



TOWN OF MEDWAY
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

Medway Town Hall
155 Village Street - Medway, MA 02053
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masterplancommittee@townofmedway.org

Monday, May 24, 2021 -- 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Eric Arbeene, Becky Atwood, Carey Bergeron, Jessica Chabot, Susan Dietrich, John Foresto, Ellen Hillery, Siri Krishna Khalsa, Tara Kripowicz, Denise Legee, Cassandra McKenzie, Sarah Raposa, Linda Reynolds, Debi Rossi, Faina Shapiro, Alex Siekierski, Jack Wolfe. All members were present.

Master Plan Committee Staff Present: Susy Affleck-Childs, Planning and Economic Development Coordinator; Barbara Saint Andre, Director of Community and Economic Development; Sandy Johnston, Director of Communications; Jeanette Galliardt, Night Board Secretary

Others Present: Andy Rodenhiser, Chair, Planning and Economic Development Board; Dennis Crowley, Select Board; Jenn Goldson, Barry Fradkin, and Jamie Shalves, JM Goldson, LLC

Call to Order

At 7:04 PM Ms. Jessica Chabot, Chair, called the meeting to order. She read the list of members present; all committee members were in attendance via Zoom.

NOTE – The meeting was recorded by Medway Cable and is available for viewing at:
<https://livestream.com/medwaycableaccess/events/9621303/videos/221539597>

Community Forum

Ms. Goldson asked registrants to take a few minutes to complete a brief survey either now or later which will help define those who are participating in the forum this evening. Including Town staff and JM Goldson, LLC staff, there were 103 participants.

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Goldson began with a list of the Master Plan Committee members who again introduced themselves and their affiliations in the municipal government or community. In

Committee members and affiliated groups

*Jessica Chabot, Planning & Economic Development Board – Chair
Cassandra McKenzie, Economic Development Committee – Vice Chair
Eric Arbeene, At-Large Member | Becky Atwood, Cultural Council | Carey Bergeron, Energy & Sustainability Committee
Susan Dietrich, School Committee | John Foresto, Select Board | Ellen Hillery, Finance Committee | Siri Krishna Khalsa, Council on Aging
Tara Kripowicz, Conservation Commission | Denise Legee, Open Space Committee | Sarah Raposa, At-Large Member | Linda Reynolds, Lions Club
Debi Rossi, Board of Parks Commissioners | Faina Shapiro, Medway Business Council | Alex Siekierski, Design Review Committee
Jack Wolfe, Affordable Housing Trust & Committee*

addition to committee members, the following staff members also introduced themselves: Barbara Saint Andre, Director of Community and Economic Development; Susy Affleck-Childs, Planning and Economic Development Coordinator, and Sandy Johnston, Director of Communications.

Ms. Goldson introduced herself as well as associates Barry Fradkin and Jamie Shalves. She noted that two additional people will be working on the Medway plan as the process continues.

At this time, Ms. Goldson reviewed some tips on managing the images on everyone's screen as well as helpful tools on the best way to participate in tonight's forum. Included in this was a link for Polling and Open Questions, Chat, Q&A with Upvoting, and Open Comments (when a participant can be unmuted).

Continuing with the presentation, Ms. Goldson reviewed the history of Medway as it began as a farming community. In mid-20th century, the community experienced rapid growth, often the result of increased use of automobiles and communities spreading out. There are still historic homes and farms within the community. Next she explored the trends in population growth which highlighted a couple points of surges in population. In order to move forward with the initiative, one must know things about the community: What do we value? What are the challenges? What are the assets? What can we learn from previous Master Plans and related initiatives?

At this time, Ms. Goldson indicated ways registered participants are able to participate in the forum, either by web voting or text voting. Those wishing to speak will need to use the Raise Hand icon to be recognized. Participant responses to questions will be recorded by JM Goldson staff via the voting link and will be shared on the committee's webpage.

Ms. Goldson posed the following questions to attendees, noting that her staff was recording their responses upon electronic submittal:

- ***When did you come to Medway (including if you were born here)?***
- ***If a visitor comes to Medway, where do you take them?***

Next Ms. Goldson reviewed Master Plan Fundamentals noting that a Master Plan is a policy document to help local decision-makers make long-range plans in response to changes over time, specifically, in the areas of Land Use, Transportation, Economic Development, Housing, Natural Resources, Historic and Cultural Resources, Open Space and Recreation, and Public Services and Facilities

A significant sustainability component will be incorporated throughout the Master Plan, predominantly in the areas of social, environment and economics, all interconnected. Ms. Goldson presented her Master Plan Tree comprised of Goals, Vision and Strategies, all based on the community values as they represent trends, issues and other information. It is anticipated that the Master Plan process will take approximately 18 months.

