

TOWN OF WINCHENDON

Master Plan Committee



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The Master Plan Committee is pleased to offer a proposed Master Plan for our town of Winchendon. The plan is based on the desires and expectations of the many citizens who expressed their views during the public planning process over the last several years. The Master Plan lays out goals and strategies which provide guidance to all people who love the Town and are willing to work together for its future.

We live in uncertain times, with rapid change. As our town departments, boards, committees and citizens use this plan to guide their work, they will surely find a need for new or changed strategies and goals. This means the plan must be a living document. It must be modified from time to time to reflect how well we are doing, what is and isn't working and what we are learning about opportunities and challenges.

This Master Plan is ambitious and groundbreaking. Past plans have focused primarily on places and properties in town. This plan brings new emphasis on the people of Winchendon. Many of the Master Plan's strategies require new cooperation across town employees, boards and committee members. Many of its strategies require public participation and support. Achieving these goals requires us all to be committed, persistent and patient. It requires us all to listen, ask questions, assess, learn, grow and adapt - together. It requires us to bring new meaning to "Winchendon Working Together".

It's clear Winchendon can't achieve the goals of this Master Plan unless we change what we work on and how we get work done. This is an exciting opportunity for change. Change can be viewed as an opportunity or a threat; the choice is ours. But doing things the way we've always done them won't accomplish what our community asks for in this Master Plan. Every board, committee and department is called on to review current priorities, take on new challenges, and identify existing activities that can be adjusted or discontinued. The people of Winchendon are called on to find time in their lives to participate in this work to create the change they ask for.

We encourage you to read this plan and consider how you can work to help make it a reality. Consider how this plan helps build the community you want as a home, as a place to do business, as a place to raise a family, as a place to grow up, as a place to grow old. Then, most importantly, find the parts of the plan that mean the most to you, and volunteer to help by contacting Tracy Murphy, Director of Planning and Development via email at tmurphy@townofwinchendon.com or call 1-978-297-3537. Although boards always

need new members, you do not need to be an official member to make a contribution. No effort is too small.

If you are already a town employee or volunteer on a town board, commission or committee, you are in a special position to help the community move this work ahead. This document lists which position or group has the initial responsibility to work on each strategy. To help move this work forward, the Master Plan calls on the Board of Selectmen to establish an Implementation Committee who will help each responsible group set priorities, review and modify roles and responsibilities, coordinate work with other committees, and get public engagement.

The people of Winchendon have developed many Master Plans in the past, often repeating goals identified in earlier plans but never accomplished. This time can be different. If we work together in new ways with new public engagement there is no limit on what we can accomplish.

The Master Plan Committee
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