Dartmouth Master Plan

Discovery Workshop

Thursday - June 13, 2019

Town Hall - 400 Slocum Road
Agenda for Today

This is a very basic, **big picture, forward-thinking** conversation where we want to hear from you.

- 6:30 - 6:45:  Introductions
- 6:45 - 7:10:  Master Plan Introduction and Information Presentation
- 7:10 - 7:25:  Map Board Review and Refreshments!
- 7:25 - 8:25:  Discussion Groups
- 8:25 - 8:30:  Closing Remarks, Voting, Adjourn
What is SRPEDD’s role here?

- Listen to you
- Understand your goals and priorities for Dartmouth
- Gather, analyze, and present information
- Help make a plan that responds to your goals

**Community-Driven Goals**

**Who/What Info**

**Planning**

What opportunities do we have?

What actions are needed?

What resources are required?

Who’s in charge?

What are the main hurdles?
What is a Master Plan?

In accordance with Massachusetts General Law:

*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. The comprehensive plan shall be internally consistent in its policies, forecasts and standards . . . [M.G.L. c. 41, s. 81D]*

Long-term typically interpreted as a 5 to 10 year “life” or “planning horizon”
What is a Master Plan?

*State Requirements - M.G.L. c. 41, s. 81D directs Planning Boards to prepare a Master Plan with the following chapters (aka “elements”):*

- Statement of Goals and Policies
- Land Use
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Natural and Cultural Resources
- Open Space and Recreation
- Services and Facilities
- Transportation and Circulation
- Implementation Strategies
- *Climate Change and Resiliency*

Comprehensive analysis of all aspects of community development
What is a Master Plan?

A plan for a community’s physical growth
What is a Master Plan?

A guide for local public policy

- Bylaws
- Land preservation
- Targeted economic development
- Prioritize conservation areas
- Allocate funds for capital improvements
- Advocate for needed services
Why Create a Master Plan?

A Master Plan helps municipalities to:

- Promote orderly and predictable development
- Provide clarity to property owners, developers, and permitting authorities
- Promote open, transparent decision-making
- Set priorities for developing and maintaining infrastructure and public facilities
- Protect environmental resources
- Strengthen local identity
What type of information do we consider?

- land use patterns
- zoning and laws
- town priority areas
- ownership and rights
- facilities and assets
- water resources
- conservation
- habitat areas
- agriculture
- transportation
- crash rates
- environmental hazards
- land values
- development history
- demographic and economic trends

and ...
most importantly, your community’s character, input, and goals.

- Public Workshops
- Table Events
- Website and Facebook
- Comment Cards
- Master Plan Committee
- Existing Plans

A Master Plan is a long-range policy document that guides community decision-making. It describes the experience of living in town today, and articulates the strategies, actions, goals, and priorities that will propel Dartmouth toward the optimal vision of its future.

Your input – Dartmouth residents, business owners, and workforce members – is the essential ingredient that builds Dartmouth’s Master Plan! Get involved at the outset by attending the kick-off Discovery Workshop, where we begin the discussion and the exciting process of hearing as many local voices as possible on the direction of future community development.

Please visit our website or facebook page for more information

Project Webpage
www.srpedd.org/Dartmouth-Master-Plan

Project Facebook
www.facebook.com/dartmouthmasterplan
Opportunities to Participate

Help Shape Dartmouth’s Future!
Your Town Needs Your Input!

WORKSHOP #1
- June 2019
- Vision

WORKSHOP #2
- October 2019
- Land Use
- Housing
- Economic Development

WORKSHOP #3
- January 2020
- Open Space & Recreation
- Natural & Cultural Resources

WORKSHOP #4
- March 2020
- Climate & Resiliency

WORKSHOP #5
- May 2020
- Services & Facilities
- Transportation & Circulation

OPEN HOUSE
- June 2020
- Implementation
- All Final Draft Elements
Baseline Information
Dartmouth’s population boomed in the 1990s and early 2000s. The rate has slowed. Dartmouth is now growing at a slower rate than Bristol County.
Dartmouth’s median age increased by 2.7 years from 2000 - 2017. The share of older, “Retirement Age” people is increasing.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census; ACS 2013-2017 5-year estimates
Overall, Dartmouth’s student population declined by about 10% between 2009 and 2019.
Compared to figures recorded from 1999, the largest changes have occurred in the residential and open space categories.
Household Trends

Average household size has decreased slightly.

- **2000**: 2.60
- **2010**: 2.54
- **2017**: 2.48

**40.4%** of Dartmouth households include a person age **65+** (up from **32.0%** in 2000)

**25.9%** of households are single-person households (of the **25.9%** of single-person households **60.6%** are over 65 years old)

**27.4%** of households include children under 18 (down from **34.6%** in 2000)
Slightly more than a quarter of owner households are housing cost burdened, whereas over 30% of renters are burdened.