Ms. Goldson outlined the various phases:

- March – June 2021 is Phase 1 - Medway Yesterday & Today;
- July – December 2021 is Phase 2 and will focus on Medway Tomorrow;
- January – May 2022 is Phase 3 Achieving Medway Tomorrow;
- June 2022 – November 2022 is Phase 4 - Plan Finalization & Adoption. Community leaders as well as boards, committees and commissions will have an opportunity to review the plan and submit comments.

Additional questions for attendees:

- ***What is ONE ADJECTIVE/WORD that describes a quality that you love about Medway?***

- ***What are your biggest concerns about the future of Medway?***
- ***What mark do you hope your generation will leave on the town?***
- ***How often have you participated in Town Meeting in Medway in the past 5 years? If you haven't been attending, why?***
- ***If you had \$10 million to improve Medway, what are 1 to 3 things you would do with the funds?***

At this time, Ms. Goldson explained ways the public can be involved, and announced the interactive project website in addition to the MP Committee webpage on the Town of Medway website. The interactive website at <https://medway-master-plan-jmgoldson.hub.arcgiv.com/> will be active in July and will feature a variety of interactive tools. She suggested other ways that people can get involved by talking with friends and neighbors to share thoughts.

This summer, there will be a community survey, both online and hard copy. There will also be opportunities to connect in person with the community at various events over the summer as well as another Community Forum in the fall.

At this time, the presentation was concluded, and participants were invited to speak if they wished to. Comments included the following:

- Exceed disability requirements to more fully meet the needs of handicapped individuals.
- Consider how changes to policies, bylaws, regulations, etc. impact businesses so that the community is business-friendly.
- Desire for the community to continue to support law enforcement
- In favor of a pool and recreational center as it could provide job opportunities for youth and seniors
- General concerns about housing options and how to determine the appropriate supply of various types, i.e., rental vs. ownership to meet needs of those in different places in their lives, i.e., senior or not able to keep up yard
- Concern for how growth is allowed and being able to support that growth (infrastructure); affordable components to new housing.
- Will the Master Plan have an analysis section that addresses costs and benefits for suggested changes, i.e., costs to maintain increase in sidewalks? Also, can we utilize the experiences of other communities?
- Water quality vs. water demand, making sure there is a thoughtful approach to growth as it relates to water supply. How can we do that in a sustainable way?
- Concern about development on the west side of the community and the possibility of improvements to the Route 109 business area. How can we help those living in the newer developments to be able to access the businesses, i.e., public transportation?
- Is it possible to include a requirement that first responders receive training? It was noted that such a requirement could be included in a specialized plan, but not in this particular one.
- Ms. Faina Shapiro, a committee member representing the Board of Assessors, urged the committee to approach this in a way that the financial burden doesn't fall to the residents. Businesses often find working with the Town for licensing and permitting difficult. The more revenue we can bring to the Town, the less we need in taxes from residents. Businesses also need to flourish from the influx of new residents moving here.

Ms. Goldson answered a couple of questions in the Q&A and Chat sections of the Zoom format, emphasizing that people can review materials on the Town website and essentially “spread the word” to get more residents engaged in the discussions. She asked participants to consider holding a “Meeting in a Box” this summer. She reiterated the summer events where information booths will be set up.

At this time, Ms. Chabot asked if attendees had suggestions on other ways to share information that they should share those ideas in the Chat.

Mr. Andy Rodenhiser, Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Board, reported that the Medway Plaza is currently under Site Plan Review with the Planning and Economic Development Board. He urged people to weigh in through the appropriate channels as to changes that have been suggested by the Planning and Economic Development Board and Select Board. Regarding the Town's water supply, he reported that the Town can request a change in how much the Town can pump for water supply; there are state regulations on how much water can be drawn. Water bans are instituted as necessary as part of the requirements that are currently in force with Charles River Pollution Control District (and Mass DEP).

Mr. Dennis Crowley, Select Board, emphasized the need to find ways to get Master Plan Committee information out to residents as there is no town newspaper; not enough people use the Town website to find answers to their questions. He expressed concern that changes are decided by 1-2% of the population who are actively engaged. Ms. Goldson noted that tonight's attendance is generally what she has seen in other communities; family commitments, work, and other factors will affect the amount of time people can devote to a single meeting. Outreach will continue throughout the process as well as getting to places where people are already gathering, creation of digital tools that can be accessed at their convenience, and holding additional meetings

Ms. Affleck-Childs pointed out that, ultimately, the Planning and Economic Development Board is authorized by state law as the entity to adopt a Master Plan. Typically, this Board also brings the Master Plan to Town Meeting for an affirmation of the presented plan. Mr. Rodenhiser added that the Town has several different strategic plans currently in existence that address specific areas or topics.

It was noted that tonight's forum was invaluable in that people could participate easily, and it is hoped that there will be legislative support to modify the Open Meeting Law to continue to allow increased remote participation and allow communities to customize their own policies for such meetings.

