



Woburn Plan for Progress Public Kickoff and Visioning Forum

December 1, 2014

Shamrock Elementary School



Forum Agenda

7:00-7:10 Mingle and Light Refreshments

7:10 Welcome

7:15 What is Woburn Plan for Progress and Why Does it Matter?

7:30 Recent Plans and Trends

7:45 What Lies Ahead for Woburn? Help Shape The Vision

8:30 What Did Other Groups Say?

8:45 Tell Us More and Next Steps



What is the Plan for Progress?

- M.G.L. Chapter 41 Section 81D: Such plan shall be a statement, through text, maps, illustrations or other forms of communication, that is designed to provide a basis for decision making regarding the long-term physical development of the municipality.
- Comprehensive plan for entire community, all aspects (land use, housing, natural resources, economic development, open space, etc.)



Why Create a Plan?

- Allows a community to reach consensus on the direction it wants to take
- Think comprehensively about how all the pieces of a community fit together
- Plan proactively for the future desired by residents
- Access to grant programs and new State initiatives



Why Create a Plan?

- Hear from the residents, landowners, and business owners how they envision the future
- Investigates and incorporates appropriate new ideas related to planning
- Finds creative ways to preserve what is best/most cherished in the community while still allowing/encouraging economic development
- Supports city development and regulatory decisions



What will the Plan include?

- Woburn's Vision for the Future
- Woburn Today
- Open Space, Recreation, Historic/Cultural Resources
- Local Services and Facilities
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Natural Hazard Mitigation
- Land Use
- Plan Implementation



Plan for Progress Steering Committee

Members as appointed by Mayor Galvin

Members

Peter Carbone:
Business Owner

Kevin Feeney:
Zoning Board of Appeals

Jim Juliano:
Conservation
Commission

Kathy Lucero:
Historical Society Board
of Directors

Sheila McElhiney:
Zoning Board of Appeals

Members

Don Queenin:
Redevelopment
Authority

Carolyn Turner:
Planning Board

Jody Ray:
Zoning Board of
Appeals

Mike Ventresca:
Planning Board

Shaun Briere:
Community organizations



Plan for Progress Steering Committee

- Serve as ambassadors for the process and plan
- Represent a variety of community viewpoints
- Ensure inclusion, broad input, and participation
- Collect and provide information
- Review materials and provide feedback
- Endorse deliverables along with Planning Board



Project Meetings

November 2014

**Steering Committee
11/12**

December 2014

**Visioning, Open Space and
Natural Resources Forum 12/1**

January 2015

**Housing, Economic Development,
Land Use Forum 1/14
Steering Committee 1/28**

February 2015

No meetings planned

March 2015

**Transportation, Land Use, Hazard
Mitigation Forum 3/25**

April 2015

**Steering Committee
4/8**

May 2015

**Vision and Draft Recommendations
Forum
5/27**

June 2015

**Steering Committee
6/24**

July 2015

No meetings planned

August 2015

**Planning Board public hearing on
final plan**



Woburn 2020 Highlights

Natural Resources and Open Space

- Explore options for funding more open space acquisitions (i.e. hotel/motel rooms tax, CPA)
- Update zoning to ensure open space preservation in new development

Housing

- Increase financing and dedicate planning and organizational resources to housing issues (i.e. HOME funds, CPA)
- Utilize zoning to encourage mixed use, density, and affordable housing
- Provide more education around affordable housing



Woburn 2020 Highlights

Economic Development

- Encourage newer industrial/office uses such as bio-tech and research and development and phase out trucking terminals that currently dominate industrial parks
- Develop information technology cluster
- Work with the Woburn Redevelopment Authority to revitalize downtown and other areas (i.e. Woburn Loop)

Transportation

- Focus on projects that will enhance traffic flow and reduce truck traffic through residential neighborhoods
- Improve public transit and pedestrian connections



Woburn 2020 Strengths/Weaknesses

Strengths

- Low Tax Rate
- Horn Pond Conservation Area
- Convenient Location
- Great Community Spirit
- Schools
- Youth Programs

Weaknesses

- Traffic
- Poorly Developed Downtown Area
- Stigma about Water/Superfund Site
- Inconsistent Zoning
- Lack of Public Transportation
- Lack of Open Space



What Lies Ahead for Woburn? Help Shape The Vision

- Facilitated small group discussions at your tables (~45 minutes)
- Prioritize top ideas and vote
- Report out on each discussion (~15 minutes)
- Tell Us More and Next Steps



Tell Us More and Next Steps

- Fill out Comment Card for written comments
- Follow the Plan for Progress webpage and take the survey at:
www.mapc.org/woburnplanforprogress
- January 14th Housing, Economic Development and Land Use Forum
- Meet with Steering Committee January 28th to review findings and present draft vision and goals

