

**November 23, 2019 Visioning Session
Hingham Town Hall**

Group 1

Question 1: Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
2	Convenient Location/Close to Boston
2	Hingham Harbor
2	Parks and Open Space
3	Town's place in history/historic character/community respect for history
2	Public Transportation access – boat/train/bus
1	Public Safety Professionals – Police/Fire/EMT
2	South Shore Country Club
1	Town Government/Well run town
1	Quality of Services – Elder Services, Library Services, etc.
2	Municipal utilities – Light Plant, new water co.
0	Quality and number of restaurants
0	The Parks Department
0	Volunteer Garden Club
3	Commitment to volunteerism – volunteer government/boards and citizen volunteers for youth sports, elder services etc.
0	Quality of our transfer station

Question 2: Least Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
5	Traffic
4	Shortage of Parking – Town Hall, downtown, parks, etc.
1	Broadstone/Beal St housing project
1	Tough process for small businesses – permitting & approvals
1	Time and process for redevelopment projects – Settles Glass, Lincoln Bldg.,
7	In adequate senior center – programming, space, parking, staffing etc.
3	Lack of more affordable senior housing
3	Comcast service and costs

Question 3: What's Missing?

- In-town shuttle/circulator connecting shipyard, harbor, downtown, South Hingham etc.
- Restroom and shower facilities near the inner harbor marinas
- Town Pool
- Adequately sized senior center
- South Hingham fire station
- More affordable housing for seniors
- Better control/policing of tear downs and construction of McMansions

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Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?

Opportunities:

- More solar and wind installations to reduce fossil fuel usage - at public facilities (dump/buildings) and residences (roofs)
- Desalination facility to provide water and reduce pressure on watershed

Challenges:

- Lack of sewer on some areas of Hingham – South Hingham in particular
- Impact on natural resources from continued development
- Ability to manage/absorb growth – schools, public safety etc.
- Future of municipal pension fund

Question 5:- one thing to improve Hingham (Note: Two participants departed prior to the discussion/vote on the 5th question)

Dots	Response
2	Reduce traffic
6	An improved and expanded senior center
2	New pool
1	Comprehensive town-wide traffic study/assessment
2	More parking at Town Hall and downtown
2	Increase more affordable housing for seniors

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Group 2

Question 1: Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
1	Town is in good financial shape
2	Town has an emphasis on historic preservation and the historic nature of the town is asset
	Volunteers
6	Schools
2	Open space
1	Town meeting
3	library
1	Walkability and connectedness of open space
4	Opportunities for recreation on the water and in the woods
1	Access to public transportation
1	Downtown area
2	Good restaurants
1	Sense of community
	Professional town staff

Question 2: Least Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
1	Amount of traffic; recklessness of drivers
	We could be a more inclusive community and more welcoming to each other
5	Constant high Traffic volumes during the day on Cushing, main st, and 3A.
	More cars on the road in town all day long, the only quiet time is from 8 pm – 5 am due to the moms, service traffic, yard care, etc.
4	Too much development too fast
5	Lack of diversity in town – both cultural and racial
2	Not all neighborhoods are walkable as there is a lack of sidewalks in some areas
3	Need better bike lanes and environment for biking
3	Lack of affordability for young families
1	Town regulations shouldn't have different rules and benefits for different projects

Question 3: What's Missing?

- More walking connections between neighborhoods
- Lack of starter homes and options for smaller living and affordable downsizing
- Access to municipal sewer and gas
- Utility management
- Environmental leadership re: Climate change, storm water fees, etc.
- Intra town transportation between shipyard/library/Derby st shops/town hall/train stations
- Transparency in terms of open spaces and resources including playgrounds to be sure all residents know what is available to them
- Need a map of paths and walkways, etc.

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Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?

Opportunities:

- Increase business sector to diversify tax base
- We have some financial resources to use wisely
- Can improve town buildings
- Large population
- We can improve the town
- We can improve town services
- We can improve how we are educating our kids with regard to technology
- STEM Classes and computer coding classes are desired
- We can pay more taxes to fund improvements
- We have programs for those who cannot pay their taxes

Challenges:

- Availability of funding to address all the needs and wants
- Municipal finance – should prioritize spending, pursue grants, pursue local aid, encourage increased development that is low impact
- There is a variety of generations in town with different needs
- Getting a wider range of people involved in town governance is difficult
- Preserving our open space
- Hard to find young talented workers
- Maintaining future growth and traffic in town and managing it
- Climate change
- Cost per student on kids – we are falling behind in our spending
- Need energy/utility fee based on personal behavior

Question 5:- one thing to improve Hingham

Dots	Response
7	Affordable single family homes
3	Educational opportunities for kids of all abilities
4	Getting more people on bikes
2	Put more money into fixing roads
3	Low impact development and get increased \$\$ from developers when they do develop in town
1	Restaurant on the water
	Need more revenue to do the things we want to do
3	Good bakery/artesian bakery

Group 3

Question 1: Favorite Things?