At 9:05 PM the Community Forum component of the meeting was concluded. It is noted that a summary of the questions and responses will be attached to these minutes. **(See Attached summary prepared by JM Goldson).**

At this time, Ms. Chabot asked the committee members to turn on their videos and unmute themselves. She thanked all attendees for taking part, inviting them to stay tuned into the rest of the MP Committee meeting if they wished to do so.

Approval of April 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes

There were suggested edits, some of which will be researched by reviewing the video and attendance list. It was decided to postpone approval of the minutes until the next meeting. It was also suggested that meeting materials or a meeting summary can be attached to the meeting minutes in an effort to reduce details or lists within the minutes.

Other Business That May Come Before the Committee

With regard to social media comments about the Master Plan, members can certainly post meeting information and locations. Ms. Chabot emphasized that members should not respond to questions, but instead refer people to the Committee and project websites, particularly if the poster's comment contains inaccurate information. Brief discussion followed. Ms. Susan Dietrich suggested a statement be prepared to place on the Committee's web page to indicate that members will not respond to social media statements and to encourage people to correspond directly with the MP Committee via email.

Next Steps

Ms. Affleck-Childs reported that future meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of the month with the next meeting scheduled for June 28. Do we want to stick with the 7 pm start time? Brief discussion followed that, as meetings must now be held in-person, the 7 pm start time allows members to have time to get to the meeting room. 6:30 pm was also suggested as a start time which was amenable to a majority of members. Meetings will be held in the School Committee Presentation room at the Middle School. It is the only room large enough for this type of meeting and has all the broadcast capabilities. She will send out a schedule of meeting dates.

Ms. Chabot reiterated that nine members will be required to constitute a quorum, and those nine people must be present in the room. Please let us know if you cannot attend or will be late so that we know if we will have a quorum.

Adjourn

At 9:32 PM Ms. Kripowicz made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Raposa seconded. No discussion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 17-0-0 (Arbeene, aye; Atwood, aye; Bergeron, aye; Chabot, aye; Dietrich, aye; Foresto, aye; Hillery, aye; Khalsa, aye; Kripowicz, aye; Legee, aye; McKenzie, aye; Raposa, aye; Reynolds, aye; Rossi, aye; Shapiro, aye; Siekierski, aye; Wolfe, aye)

*Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Galliard
Night Board Secretary*

*Reviewed and edited by,
Susan E. Affleck-Childs
Planning and Economic Development Coordinator*

J M GOLDSON

EMPOWERING PEOPLE — CREATING COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FORUM #1 SUMMARY

Prepared by JM Goldson LLC 6/14/2021

SUMMARY

The Medway Master Plan Committee hosted the first community forum on May 24, 2021, to introduce the community to the master planning process and gather initial community feedback. The community forum was presented by consultants from JM Goldson LLC and a panel consisting of Master Plan Committee members and staff from the Department of Community and Economic Development. The presentation began at 7:00 pm and lasted approximately two hours, including a question-and-answer portion at the end.

The forum was an opportunity both for the planning team to detail the process around creating a master plan and for gathering community input on several general topics. Jenn Goldson led the presentation, beginning with a brief overview of the history of Medway. She then introduced attendees to the fundamentals of master planning – the elements of a master plan, the commitment to interweaving sustainability, and the timeline of the planning process.

Participants were invited to interact with the presentation through a series of polling questions, via the chat, and through the Q&A feature. The polling questions, which showed responses across the screen as they were submitted, asked participants about the qualities they love about Medway, their concerns about the future of Medway, the things they hope will never change, and more. These responses are summarized in the following pages and listed in full in the appendix.

After the polling questions, attendees were informed about other ways to be involved in the process over the next year. These engagement opportunities include “Meeting in a Box”, the community survey and project website, and the fall community forum. Lastly, participants were invited to raise their hands and ask questions to Jenn before the meeting was called to a close.

PARTICIPANTS

Not including the panelists, 93 participants were in attendance. When asked when they came to Medway (including if they were born in the town), 40 percent of participants marked that they came to Medway in 2010 or after. About 28 percent said between 2000 and 2009, and 22 percent said between 1980 and 1999. About 3 percent of participants marked that they did not live in Medway.

