

COMMUNITY CHARACTER & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

JUNE 18, 2018

HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Open House

What do we want?

What do you envision for Hartford's historic preservation and character in 20 years?

Rural Character -

- Maintain as much as we have!
- Support farms/farmers

Village Character –

- Pride
- Architecture of WRJ downtown buildings

Historic Preservation –

- Citizen appreciation for our history and historic buildings
 - Murals
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How are we doing?

What's working well around historic preservation and character? What's not?

Working well –

- Great balance between rural character/village center
- Redesign of Town Hall

Needs improvement –

- Self-guided walking tours of the villages
 - Community Center – great idea, Town support
 - Diversity and inclusion
 - Voting and participation
 - Make historic spaces livable
 - New photos on montage in Selectboard room
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Small Groups

Issues or questions to explore in upcoming forums -

- Encouraging participation – cannot figure out Town identity without having broad participation
- Welcome and invite people from outside Vermont

Major Themes from Posters –

- Need a way to make it economically viable
- Concern about focusing too much on past
- Meet current needs but through design make it easier to reflect on historic character
- Murals
- Abenaki honoring day – make history more inclusive
- Concern about centralizing downtown – increases value of land and changes how development happens and what is affordable. Also changes whether or not there is housing
- Pros and cons of having five villages

COMMUNITY SERVICES & FACILITIES

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What do we want?

What do you envision for Hartford's community services and facilities in 20 years?

Police, Fire, Rescue -

- Community outreach to break barriers with populations who may feel alienated by EMS
- Regional view
- More police
- Strong infrastructure

Utilities –

- Fiber Optics
- Solar capabilities
- Stormwater/flooding
- Better paving

Solid Waste –

- Expanded system
- Municipal collection
- Composting

Education –

- Sustainable funding
- Consolidation
- More tuition students/Tech Ed (more of HACTC)

Parks & Recreation –

- Community Center
- Community/Town maintained orchards
- Gym
- Affordable/shared facilities – pool/gym
- UVAC/Town partnership

- Maxfield playground
- More support for working families

Libraries –

- One system for administration
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How are we doing?

What's working well around community services and facilities? What's not?

Working well –

- Planning Department
- Emergency Services doing more with less
- Parks & Recreation programming (e.g. WRJ Community Garden and Compost Workshops)
- Transfer Station
- Libraries – love them! Doing great 😊
- Recent Tours: Town Forest/Wilder

Needs improvement –

- More police presence in WRJ
 - Stricter enforcement of junk vehicles – get them out of downtown
 - Speed enforcement in Wilder
 - Emergency Services understaffed
 - Community Center – work with Historic Preservation Group
 - Faculty retention – competitive salaries
 - Public water
 - Municipal solid waste collection
 - Decentralized/institutional compost
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Small Groups

Issues or questions to explore in upcoming forums -

- Better communication of meetings
- Encourage attendance

Major Themes from Posters –

- More police
- More community outreach
- Higher speed internet – incentive to move here and work from home

- Draw for families to move here
- Marketing Hartford more
- Recreation program done well
- School opportunities to interact – not isolated

TRANSPORTATION & ENERGY

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What do we want?

What do you envision for transportation and energy in Hartford in 20 years?

Transportation –

- More frequent and accessible public transportation
- Strong support for the airport
- Bike paths between villages (e.g. Extend path between Wilder and Dothan Brook School) go to Norwich
- Sidewalks
- Fewer miles of road to maintain

How are we doing?

What's working well around transportation and energy? What's not?

Working well –

- Proactive Energy Commission/Staff
- Solar panels
- Free bus (Advanced Transit)
- Green line Advanced Transit is great asset
- Energy Coordinator

Needs improvement –

- Downtown parking – Yes!
- Net metering – say No
- Protect roads from erosion
- Potholes
- Bus on weekends and evenings

Small Groups

Issues or questions to explore in upcoming forums -

- Energy – accessible and sustainability
- Focus on character of “crossroads” of transportation
- Need to be more pedestrian/bicycle friendly (Sykes Mountain Avenue, Christian Street, Waterman Hill)
- Pedestrian bridge between Lyman Point and Radcliffe Park
- Pedestrian bridge from Kilowatt to Boston Lot
- Promote electric cars
- Transition Advanced Transit to electric buses
- Yes to net metering

Next Forum –

- Regional approaches to transportation “hub”
- Net metering – pluses and minuses
- How do we make Vermont affordable so that the average person can thrive?

