

**Hingham Master Plan Visioning Forum – November 18, 2019**  
**Group Summaries**

**Group 1:**

**Question 1: Favorite Things?**

Dots	Response
2	Preserve architectural integrity/charm/history
2	Schools
1	History
	Easy to get to Boston
4	Natural environments/greenspace/country setting
	Preservation of older homes
1	Downtown
2	Walkability
1	Country setting
	Small business
2	Waterfront/cleanliness
	charm
	Mixed generations
	Preserve affordability for seniors

**Question 2: Least Favorite Things?**

Dots	Response
1	Future of building; new construction and aggressive development at the shipyard and on Beal street
3	Building away the greenspace
1	Area of Rt 3A near Weymouth line
1	Parking at town hall
1	Sidewalks near harbor
3	Sidewalks in some areas are not walkable
	Re-evaluate height restrictions on homes and buildings
3	Foster school's condition
	Mismatched signage in shipyard and downtown
2	Awareness of climate change with new construction is needed to minimize impact

**Question 3: What's missing?**

- Better daycare space in rec center
- Bookstore/coffee
- Swimming pool – indoor
- Need more children's clothing stores
- Need more restaurants
- After school activities at middle school
- sports (to be run by schools) with bus during school week (not on weekends)

**Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?**

Opportunities:

- climate change – new guidelines for construction; reducing impact of carbon footprint; increase composting and recycling; have recycling cans available; have car charging stations in town
- increase walkability and bike ability
- getting people to use clean energy for homes/incentives/education
- water supply
- green space/trees
- be conscious of paint for crosswalks (slippery when wet)

Challenges:

- affordable housing/placement and design
- better relationship with departments - building, trustees, historic to preserve and better use greenspace
- lack of sewer in south Hingham to support economic development
- Sewer pipes in north Hingham are old and may not be constructed in such a way to tolerate sea level rise and groundwater levels increasing.

**Question 5: one thing to improve Hingham**

Dots	Response
	New foster school
5	Reduce carbon footprint of Public Buildings and incentivize homeowners to do the same
2	Improve walkability/sidewalks and bike ability
1	Better use of town hall
4	Stop building and look at better uses for already available space

**Group 2**

**Question 1: Favorite Things?**

Dots	Response
6	Space, nature, trees
2	Walking – sidewalks
1	People – culture of volunteerism
8	Ocean, coastline, water sports
5	Historic aspects
1	Square – it’s community feeling
	Town Pride
	Everything – all services are here
	Spread of economic levels in town
	safety
4	Great schools
5	Open Space – places to hike
2	Public transportation access (especially to Boston)

**Question 2: Least Favorite Things?**

Dots	Response
4	Lack of diversity
5	traffic
	Overdevelopment
	Elitism
	No good beach
1	Lack of safety (traffic) – how folks drive
3	Lack of Housing/jobs – for folks with special needs (disabilities), seniors, disabled youth
2	Senior center is too small
3	Lack of adequate special education services in school
	Need a pool
	Lack of a master plan
2	Lack of financial growth – especially commercial
3	Lack of preventative maintenance of town facilities
3	Lack of town facilities manager
1	Concern about rising taxes
4	Town engineer needed – an actual engineer
	Lack of strong commercial tax base
5	Inadequate financing of schools

**Question 3: What’s missing?**

- Disabilities Commission
- Boys & Girls Club
- Capital Commission looking at all large projects
- Continuing Ed programs
- Kids in Action at all elementary schools

- Forest management plan and program
- Vo-tech training for our kids
- Stronger sense of community
- More unified HS sports teams
- Indian restaurant
- Climate resiliency planning
- More town hiring of people with disabilities
- Mapping town priorities to the Master Plan
- Renovated library
- Separate police station

**Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?**

**Opportunities**

- Residents generous – have deep pockets and good will for fundraising
- Harbor revival
- Engaged talented citizens
- Lots of green space
- Rich history
- Boston proximity
- Self-directed affordable housing planning

**Challenges**

- Development not in tune with Town character and there is great pressure for overdevelopment
- Resistance to real zoning changes
- Deferred maintenance of town facilities
- Keeping taxes in check, keeping Hingham affordable
- Aging population
- Climate change at the harbor
- More demand for moorings than we can accommodate
- Road conditions

**Question 5: one thing to improve Hingham**

Dots	Response
4	Manage traffic
3	Hire town engineer and facilities manager
7	Find additional revenue to better fund schools
6	More programming for special needs kids
2	Plan for affordable housing
3	Less development
5	Development comprehensive facilities plan

**Group 3**

**Question 1: Favorite Things?**

Dots	Response
3	Worlds End
4	History – preservation; town values preservation
1	Downtown – Christmas in the square, shops, restaurants
8	Schools
1	Volunteerism
2	Ocean – harbor, wompatuck, open space
2	South Shore Country Club
2	Closeness to Boston
1	Commuter boat
	Highway access on Rt 3
5	Hingham Light and their responsiveness
1	Strong neighborhoods and sense of community