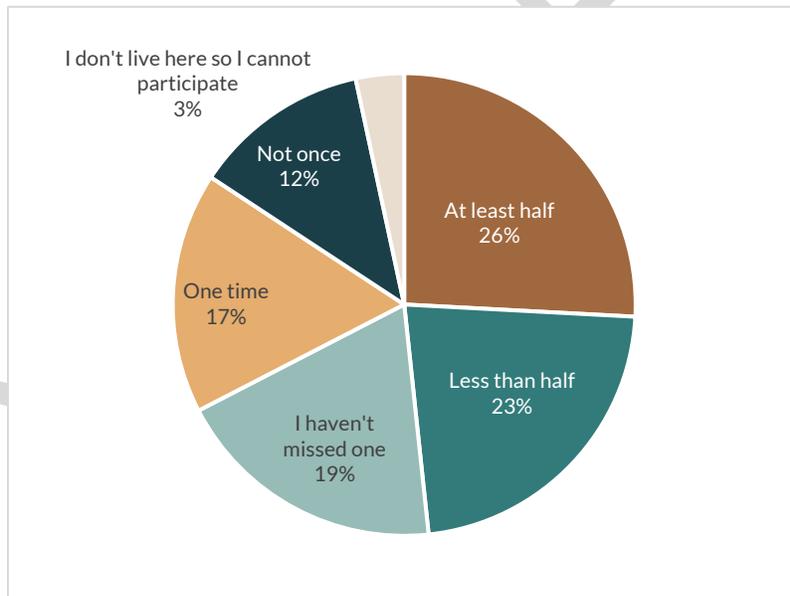
What are your biggest concerns about the future of Medway?

The concerns that participants mentioned in response to this question were varied. Some expressed concern over increased density, traffic, and a loss of the small-town feel. Others expressed concerns over the lack of affordable or rental housing. Diversity and inclusion were often commented on, with participants lamenting Medway’s lack of racial diversity. Other issues that came up in this polling question included high taxes, the state of the Medway Plaza, schools, water quality, and lack of sidewalks.

What mark do you hope your generation will leave on the town?

Several popular responses to this question included retaining a professional and fiscally responsible local government, a more diverse housing stock, a commitment to and celebration of arts and culture, and historic preservation. Several responses were given to this question regarding the support of law enforcement, diversity in Medway, and the presence of critical race theory in Medway schools, showing some tension among community members around these topics. Several responses were positive and indicated that residents thought that there were elements of Medway that they hoped extended into the future, such as open space, community feel, and schools. Others hoped for a future in Medway that was more welcoming, diverse, and vibrant than the Medway today.

How often have you participated in Town Meeting in Medway in the past five years?



About a quarter of attendees indicated that they have participated in at least half of Town Meetings in the past five years, and 19 percent said that they haven’t missed one. About 12 percent have not been to Town Meeting once. When asked what is keeping people from attending town meeting, some participants replied in the chat. Most said that Town Meeting falls around bedtime for their children, or that they cannot find childcare. Others expressed that the meeting seems daunting in its length and requirement of certain knowledge.

If you had \$10 million to improve Medway, what are one to three things you would do with the funds?

Attendees had several different ideas in response to this question. A couple standouts that were reiterated by multiple participants were the creation of a community center, infrastructure improvements, the building of a downtown area, investing in the arts, and committing to better

education by funding schools. The improvement of the Medway Plaza and the creation of some sort of swimming facility in town were also frequently mentioned. Some specific ideas included an investment in STEM education in K-12 schools, investing in adult education about town government to increase engagement, building a baseball complex, and retrofitting parking lots with green infrastructure.

DRAFT

ATTACHMENTS

Questions and Comments

DRAFT

Questions and Comments

Questions from the Q&A Feature:

1. Does the goal of working towards being a welcoming, inclusive, and diverse community fit in with this project?
 - a. Great question Cyndy, absolutely! Part of what we want to capture are any potential barriers to making the community welcoming and inclusive, and work towards strategies that can help to reduce or eliminate those barriers.
2. Relating 2009 issue (sidewalks) with the new housing development on 109 near Star Market, will the town be adding a sidewalk on that side of the road that the apartment building will be on?
 - a. Making a more walkable community has been a big focus for Medway and will continue to be a goal for our community. Individual sidewalks like the one you mentioned are handled on the town level, so I would encourage you to reach out to the town office to get more specific direction about that sidewalk plan.
3. Why isn't more than half but not everyone a choice
 - a. Hi Maria, I think that knowing that someone attends more than half of the meetings shows meaningful attendance. Thanks for your critique of the answers though!
 - b. Hi Maria! Town meeting is 2 times a year, so in the past 5 years there would have been 10 town meetings. Just answer the best you can! If you have ideas on how to get more participation, we would love to hear them!
4. But shouldn't this aspect with regards to new developments be acknowledged so that it can be addressed in the master plan? Especially as the 2009 master plan talked about how many people lived near the commercial area and the walkability aspect.
 - a. Yes we should absolutely talk about walkability and how to improve that within the town! Development is also very important, and I fully expect both aspects to be addressed in the master plan. Your original question asked about a specific sidewalk, which the Master plan does not address since the master plan is a roadmap. I hope that helps clarify
5. Who ultimately approves the master plan? When is it slated to be approved?
 - a. live answered: The planning and economic development board has the authority to approve the master plan and it would be approved probably in September 2022.
6. How can we (on the call) help to get more engagement?
 - a. Thanks for the offer to help, we will continue to share information through the project website and on social media. Helping to lead a "meeting in a box" group is one great way to get involved, also spreading the word about upcoming meetings.
7. Can we also talk about how non-residential districts and mixed-use districts/zones can better interact with nearby and abutting residential properties, particularly historic/antique properties and established residential areas with open space that developers may want to develop in? "Not in my backyard" and resistance to new developments starts with mistrust that property integrity will be compromised.
 - a. Thanks for bringing that up Janine, we will be digging into land use and zoning in both the existing conditions report and in later phases as we work towards goals and strategies.