Major Themes From Posters –

- None noted

HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Open House

What do we want?

What do you envision for Hartford's housing and economic development in 20 years?

Housing -

- More affordable housing
- More small houses
- Adult communities

Economic Development –

- Better business climate
 - Reconsider Impact Fees
 - Livable wages
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How are we doing?

What's working well around housing and economic development? What's not?

Working well –

- Encourage car dealerships

Needs improvement –

- Retail in WRJ
 - Less/no more subsidized housing
 - “Affordable” is not for all – especially rentals
 - Encouragement of sustainable private land use working landscape
 - Less restrictions in rural areas
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Small Groups

Issues or questions to explore in upcoming forums -

- Encouraging participation – cannot figure out Town identity without having broad participation
- Welcome and invite people from outside Vermont
- How much are we trying to grow? Where is the equilibrium? Bigger the town more economic benefits, but advantages to small towns.
- Growth vs. community vibrancy
- What can the acreage of the town support from sustainability perspective?
- Contradiction affordable housing vs. subsidized housing – wide variety of thoughts not necessarily consistent
- Workforce housing is needed
- Incubator space – start up labs
- High speed internet – fiber optics
- More spaces like A Street – artisans
- What can we do as community to entice developers to build more houses?
- Where/how to put various kinds of housing in different villages – not just South Main Street
- More small business owners – fiber optics, energy
- How to support/expand artisan community

Major Themes from Posters –

- Housing affordable but is it substandard
- Affordable house, but high operating cost.
- Intentional community/co-housing
- Reduce isolation, build community
- Senior Center for everyone – ride coordination
- Reduce regulatory hurdles – septic, greywater, tiny houses, permitting, etc.
- Allow people to build houses slower to avoid having to take out huge mortgage
- Trying to bring in new businesses before there is affordable housing – need coordination between business community and planning
- Workforce housing
- Don't have self-renewing community
- Have to figure out the identity of the Town before answering questions about growth

LAND USE & NATURAL RESOURCES

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What do we want?

What do you envision for Hartford's land use and natural resources in 20 years?

Land Use -

- Increased population
- Change housing density
- Focus on recreation
- Pedestrian trails
- Density in Downtowns

Natural Resources –

- River quality and access
- Restore Wright's reservoir
- Focus on Recreation
- Soil health

Development Patterns –

- More multi-family housing
- All housing higher than 40'

How are we doing?

What's working well around land use and natural resources? What's not?

Working well –

- Mix of Urban and Rural landscapes
- Town Forest for recreation

Needs improvement –

- Too much emphasis on open space
- Better more pleasant access to rivers and river walks

- Zoning seems complex and intertwined
- Zoning complex in rural districts, too restrictive
- More encouragement of sustainable business in rural areas
- Protect wildlife corridors
- Encourage forest products

Got Ideas –

- Time roadside mowing with reproductive cycles of invasive plants

Small Groups

Issues or questions to explore in upcoming forums -

- Hartford as a destination, Economic Development Community
- Responsible use of land to protect river
- Zoning is too restrictive/sprinkler systems
- More rural-friendly/stewards of the land
- People who live close to the land are not involved in process which has become hyper-technical
- Invasives – it is hard to not see them, we need to stay on top of it
- Base land resource allocation as over-arching goals
- Build community through peer-to-peer economic relationships
- More integration in education
- Five village system leads to fragmentation
- Back off on regulatory complexity, allow people to build housing how they want

Major Themes from Posters –

- Soil health is really important
- Promoting composting and carbon sequestration
- Awareness of soil biome
- Green Stormwater management

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL OFFERINGS

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What do we want?

What do you envision for social and cultural offerings in Hartford in 20 years?

Social Offerings -

- More movies

Cultural Offerings –

- More Ethnic food
- Multi-cultural events

How are we doing?

What's working well around social and cultural offerings? What's not?

Working well –

- Valued as Arts Community
- Co-Ops/Support for local farms and food system

Needs improvement –

- Communication within community
- Town wide communication system

Small Groups

Issues or questions to explore in upcoming forums -

- First Fridays
- Listserve/DailyUV
- Community projects – Multi-villages
- Multi-Cultural events
- Environmental justice
- Mustafa Ali Hip Hop Caucus

- Put on event
- Make a safe haven for people of color

Major Themes from Posters –

- None noted