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI)

In order to gain more control over the Chapter 40B process, Dartmouth must have 10% of its housing stock on the state SHI or meet annual production goals. It currently has 8.2%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Total Housing Units, 2010</th>
<th>SHI Units</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dartmouth</td>
<td>11,775</td>
<td>971</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall River</td>
<td>42,650</td>
<td>4,751</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freetown</td>
<td>3,263</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Bedford</td>
<td>42,816</td>
<td>5,110</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westport</td>
<td>6,417</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development
Median Household Income in Dartmouth (2017) is estimated at $72,742.

This is lower than median incomes in the SRPEDD region, but higher than incomes in Bristol County:

- **Bristol County**: $62,514
- **SRPEDD Region**: $80,200
- **Massachusetts**: $74,167
## Jobs by Sector (2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 - Construction</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>649</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-33 - Manufacturing</td>
<td>886</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42 - Wholesale Trade</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>-11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>44-45 - Retail Trade</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,890</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,085</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48-49 - Transportation and Warehousing</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 - Information</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>46.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52 - Finance and Insurance</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53 - Real Estate and Rental and Leasing</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>54 - Professional and Technical Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>265</strong></td>
<td><strong>385</strong></td>
<td><strong>45.3%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 - Administrative and Waste Services</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>42.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 - Educational Services</td>
<td>1,968</td>
<td>2,136</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>62 - Health Care and Social Assistance</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,081</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,228</strong></td>
<td><strong>37.2%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71 - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>-2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72 - Accommodation and Food Services</td>
<td>1,975</td>
<td>2,067</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81 - Other Services, Except Public Administration</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>-21.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92 - Public Administration</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total, All Industries</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,447</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,649</strong></td>
<td><strong>14.3%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD)

In 2017, the biggest industries in town (in total jobs) were health care and social assistance and retail trade. The biggest growth occurred in information and professional and technical services.
From 2010 to 2017, Dartmouth gained about 2,202 jobs. Job growth was higher than its neighbors, the state, and the region.

Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.
## Top Employers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Number of Employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorn Medical Assoc LLC</td>
<td>500-999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol County Field Svc Div</td>
<td>250-499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol County Sheriff's Ofc</td>
<td>250-499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey Building Products</td>
<td>250-499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Depot</td>
<td>250-499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaw's Supermarket</td>
<td>250-499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Buy</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better Community Living</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BJ’S Wholesale Club</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Woods of Dartmouth Inc</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chartwells</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonial Wholesale Beverage</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Nurse &amp; Hospice Care</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dartmouth High School</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dartmouth Middle School</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye Health Vision Ctr</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorn Medical Urgent Care</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James M Quinn School</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JC Penney</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowe's Home Improvement</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macy's</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Bedford Country Club</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal-Touch Home Care Inc</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeastern Ma Educational</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super Stop &amp; Shop</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tegra Medical LLC</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Roadhouse</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPS Customer Ctr</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Top employers:
- Hawthorn Medical Associates,
- Bristol County,
- Harvey Building Products,
- Home Depot,
- Shaw’s

Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD)
For FY2019, the average single family tax bill in Dartmouth is $4,098, compared to $3,285 in Fall River, $4,322 in Freetown, $3,742 in New Bedford, and $3,553 in Westport.
Significant Habitat Areas

There are approximately 22,000 acres of BioMap2 core and critical habitat in Dartmouth.

Identified priority communities include:

- Alluvial Atlantic white cedar swamp
- Acidic graminoid fen
- Alluvial red maple swamp
- Coastal plain pondshore
- Coastal forest/woodland
- Estuarine coastal salt pond and marsh
- Maritime dune community
- Oak-Holly forest/woodland
- Kettlehole wet meadow
- Coastal interdunal marsh/swale
Miles of Infrastructure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Miles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MassDOT</td>
<td>10.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other State</td>
<td>3.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City/Town</td>
<td>195.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccepted</td>
<td>15.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>225.52</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consider that it is a 215.4 mile trip from Boston to New York! It’s a lot of roadway to maintain.
Climate Impacts

Conclusions from the New England chapter of the Fourth National Climate Assessment:

- Greatest regional increase in extreme precipitation; the number of very heavy events increased by 70% between 1958 and 2010.
- Faster rate of warming; 3 degrees since 1901 and anticipated to reach 3.6 degrees by 2035, two decades before global average temps see an equivalent rise (same for our waters, 3x faster than the global average).
- Faster rate of sea level rise; 3-4x faster than the global average, with estimates of 2ft, 4.5ft, and 11 feet by 2100 for the intermediate-low, intermediate, and worst case scenarios - coastal ecosystems that can’t migrate in time will become submerged, increasing our vulnerabilities.
- Study conducted for Apponagansett Bay and Clarks Cove for storm inundation under SLR scenarios of 1 to 6 feet.
### Housing

**Goals from Previous Plans**
- Diversify Dartmouth's housing stock to create affordable rental and ownership units for families, persons with special needs, and elderly residents (2018 HPP).
- Support elderly and affordable housing opportunities in low- to medium-density settings (2018 HPP).
- Identify zoning alternatives for residential development that preserve the town's character and protect its natural resources from sprawl (2018 HPP).