Questions and Comments from the Chat Feature

In response to the question about a word to describe Medway:

1. **peaceful because it feels like a calm place to come back to after a busy workday**
2. **Coming together working as a community as we do now**
3. **Farm community**

Other comments:

1. **Best Town Center - Franklin.**
2. **"Diversity but not at the risk of unity" == "subtle and overt racism"**
3. **True town center is absent, create a centralized community center vs separate villages**

In response to the poll question about Town Meeting attendance:

1. **Not once - we recently moved so just starting to get engaged!**
2. **I've been here for 8 years now my kids are in the schools and I am getting more involved. I would like to start**
3. **Not able to drive at night.**
4. **One time- new to town, first year felt knew enough about what was going on to participate**
5. **Child-care in the gym would allow both parents of small children participate in town meeting.**
6. **For people with young children, attending a multi-hour meeting in-person on a weekday evening is a major challenge. Personally, I would love it if there were an option to participate virtually/remotely (like this meeting - I wouldn't be here if it were in person)**
7. **It is challenging to attend Town Meeting when you have young children, and even harder when your children have special needs. Town Meeting occurs during bedtime, and while babysitting services through the NHS have been offered in the past, it does not always work for families with special needs children.**
8. **I have only participated once due to my work schedule, but also, I wasn't as engaged as I should be.**
9. **Logistics with kids and schedules are a barrier**
10. **Town meetings occur during critical family time. Need for residents to go to 100s of sub-committee meetings to understand what is being voted on at town meeting. It could be a full-time job to learn what is going on. Huge need to summarize and keep residents up to date.**
11. **The meetings typically overlap with kids bedtime**
12. **it was very difficult to attend when our children were young.**
13. **have kids it is tough to get to town meeting regularly**
14. **For me, especially with the past year and the pandemic, having this virtually made it easier to attend. With children and bedtime, this virtual session made it easier to attend.**
15. **Note- only one of us was able to attend town meeting because one partner has to stay home to put kids to bed**
16. **Digital meetings, like this one, help me to attend more town events, Select Board meeting, etc.**
17. **time demands on family make this sometimes very difficult**
18. **This is probably silly, but I have this fear town meeting will run 3+ hours and I can't commit to that. I would love to know how long it is going to run.**
19. **I only retired in the last 2 years and worked nights so had to miss the town meetings**

- 20. I find town meetings archaic, boring and one-sided so I have attended only half
- 21. town meetings are very "political" moderator is intimidating to new people that want to participate
- 22. If need to ask a question at town meeting frequently people get 'shot down' as they don't know or use Roberts Rule of Order-- lack of compassion for teaching others. Holliston does a great job to inform residents on what folks are voting (for/against) at town meeting.

In response to using funds to improve Medway:

- 1. That is provide ADA - compliance sidewalks for all current sidewalks - especially around school districts
- 2. Yes I meant a live performance theater
- 3. critical race theory has NO place in school
- 4. buy more land equals preserving more land
- 5. shopping center = Medway plaza
- 6. Stop focusing on sports only -- it's become a community that only comes together if you are involved in sports. So many kids/families are 'left' out of community building if they are interested in the arts.
- 7. Roads -- so many roads are filled with potholes, and where critical traffic routes, it is not safe to walk. There is a plan, but many urgent needs will not be fixed for 5+ years
- 8. stoplight is SOOOO needed. Accident rate is super high
- 9. A inn or hotel for people to stay, visit, spend money at local businesses, participate in town events ;)
- 10. Whatever we can get for \$10M - I'd love both but would prefer indoor.
- 11. equestrian trails would be nice
- 12. Barry -- yes, stoplight comment is in reference to 126/summer street. It's like playing frogger. People drive so super-fast.
- 13. I cannot ever imagine swimming in choate park no matter what they do to it. The number of birds that live there versus the size - that water can't be saved! It also gets very very crowded there and I don't think you could control visitors.
- 14. It would be nice to equally fund both sporting aspects and cultural aspects of the town.
- 15. Choate never works...the water that flows into it is overloaded with nitrates and ecological waste from wildlife.
- 16. Will you be making notes about what can't be done within the town - ie what can't be done due to extraordinarily expensive insurance costs? (ie is town-owned pool completely out of the realm, and if so, let us know now, so we can move forward).
 - a. Hi Susan, when we get further into the project and develop specific strategies, those will be characterized in terms of estimated costs - something like a Zagat scale (from 1-4 dollar signs)
- 17. Buffer zones to residential areas is highly needed -- industrial creep (most recently town proposed rezoning of residential to industrial, only 50 yards from a neighborhood!)