**Question 2: Least Favorite Things?**

Dots	Response
5	Traffic, problem intersections
4	Development: strain on resources; strain on open space; spread out development
2	Sidewalks – need more – south Hingham, crow point, free street
7	Condition of Foster elementary
4	Ssc pool
	Lack of Diversity (population)
	More policing needed to have Improved safety (open space, parks)
2	More fields/better maintenance of fields at schools (master fields use and maintenance schedule needed)
	Underutilized land, DPW & Lighting Plant
6	School budget funding increase is needed

**Question 3: What’s missing?**

- Trash pickup
- Town pool (indoor/outdoor bubble)
- Free full day kindergarten
- No booster fees
- More town rec facilities – especially indoors in winter time
- Parking
- Annual town fireworks
- Town owned hockey rink
- Elderly housing (affordable)
- Full year weekend commuter boat service as well as late night commuter boat service
- Ethics board

**Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?**

- Accommodating development
- Impact to schools
- Infrastructure stress
- Funding for Foster School
- What happens if foster school fails? There is a lack of funding but also structural issues at Foster
- Potential need for tax increase
- Impact of climate change and sea level rise
- Traffic management – need to take into account population growth and density
- More environmental consciousness is needed
- Compressor station is bad for the environment

**Question 5:- one thing to improve Hingham**

Dots	Response
1	More citizen participation and town involvement
13	More school funding
	Better transportation and better access into and out of Hingham
3	Town shuttle for all ages – all over Hingham stopping at key places
2	Better access to town facilities, middle school, gyms, buildings
9	Combine new facility projects, better planning use of funding
2	Better traffic control

## Group 4

### Question 1: Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
1	Bathing beach
6	Expand senior center and parking – use fields to exchange for parking
4	Historic center – historic preservation
4	Beauty and maintenance of main street
6	Downtown has a sense of place
3	Economic diversity
3	Hingham is affordable
4	There is a high percentage of green space

### Question 2: Least Favorite Things?

Dots	Response
6	Lack of affordability for seniors
3	Economic stratification
4	Time it takes to get project approval from town hall
9	Size and number of rooms for programming at senior center (they are too small and have limited use)
1	The time it takes to demolish dwellings that are eyesores
4	No parking at the senior center
1	Space is not used properly at town hall

### Question 3: What's missing?

- Grocery store downtown
- General merchandise store downtown like granites welch packer
- More fire stations – built properly
- Adequate parking at town hall police station and senior center
- A link between bare cove and great esker parks
- Commercial tax base and more non-residential development
- Linden ponds own EMT service
- Sewer plant to recharge groundwater

### Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?

- Growing senior population
- Restoration of our parks and town forest is needed
- The infrastructure (land and buildings) is aging
- Public information about available services should be better and more accessible
- Traffic on main street needs to be reduced
- Access to Wompatuck via other towns should be restored/opened up
- Affordable housing stock (smaller single family) is being lost by teardowns

**Question 5:- one thing to improve Hingham**

Dots	Response
10	Build a new senior or intergenerational center
3	Strategy for the improvement of services at 210/220 Central street
3	Improve transportation for seniors; Improve transportation for those without cars
	Action is required to address some of the identified needs by increasing the town budget
4	Park connection between bare cove and great esker park
2	Challenge is the budget demand to meet the needs of the schools and the needs of the seniors. Often in it one vs the other and both populations don't have their needs met in the same budget.
4	Housing diversity
3	Town meeting agenda items that affect seniors should be earlier in the evening or there should be a Saturday town meeting to make it accessible to all

Group 5

**Question 1: Favorite Things?**

Dots	Response
1	Open space
1	Library
6	Quality of schools
5	Harbor/waterfront
1	Highway diet plan/sidewalks
1	Progressive – wanting to improve
1	Historic character (existing and preservation of for the future)
2	Downtown Hingham
2	Many volunteers
1	Natural beauty (maintenance of) and the tree/park department
	Restaurants
2	Traditions – 4 <sup>th</sup> of July parade/xmas in the square
2	Sports
1	Community involvement/engagement
3	Well run town government

**Question 2: Least Favorite Things?**

Dots	Response
4	Speeding on roads
2	Congestion/traffic – queen Anne’s corner and main street
3	Visibility/enforcement at crosswalks
1	Lack of diversity of housing
2	Kids can’t afford to move back
2	Lack of senior housing
2	Rentals are not family friendly
2	No good public transportation in town not good coordination
1	Boat to Boston doesn’t have weekend service in the winter
2	No electric vehicle charging in public areas
4	No year round sports facility – lack of public space
1	No swimming pool
	Lack of harbor development infrastructure
1	Poor accessibility at the harbor and the boat house
	No lights on fields other than at the high school

