

# Hatfield MVP Climate Smart Comprehensive Plan

## Virtual Community Meeting - May 31, 2023

*Summary prepared by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI)*

### Community Meeting in Brief

A virtual gathering, including a presentation and facilitated conversation, to introduce and discuss Hatfield 2040: A Vision to Protect, Prepare, and Prosper. Hosted online by the Hatfield Comprehensive Plan Committee and Pioneer Valley Planning (PVPC) Commission, this community meeting was complementary to other community engagement efforts that have been conducted as a part of this comprehensive planning process such as communication and engagement with key stakeholder groups (farmers, seniors, and youth), an in-person drop-in event, and a community-wide online survey.

The meeting began with presentations from Town staff and consultant team members on:

- Project background and the process to develop the Hatfield 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- Overview of what will be included in the plan
- Climate flood projections for Hatfield
- Findings from farmer & age-friendly & youth listening sessions

Presentations were followed by breakout discussions where residents were asked to share their hopes for Hatfield for 20 years from now and what they think is most important for this comprehensive plan to address. To learn more about the Hatfield 2040 Comprehensive Plan, visit: [hatfield2040.pvpc.org/](https://hatfield2040.pvpc.org/)

### Welcome

Ona Ferguson from CBI welcomed all attendees and reviewed the meeting agenda. Shawn Robinson and Micki Sanderson, Co-Chairs of the Comprehensive Planning Committee welcomed participants.

### Presentation Summary: What are we doing & who is involved?

Stephanie Slys, Town of Hatfield Planning Board Chair, provided an overview of the planning project including Hatfield's planning history, the 2021 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan (MVP) and current priority to develop a Climate Smart Comprehensive Plan that emphasizes a climate resilient town master plan and incentivizes climate-resilient farming. She explained that the plan will be developed over the next year and submitted in June 2024 for final approval.

A Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC) has been convened to develop the plan:

- Shawn Robinson (Co-Chair) Council on Aging
- Micki Sanderson (Co-Chair) Historical Commission
- Garret Barry, Public Works
- Mike Bartlett, Community Preservation Committee
- Rebecca Bench, School Committee
- Angelika Dewey, Open Space Committee
- Julia Frisby, At Large
- Jalil Johnson, At-Large
- David Keir, At Large
- Jon Kostek, Recreation Committee
- Luke Longstreeth, Conservation Commission

- John Pease, Agricultural Commission
- Stephanie Slys, Planning Board
- Christopher Smith, Redevelopment Committee

Several partner agencies and consultants are also supporting the development of the plan:

- Hatfield Planning Board, Schools & Select board
- Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
- MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EOEEA)
- Consensus Building Institute (CB)
- Dpict
- Regenerative Design Group Cooler Communities
- Woodard & Curran

### Presentation Summary: What are we doing & what is the context?

Ken Comia, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, explained the purpose of a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan (MVP) and what the plan will include. He also shared the top priorities of the MVP:

- Create a climate resilient town master plan that enables and guides planning for climate impacts
- Incentivize climate-resilient farming that enables transitions to better practices related to soils, diversity of crops, and long-term farmland protection

The plan will include the following chapters:

- Economic Development
- Facilities, Services, and Social Resilience
- Farming
- Health and Social Environment
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Housing
- Land Use
- Transportation and Circulation

Ken shared what the project team had learned so far about each of these categories which can be found on Slides 17-23 of the meeting presentation.

### Presentation Summary: Understanding Flood Risks - Climate Data & Projections

Rich Niles and Joseph Kirby shared data on flood risks and climate change projections that pose a threat to critical infrastructure in the town including:

- Chestnut St. to School St. to Town Hall/Main St. to Levee to CT River
- Bridge St. to Elementary School to Main St. to Levee to CT River
- Elm St. to Maple St. to Levee to CT River
- Town Hall
- The Fire Department

They also shared various strategies to protect critical facilities and infrastructure which can be found on Slides 32-37 of the meeting presentation.

### Presentation Summary: Highlights from Listening Sessions & Surveys

Patty Gambarini (PVPC) summarized the findings from listening sessions and surveys with farmers, older adults, and youth in Hatfield and emphasized the following themes that emerged:

- **Farmers:** Homes and fields located along rivers; reliance on economic livelihood that increasingly difficult due to weather extremes and unpredictable seasonal temperatures

- **Older Adults:** Age, social isolation, limited income, lack of access to social networks and support services; and greater health risks with increased extreme heat.
- **Youth:** Generally growing chronic anxiety and stress over climate change, which may increase the risk of mental and physical problems.

More detailed feedback from the listening sessions and surveys can be found in the meeting presentation.

### Breakout Discussions: Dynamic Tensions & Critical Conversations

Attendees were divided into three breakout groups to discuss two questions:

- What are your hopes for Hatfield for 20 years from now?
- What do you think is most important for this comprehensive plan to address?