Other comments and questions:

- 18. Also nice to have a virtual option so more people can attend!
- 19. Please keep virtual an option. Many of us are parents w/o child care options

- a. Thank you for that note - future in-person meetings should be available to stream through your local cable station, and we will continue to offer interactive polling options like what we did tonight.
20. (Village street center/square) It is a historic district, improvements, and incentives to energize that section of town would go a long way. It is a great attribute to this community so development should be carefully guided. Thank you!
21. As a parent of a child with disabilities -- I agree -- school couldn't accommodate my child w/o getting a lawyer involved!
22. Agree that an option to participate virtually in future meetings would be much appreciated
23. Perhaps the YMCA would be interested in coming to the town, to support Holliston/Medway/Millis areas...
24. Adding all attendees to this - maybe there can be a YMCA organization that wants to create a community place for Medway/Millis/Holliston, etc. together.
25. Great point, Jessica. Hudson is a great example. Natick as well
26. With the most recent boom in moving out of the cities, will your report include the housing changes that happened in the last year, what are already in the works for the next few years, and where we stand.
 - a. Hi Susan, we will be looking at the most recent information available to us, and we recognize that the last year has potentially been an anomaly in housing patterns so will be sure to incorporate as much recent data as possible.
27. Various boards should work more effectively together to make processes more efficient and streamline. Eliminate redundancy and cross over. A consistent message can be delivered, and results will be more desirable
28. Good comment about the YM/YWCA as community center host, worth looking into
29. Is the owner of the Medway Plaza involved with the town in this planning?
30. it looks like 100 or so people do not make up enough of the town population. How do we plan on getting a larger audience to be a better resource or thoughts?
31. Meeting in a Box, online survey that will be live this summer
32. I do feel there is not attention brought to these meetings
33. as the restrictions lift please don't forget the power of the online forum, much easier to participate virtually for peke
34. Jessica... Medway Business Council will help get the word out via our website, email newsletter and social media platforms.
35. Meeting in a Box and Events need promotion and regular reminders
36. Other places to connect with the community: set up a table at the soccer fields (last games for in town youth soccer are June 6), set up tables at the baseball complex - there is also summer baseball. You could ask the schools about allowing a table to inform and reach people during getting back to school events in August. For instance, you might catch people whose oldest child is just entering kindergarten at Kindergarten Playground Night and they do not know as much about what is going on in town yet.

Live Q&A

1. One of the things I'd really like to see in Medway is that we exceed disability requirements and standards in the town, so helping people in their wheelchairs or toilet seats you say "oh, we've met the requirement" but are we really meeting the needs of people with disabilities? So, I wanted to add that we pay attention to those things.

- a. Jenn: Thank you for offering that.
2. I appreciate that this isn't focusing strictly on land use. I think it's really important as the town and committee put this together to try as it relates to business expansion and business locating in our community that the policies, whether they are zoning bylaws, site plan review, zoning board of appeals processes, wetland protection bylaw, that we look at things in such a way that we are welcoming as opposed to discouraging business and industry expansion in our community. I am a businessperson in the community, I work with a lot of different business people, and at times I know from firsthand experience as well as working with others that it has been challenging because instead of having policies that are welcoming and encouraging there are policies which are discouraging and controlling. And there's a balance between the two. I truly hope as this process moves forward that there's a considerable amount of sensitivity to trying to be encouraging of business as opposed to discouraging.
 - a. Jenn – thank you for your comments.
3. I just wanted to say I support Paul's comments earlier about making sure we're looking at the underpinnings of what would encourage small business in particular to really take root and thrive here in our town. And also just in the political climate and changes, (change is a good thing) I just wanna continue to make sure Medway really supports their law enforcement. I know in lots of communities in the US when there's been changes, that's been highly politicized but I just want to make sure that they have a voice and are very well supported as we look at changing demographics, that kind of thing.
 - a. Jenn – Thanks for your comments.
4. I was one of the many people who asked after a town/community pool and recreation center, one of the reasons being not only for the community engagement aspect and recreation aspect of it, but a concern I have as a parent of three young children that there are not many job opportunities for our youth in particular, I would say both our youth and our elderly in the town. A community rec center is something that could help provide employment opportunities for local people, particularly youth and elderly. So, I wanted to see what might be done along the veins of businesses and encouraging employment opportunities and such that that be taken into consideration as well, as not just an amenity but something that would drive employment in the community.
 - a. Jenn – that's an interesting perspective, thank you for sharing that.
5. I was just going to say – I didn't see a lot of comments about diverse housing – I've seen a lot over recent months a lot of strife over developers coming in and putting in a lot of multifamily homes and complexes but I also can see the other side of things that we do need places for aging communities to live, or people who don't necessarily have the ability to own a home or just need a smaller place to live. A lot of people are always asking for renting opportunities in Medway, and I think that it might be good to look at that as a whole and say if housing is posed, how much of it do we want to be certain types of housing (condos or apt complexes). Some people argue that they only want to see single family homes but it's just not practical, especially with a generation of people coming up that may not be able to afford single family homes for a while – we don't want them to leave because then we won't be able to sustain. We need a variety of people in different walks of life in the community to keep it growing.
 - a. Jenn – thank you for that.