**Common Questions**
- Are residential options available for households across life stages and circumstances?
- Can people who work in Dartmouth live in Dartmouth?
- Can older residents afford to stay in town? Can young households afford to establish in town?
- How active of a role should the town take in realizing affordable housing?

### Economic Development

**Goals from Previous Plans**
- Promote the practice of farming and retention of agricultural land as an important local economic engine (OSRP 2015).
- Develop an economic development committee and website portal (2016 EDSAT).
- Explore the potential of working more closely with UMass Dartmouth (2016 EDSAT).
- Ensure that commercial uses of the Harbor are quantified and are sufficient to meet local needs (PHMP 2019).

### Open Space & Recreation

**Goals from Previous Plans**
- Provide tools to decision-makers regarding preservation (2015 OSRP).
- Conserve the scenic qualities and rural character of town (2015 OSRP).
- Provide a range of active and passive recreational facilities and programs that address the changing population and population density characteristics (2015 OSRP).
- Increase access to open space and water resources (2015 OSRP).
- Increase public access to the shoreline and water (2007 MP).

**Common Questions**
- What are the town's most important open spaces?
- What open space additions will build on the existing network and contribute to a connected “green infrastructure” system?
- What locations in town would benefit from additional economic growth?
- How does Dartmouth stay competitive with neighboring towns and the region at large?

### Transportation & Circulation

**Goals from Previous Plans**
- Develop a local and regional bikeway system (2015 OSRP).
- Promote a healthy and livable community that encourages multimodal transportation (2015 OSRP).
- Take traffic impacts into account when evaluating zoning changes (2007 MP).
- Mitigate congestion and improve the safety of the transportation system (2007 MP).
- Work with SRTA to improve fixed route transit service and expand existing service areas (2007 MP).

**Common Questions**
- Are there any traffic safety or congestion issues in the transportation network?
- Are there places in town where sidewalks or bike lanes make sense or are needed?
- Would additional forms of public transit be helpful in getting Dartmouth residents where they want to go?
Main Messages

Land Use

GOALS FROM PREVIOUS PLANS
Maintain the rural character in undeveloped and agricultural areas (2007 MP).
Manage commercial areas with high standards for accessibility and compatibility (2007 MP).
Ensure zoning by-laws meet current needs of marine-related businesses (2019 PHMP).

COMMON QUESTIONS
Are the relative shares of land uses or land use trends surprising?
What types of additional land uses or land uses in close proximity would make living in town more convenient or add to quality of life?
What is the best approach for accommodating growth? “Smart growth” style development? Mixed-use? Cognizant of natural hazards?
Are town zoning by-laws overly restrictive? Overly permissive? Missing important elements?

Natural & Cultural Resources

GOALS FROM PREVIOUS PLANS
Increase community awareness of the town’s cultural, historic and natural resource assets (2015 OSRP).
Protect the quality of town natural resources, particularly its water supply and fragile natural resources (2015 OSRP).
Promote the preservation of regionally significant natural resources (2015 OSRP).
Manage growth in a manner that retains natural, cultural, and historic assets (2015 OSRP).
Improve the water quality of Padanaram Harbor (2019 PHMP).

COMMON QUESTIONS
What are the town’s most important and vulnerable natural resources and where are they located?
What ecosystem services performed by natural areas are crucial to a healthy and functional community?
What historical or cultural assets should the town promote and protect?

Services & Facilities

GOALS FROM PREVIOUS PLANS
Maintain service levels while accommodating growth (2007 MP).
Define upcoming capital needs (2007 MP).
Assess systems for the delivery of fire and ambulance services with community growth (2007 MP).
Provide well managed water and wastewater services (2007 MP).
Invest in long-term planning for departments facing change (2007 MP).

COMMON QUESTIONS
What town-owned facilities are the most important to maintain?
Are there facilities or services that the town can improve? What resources are available to make these improvements?
What role can volunteerism and service play in helping the town make the most of its resources?

Climate Change & Resiliency

GOALS FROM PREVIOUS PLANS
Reduce loss of life, property, infrastructure, and cultural resources from natural disasters (2015 HMP).
Maintain adequate levels of service from utilities and roadways during / after natural disasters (2015 HMP).
Address all impacts associated with current flooding scenarios for Padanaram Harbor (2019 PHMP).
Participate in the Community Rating System (2019 PHMP).

COMMON QUESTIONS
What actions can the town take to mitigate extreme weather events?
What studies can help the town understand potential risk exposure at different sea level rise scenarios?
Which roadways and critical facilities require extra protection from flooding?
Can Dartmouth reduce its carbon footprint?
Map Review and Refreshment Break!

10 - 15 minutes
Discussion Groups
Keeping in Touch and Participating Online

www.srpedd.org/Dartmouth-Master-Plan
Contact

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