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Dots	Response
9	Open space/town forest
1	Waterfront
4	Ocean
1	Robust government system
	We own two utilities
4	Resource is protected (water)
1	Community celebrations
5	Historic preservation
1	Many historic districts
4	Ease of getting to Boston

Question 2: Least Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
4	Affluenza
7	Lack of diversity
3	Traffic – more people are using shortcuts through neighborhoods
3	Density – overall community and of individual lots. There needs to be a FAR for SF residential
4	Water supply versus development
	Rubbish on curb
3	Landscape trucks – a visual blight
	Honking horns
6	Long permitting process

Question 3: What's Missing?

- Community composting
- Complimentary affordable housing – range of affordability levels and a range of types
- Resources to protect our natural resources
- More care of the waterfront to protect it from degradation
- Tax incentives to preserve Hingham homes
- Increase access to open space/conservation land

Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?

Opportunities

- School strength
- Recreation
- Public safety
- Future capital projects
- Town Government
- Industrial park development

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Challenges

- Public safety
- School needs
- Pool
- Not taxing people out of town
- Pressure on volunteerism
- Balancing the competing demands

Question 5:- one thing to improve Hingham

Dots	Response
2	Bury electric wires
5	Buy all open land for open space
8	Control development
3	Senior center
7	Support different housing options
	Community wide events like composting

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Group 4

Question 1: Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
2	Unique waterfront
3	history
	Bathing beach
6	Good schools – town focus on education
3	Comfort and fabric of the town
	Historic architecture
5	Open spaces
	Stoddards neck
	Bare cove park
	Wampatuck
	Downtown and the shops
	Loring hall

Question 2: Least Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
6	Adult services for special needs are limited. No housing for adults with special needs
2	Lack of bike lanes and sidewalks
4	Need improvements in special ed services/programming/social groups/behavioral programs
	Traffic controls/safety/3A
1	Lack of diversity
2	Cost of living
1	Amount of development
1	Not preserving open space
1	Population increase
2	traffic

Question 3: What's Missing?

- Connections between neighborhoods for pedestrians/bike paths/sidewalks
- Diversity
- Adult assisted housing for special needs
- Jobs for teens
- Parking downtown
- In town transportation connecting places
- Need for attention for youth arts and sciences
- Younger people involved in town government
- Special ed system that enables students to stay in district

Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?

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- Class sizes and the student population
- Need development that enhances access to the waterfront
- Foster school
- 40b housing/opportunities for low income housing
- Monitoring growth/development and population
- Balance of Hingham tradition vs new initiatives
- Opportunity to create support for seniors to get assistance
- Coordinate with other towns more (Cohasset, hull, Weymouth)
- Affordable housing - maintaining 40b supply to support population diversity
- Hingham is a “destination town”
- Beal Street is overbuilt now
- How to manage remaining open space in south Hingham
- Preparing for climate change
- Managing new development

Question 5:- one thing to improve Hingham

Dots	Response
6	Making more opportunities for transportation other than driving; public transportation; walking; biking
5	Traffic/safety/traffic lights
3	Reconfigure areas of heavy traffic
7	Adult special development services and housing
4	Waterfront improvement and a playground space for families
1	Public indoor pool

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Group 5

Question 1: Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
6	Waterfront
4	Schools
	Beauty
1	Intelligent community
2	Easy commute to Boston
2	It's a town not a suburb
3	Historic place
2	We have our own identity
3	Pragmatic engagement, thoughtful
	My hometown
1	Architectural continuity
1	Pride
1	Open space

Question 2: Least Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
4	Lack of diversity
4	Traffic congestion on main st, derby st, Beal st
	Closed community – lack of communication from the town to the public
1	Hingham journal's demise
	Reliance on internet to communicate about community
	Not reaching seniors
3	Climate change vulnerability
1	Housing choices – lack of variety; zoning restrictions to 1 acre
	Affordability
2	Transportation – lack of public transportation
3	Support for senior services
2	Cell phone coverage dead zones

Question 3: What's Missing?

- Bike paths from the commuter boat to the train
- An alternative to cars
- No blue bikes available
- Better sidewalks
- Electric assisted scooters
- Shuttle transportation to link public transport and senior services and shopping
- Pool
- A good deli

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- More clarity of the historic district boundaries and requirements
- Representative town meeting
- Better informed town meeting members

Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?

- Electronic voting at town meeting
- Log in to cast your vote from home over the internet
- Inter community cooperation
- Regional master planning
- Town wide trash pick up
- Commitment to renewable energy
- Leadership
- Solar panel fields
- Communications outside the internet

Question 5:- one thing to improve Hingham

Dots	Response
5	Safeguard and improve waterfront
1	Year round aquatics center
1	Connectivity to Boston harbor islands
2	Diversify housing stock – size, and cost, leed certified
2	Protect water supply
9	Zero carbon footprint
4	Protect open space