6. I just had a question along that vein. Janine, you raised a great point. I know several people that had to move out of Medway because they could no longer afford it, but I know on the other hand sometimes when changes like that are made...In your experience, Jenn, what helps a town adopt, whether it's socioeconomic diversity, whatever, and remain thriving and growing and safe? What are the components that go along with that? There's certainly examples of even towns – I could list a few – where those shifts were made and they were really well intentioned, but the infrastructure wasn't there to help them grow and thrive, keep crime down, that sort of thing.
 - a. Jenn: I can answer you very generally, but there's not one sort of pat answer. I would say being really strategic over where you want to see growth and how growth could actually support other objectives like your economic development, business vibrancy. Looking at areas like that and at your natural resources, but also affordable housing – not just market rate housing but housing that is affordable like even if it's not technically on the SHI but affordable to people but in the community and outside of the community. And so when people are in unaffordable situations that's where we have a lot of hardship, that people are struggling with. So, you see a lot of negative impacts because people are really struggling. So, I would say affordable housing, rental housing, and being strategic about where you are looking for different types of housing in the community and where do you have access to services, access to businesses, access to transportation.
 - b. Jessica: Yeah, like just making sure that we educate people, like myself, because some people hear that and are like "no way" but if they hear that the other things are along with it to support Medway's growth and prevent economic depression and the trends that go along with that I think would be almost like keeping ahead of what people would be concerned about. Those kind of changes, you know.
7. I have a couple of different questions. Question A is as we have dreamt about some of the good stuff we would like in town, as you compile that and study it and incorporate it into a master plan, will there be, for example, pros and cons. Sidewalks: you can add sidewalks and it costs X dollars to install and Y dollars to maintain. Will the master plan have an analysis section to it that pulls out pros and cons, or costs and benefits? My second question is: some of our wish list stuff, or some parts of our town infrastructure, particularly roads, and maybe business development, may hinge on what other towns do. So, I just wanted to know if there's any kind of regionality or overview that encompasses more than just Medway as part of this master plan development. If we see like Holliston needs to do X if we need to do Y, that kind of thing.
 - a. Jenn – the short answer is yes, to both. So, in terms of your first question about pros and cons and cost and benefits, yeah that's really part of phase II when we start to dream but we also start to prioritize a bit. So, after we sort of lay the groundwork with the vision, we get folks to prioritize. You know if you can't afford everything where are the priorities. So, let's take sidewalks as your example: maybe sidewalks all over town on every street and to every location isn't feasible in the next ten years but maybe there are some strategic locations, like sidewalks around schools, maybe some ways to prioritize where the sidewalks are and how much can really be done in the next ten years logistically. Then when you get into phase III that's when you really get into the strategies, and looking at potential funding sources, staffing

capacity in the community, also political feasibility – not just pros and cons around can we afford this but also looking at what is politically feasible in this community, and what is more pie in the sky, needs more groundwork. So that's how we'll look at pros and cons, cost and benefit, but I want to manage your expectation a little – often in Master plans, they will indicate areas that need more study. So we can say something was ranked as a high priority and we can say that these areas are where the priorities are within this larger category, and the town could have access to funding potentially, and so more study will now be needed to delve into those details of how you really accomplish that...The second question you had was about the regionality and yeah so when you see we're gonna be submitting an existing conditions report and it does look at regionality around any of the topics wherever its applicable, so looking at regional housing needs, what's going on in the region economically as well as transportation so I would say yes, but with a bit of a caveat. I don't want your expectation to be that for roads, for example, that we'll have a really detailed study showing what's going on in Holliston and what are the traffic counts but based on my first answer you get what I'm saying – the answer is yes but with caveats, with limitations.

