

Boxborough Master Plan Update



Public Kickoff and Visioning Forum
Wednesday, November 19, 2014 @ 7:00 PM
Grange Meeting Room, Town Hall, 29 Middle Road

Pursuant to State law, the Town is required to have a Master Plan. The last Master Plan for Boxborough was completed in January of 2002, and after 12 years, it is no longer relevant. Therefore, Town staff and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) will be producing an updated Master Plan for the Town. This Master Plan Update will serve as Boxborough's decision-making guide for land use, open space, housing, economic development, and other areas over the next ten years, through 2025. At the Public Kickoff and Visioning Forum participants will provide input on materials drafted by MAPC and Town staff to formulate a vision for the town that will help guide the community over the next ten years.

For more information or to sign up for the Master Plan Update email list, please contact Town Planner Adam Duchesneau, AICP at ADuchesneau@Boxborough-MA.gov or 978-264-1723.

Reasons for a Community to Undertake a Master Plan (Update)

- 1) A Master Plan allows a community to reach consensus on the direction it wants to take regarding land use, open space, housing, economic development, energy, health, etc.
- 2) It can think comprehensively about how all the pieces of a community fit together, not just land use or transportation on their own, but how the systems work together to form a community.
- 3) It can plan proactively for the future desired by its residents and be less subject to reactive planning once something is proposed in town. The Master Plan sets the vision and the action steps, and can be a way to compare proposals against the agreed upon vision.
- 4) It allows a community to become more proactive and access grant programs and new State initiatives because it has discussed these issues. It shows the Town is ready to possibly update zoning.
- 5) It hears from the residents, landowners, and business owners what they would like to see as the future of the community.
- 6) It learns new methods for implementation options to get to the future the residents, landowners, and business owners desire.
- 7) It also learns about new opportunities the Town was not previously aware of (e.g. a regional greenway network or an opportunity for regional collaboration on development) and can plan for changing demographics such as an aging population and foreign born populations.
- 8) It investigates and incorporates appropriate new ideas related to planning that were not around the last time the community undertook a plan (update) (such as Low Impact Development, 40R Smart Growth Zoning, municipal energy planning, Community Preservation Act implementation, agricultural preservation planning, etc.).
- 9) It finds creative ways to preserve what is best/most cherished in the community while still allowing/encouraging economic development and conversely, clearly communicating to developers what those expectations and norms are. Like good zoning, a Master Plan can also help attract developers interested in building the type of growth desired. Having a plan with a community supported vision provides developers greater confidence that their proposal will be approved if it is in line with the vision.
- 10) It encourages more residents to get involved in shaping the future of the town, which creates buy-in from new advocates for the plan when implementation actions are needed at Town Meeting.
- 11) It provides a basis for funding and resource requests and demonstrates a shared set of priorities for implementation.



"A goal without a plan is just a dream..."

