South Hingham
- Dredge beach area when the harbor is being dredged every 10 years
- Buildings 179 and 12 by Carlson field – can these be used for a pool or ice hockey rink facility?
- Reduce carbon footprint
- More rechargeable or renewable energy sources needed

Challenges

- Over regulation of small businesses
- Resistance to change
- Change is hard
- High rents downtown and at the derby street shops
- Senior and children populations are showing increasing trend line
- Having the financial ability to fund what we want while not overtaxing people too much

Question 5: one thing to improve Hingham

Dots	Response
6	Manage traffic – manage traffic lights
5	Activate and utilize harbor more; have a restaurant on the water
4	Fix foster school
	Get people from the shipyard to downtown
2	Intratown transportation
2	Hotel in town
3	More outdoor space attached to restaurants
4	Need greater awareness of and participation in Town Meeting and Town Government; better access to Town Meeting

Group 2

Question 1: Favorite Things?

Dots	Response

Question 2: Least Favorite Things?

Dots	Response

Question 3: What's Missing?

Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?

Question 5:- one thing to improve Hingham

Dots	Response