8. I just wanted to speak to one point and one of the things I did add as a comment, but it relates to the overall thought of growth, which is our water quality and our water demand. So, making sure that there's a lot of conscious thought to how we allow the growth and balance that with our current water supply, which is pretty limited – people can't water their lawns, we're always in a drought state, our water bills just went up triple at least for the majority of the population which was pretty unfortunate and without warning. So, when our water prices are going up, our water demand is high, we can't get water because we're in a drought state, and on top of it the water quality is terrible. We must have a new water treatment plant which is going to cost our community a ton of money, so taking that into consideration to are we gonna do that in a sustainable way? Are there ways to do our water better? I hope that is something we can bring to this table for discussion because I think it's a really important resource that we take for granted and we need to be more thoughtful about it.
 - a. Jenn – thank you so much Andrea.
9. One thing that didn't come up – we've got two new larger developments happening here in town, on the west side of town near the Bellingham line there's the glen brook development where there will be affordable housing and then a second phase for elder housing there, and then there's the apartment complex being built on the eastern side of 109 where there will be a number of apartments, and ultimately the town is looking to develop the oak grove area near the industrial sites, and if we're able to do something to improve the 109 area. One thing that didn't come up is how can some of the people that are living in the new housing at either end of town potentially get to some of the businesses, what can we do to help some of the small businesses, consideration of transportation, whether its shuttle services or something like that that would benefit the residents, benefit the small businesses, bring more life and activity into our town.
 - a. Jenn – great, thank you Ann
10. My question was would the ten-year plan be restricted to plans or the opportunity for first responders to receive any specific trainings and if it's not restricted, I didn't mention

before, but it just came to be now about the possibility of having sensory inclusive training for first responders, because that is something that is coming of need, especially for people who are in the autistic community or who have sensory needs or invisible disabilities.

- a. Jenn – thank you, yes something like that could be included in the types of master plans we do, because we don't just focus on physical attributes of the town but town services as well and community and social needs.

11. As a member of the board of Assessors, I think we have so many great ideas of improving the town and I just want to make sure that we think about doing this in a way that we're not putting the burden on the residents. We're trying to make it possible so that's why it's more important that we come up with regulations and policies in place and improve what we currently have. Businesses find it's not easy to go through the town to get approval and such, so I think we really need to focus on improving that because the more businesses we have in the town the less our taxes are, the more revenue we bring to the town, especially with all the developments coming into the town and new construction, we have an opportunity to have more consumers. So that's a great thing for our town and we wanna make sure we have the businesses that can flourish from an abundance of new consumers. I just wanna say a couple of these things go together and we can figure out how to make them work together and give opportunity to both, the better our town will be.

- a. Jenn – thank you so much.

12. Couple things – first off, the Medway Plaza is under a site plan right now and its arguably a contentious experience as a planning board members, we're working with them and we're really working hard to get them to agree to do things. It would be great if a lot of people participated from the public at that meeting to let them know how you feel about that plaza. I think the 5 planning board members have tried to be as professional as possible, and so this is an opportunity. I've participated in meetings with members of the board of selectmen trying to convince them to really make some changes and it's a struggle. As much public participation that would support the changes that we're advocating at that site plan process would be great to have public support. Also, one of the comments that was made about water – if we can justify the use of more water, we can get a change in our water withdrawal permit from DEP. The conservation efforts that DEP wants us to undertake is why the water ban is on. We can pump more, but they don't want us to. So that's why its typically instituted in summertime because it's a conservation effort, that we're required to do as part of our condition to withdraw the water that we do withdraw. I'm more concerned about sewer capacity, and I know that the town is working with the Charles River pollution control district to negotiate for more sewer capacity.

13. Two comments – there was a comment that Andrea had made, there were answers to all the questions she raised and there were good questions she raised, but the problem we're having is getting that type of info out to the residents, and we need to find a way to get some of this info out to the residents, we don't have a local paper. The only way is to sign on to the town website to get the info. One of the charges we should be doing is finding a better way to communicate to the residents, so they don't ask the type of questions we already have answers for. Not enough people realize or use the town website or know how to get that info. The second comment I wanted to make was that I think we need to find a way to expand this type of communications with other residents. What I'm concerned about, we have less than 1% voting residents on this conference. I don't want to have the

future of the town for the next ten years decided by 1 or 2 percentages of the residents in the town, so the challenge for your staff is to find out how we can get more participation from more of the residents, so we have more input on what their ideas and what their future needs are.

- a. Jenn – thank you Dennis. I can give you a short answer. We don't expect 100 people or more coming to a forum like this as what we see in most communities. I think that the town of Medway did an incredible job doing outreach, but how many people can devote two hours of their evening. I do want to say that our philosophy of engagement is not that one event in and of itself will get thousands of people to come, but over the course of phase I and Phase II and into phase III we're going to continue to do outreach, go to where people already are gathering, make community input easier than sitting through a two hour forum....and so cumulatively, over the course of the engagement, we hope to engage a lot of people.