**Question 3: What’s missing?**

- Electric vehicle charging
- More turf fields
- Entertainment venues

- Public transport intraTown

**Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?**

- Budgeting sensitivity is needed – question of money
- Tax rate needs to be raised and/or managed depending who you talk to
- Infrastructure – aging: water, sewer, utility, roads
- New building codes and green homes should be encouraged
- Age of population increasing
- Demographic changes – aging population and growth of children in schools
- Diversifying the tax base – residential AND commercial
- Development and redevelopment need a balanced approach from the town
- What is the maximum population in Hingham? When is enough growth enough?
- Parking – downtown, fields, town hall, library – all need more
- How do seniors stay in town? Can't afford it.
- How do young families afford to come to town?
- Environmental – sea level rise, waterfront, protection to the shoreline
- Storm surge and high tide mitigation
- Water supply
- Water company management needs to be figured out
- Planning for solar, wind, underground electric
- Get rid of telephone poles
- Solar energy net metering for town assets. Hull has wind mills. Hingham could do solar.
- Require new development to install underground wires
- Desalinization plant jointly with Hull could help water supply
- Integrate with other south shore towns a regionalization of services
- Sewer capacity is a constraint in north Hingham. Lack of sewer in South Hingham hinders economic development
- How do we attract business, industry and workers
- Workforce to supply businesses need homes to live in
- Apply for more government grants
- Reroute commercial vehicles off residential streets
- Opportunity/benefit for town employees to receive supplemental housing benefits to help them afford to live in Hingham.

**Question 5:- one thing to improve Hingham**

Dots	Response
5	Traffic management
3	Public transport
7	Integration of all transportation/people movement
4	Infrastructure: public utilities, water, sewer, roads, crosswalks, electric, etc.

Group 6

**Question 1: Favorite Things?**

Dots	Response
	Everything outdoors: green and blue
6	Open space – bare cove, Wampatuck, turkey hill, country club, access to waterfront
6	Historic resources and buildings
3	New England town qualities
4	Good governance
2	Good resources – playgrounds, library, senior center
2	Volunteer tradition from all age groups with experience
	Hmlp
2	schools

**Question 2: Least Favorite Things?**

Dots	Response
d	Traffic – especially south Hingham
4	Development of the Large apartment buildings on Beal street
7	Teardown of small houses
3	Pressure to develop south Hingham
1	Impacts on water availability
3	Too many banks and real estate offices
	Access to waterfront needs improvement
3	Engagement of newer residents is poor
	Senior center needs more space
	Rec center needs more space
1	Lack of indoor pool

**Question 3: What’s missing?**

- Breakfast restaurants
- Small shops downtown
- Affordable senior housing and affordable starter houses that are not apartments
- Public transportation – maybe a local shuttle/bucket town bus
- Bile lanes
- Late night transportation to Boston
- Minutes from town committees

**Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?**

**Challenges:**

- Climate change, droughts, severity of tides, severe storms
- Water supply with development – need to educate on water use, sustainable lawns, etc.
- Infrastructure – sewer and water pipes need maintenance

- Town building maintenance – need one staff position and or committee to monitor facility needs of all town buildings on an ongoing and comprehensive manner
- Gentrification

Opportunities:

- Deep love of town
- Town buildings and properties are assets
- AAA bond rating
- Recycling
- More historic districting to be done
- Look at solutions from other towns
- taxes

**Question 5: one thing to improve Hingham**

Dots	Response
3	More historic districts
3	5 selectmen instead of the current 3
8	More intracommunity transportation
7	Find a way for kids who grew up here to come back to live
1	More public art
2	Add bike lanes
3	Put powerlines underground
4	Larger senior center

Group 7

**Question 1: Favorite Things?**

Dots	Response
5	Streetscape
2	Water and land
1	Sense of community
	Convenience to boston
2	Places – world class history in town, old ship church
2	Historical character
5	Volunteerism makes town what it is
2	Sidewalks
	Not like other communities
2	Town programs
	Senior center
	Police department

**Question 2: Least Favorite Things?**

Dots	Response
2	Density
	New apartments
2	Design of large projects are unattractive and anti-community
2	Change – distribution and diversity of housing
2	Economic/cultural diversity
1	Challenge of climate change
1	Zoning
2	Information/education of integrating buildings with landscape
	Fire hazard/warning systems
3	Parks/people and how to egress when there is a fire should be clear
1	Dense areas of development – derby st, shipyard
3	Development is encroaching onto open space
3	Traffic – high school, middle street, Hingham center, route 228

**Question 3: What's Missing?**

- Scenic roads
- Speed control
- Improve or consolidate outdoor recreation facility management, swimming, etc.
- Recycle center not up to others – needs more space
- Rec center needs to be used by all and have programming for all accessible to all
- More vibrant community center is needed
- Evacuation route signs are needed

**Question 4: Opportunities & Challenges?**

- Climate
- Managing growth
- Fire code for building materials and planning, green building are evolving
- Protection open space from encroachment, and fire and flooding damages
- Demographics of aging population
- Young people need to feel invested in the town
- Growth management strategy needed

**Question 5: one thing to improve Hingham**

Dots	Response
4	Manage the residential and commercial developments at the margins of town and protect core
1	Modernize governance to code
2	Town meeting needs to be more accessible – on tv and interactive
5	Town manager and 5 selectmen system needed not the current system
6	Information distribution, especially in times of crisis, needs to be figured out
3	Transportation needed for all. Can school buses be used off school hours?