Residents and CPC members engaged in robust breakout discussions that emphasized several dynamic tensions and critical conversations facing the town:

- **Balancing Affordable Housing and Farmland Preservation:**
  - The challenge of finding a balance between the need for affordable housing and the preservation of farmland.
  - Addressing concerns and potential opposition to affordable housing projects due to misconceptions about low- income housing.
  - Exploring creative zoning strategies that increase the number of affordable homes while preserving agricultural land.
- **Climate Change Resilience and Infrastructure Development:**
  - Managing the impact of climate change on infrastructure, including addressing issues related to flooding, extreme heat, and severe weather events.
  - Ensuring infrastructure development aligns with climate resilience goals and minimizes vulnerability to climate- related hazards.
  - Determining the cost of climate adaptation measures and balancing them with other infrastructure needs.
- **Managing Population Shifts and Demographic Changes:**
  - Addressing the needs and concerns of an aging population while attracting and retaining young families to ensure a diverse demographic and economic mix.
  - Ensuring that housing options and community resources support the needs of both long-time residents and newcomers.
  - Fostering inclusivity and addressing feelings of disconnection in a changing community.
- **Supporting Small Businesses and Economic Development:**
  - Exploring ways to support small businesses while considering the impact of emerging technologies, such as AI, on the local economy.
  - Finding strategies to stimulate economic growth and attract commercial development while preserving the character of the town.

- Balancing the need for commercial development with other priorities, such as affordable housing and preserving open spaces.
- **Enhancing Education and School System:**
  - Ensuring the quality of the school system to attract and retain residents.
  - Addressing the impact of school choices on property values and exploring complementary visions for the schools.
  - Finding sustainable funding models for education without burdening taxpayers.
- **Engaging the Community and Promoting Inclusivity:**
  - Effectively communicating with residents who have diverse communications preferences including a variety of digital tools and platforms as well as more traditional methods including printed materials.
  - Creating spaces and opportunities for community engagement, connection, and participation across different generations and backgrounds.
  - Addressing the challenges faced by busy parents and finding ways to involve newcomers in town Governance.
  - Balancing the town's rural character and charm with the need for diversity and inclusivity.
- **Promoting Climate Preparedness and Emergency Response:**
  - Raising awareness about climate change impacts and the importance of climate preparedness.
  - Strengthening emergency response plans and infrastructure to address climate- related risks and hazards.
  - Ensuring accessibility and assistance for vulnerable populations during emergencies.
- **Fiscal Responsibility and Revenue Generation:**
  - Providing needed and desired services and amenities within a limited budget.
  - Exploring alternative ways to generate income for the town other than raising taxes for residents.

Detailed notes on the feedback shared during the breakout sessions can be found in Appendix A.

### [Learn More about Hatfield 2040](#)

To learn more about the Hatfield 2040 Comprehensive Plan process, visit: [hatfield2040.pvpc.org/](https://hatfield2040.pvpc.org/)

## **Appendix A: Breakout Discussion Themes and Feedback Clusters**

(Appendix A begins on the following page)

# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

*"It's all connected..."*

# Dynamic Tensions & Critical Conversations

Dynamic tensions and critical areas of inquiry that surfaced from the May 31st meeting.

## Balancing Affordable Housing and Farmland Preservation:

- The challenge of finding a balance between the need for affordable housing and the preservation of farmland.
- Addressing concerns and potential opposition to affordable housing projects due to misconceptions about low-income housing.
- Exploring creative zoning strategies that increase the number of affordable homes while preserving agricultural land.

## Climate Change Resilience and Infrastructure Development:

- Managing the impact of climate change on infrastructure, including addressing issues related to flooding, extreme heat, and severe weather events.
- Ensuring infrastructure development aligns with climate resilience goals and minimizes vulnerability to climate-related hazards.
- Determining the cost of climate adaptation measures and balancing them with other infrastructure needs.

## Managing Population Shifts and Demographic Changes:

- Addressing the needs and concerns of an aging population while attracting and retaining young families to ensure a diverse demographic and economic mix.
- Ensuring that housing options and community resources support the needs of both long-time residents and newcomers.
- Fostering inclusivity and addressing feelings of disconnection in a changing community.

## Supporting Small Businesses and Economic Development:

- Exploring ways to support small businesses while considering the impact of emerging technologies, such as AI, on the local economy.
- Finding strategies to stimulate economic growth and attract commercial development while preserving the character of the town.
- Balancing the need for commercial development with other priorities, such as affordable housing and preserving open spaces.

## Enhancing Education and School System:

- Ensuring the quality of the school system to attract and retain residents.
- Addressing the impact of school choices on property values and exploring complementary visions for the schools.
- Finding sustainable funding models for education without burdening taxpayers.

## Engaging the Community and Promoting Inclusivity:

- Creating spaces and opportunities for community engagement, connection, and participation across different generations and backgrounds.
- Addressing the challenges faced by busy parents and finding ways to involve newcomers in town governance.
- Balancing the town's rural character and charm with the need for diversity and inclusivity.

## Promoting Climate Preparedness and Emergency Response:

- Raising awareness about climate change impacts and the importance of climate preparedness.
- Strengthening emergency response plans and infrastructure to address climate-related risks and hazards.
- Ensuring accessibility and assistance for vulnerable populations during emergencies.

# Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility

The residents are advocating for more sidewalks, improved public transportation and biking options, a shuttle service for seniors, accessible public restrooms, equal opportunities for low-income individuals, connectivity with neighboring towns, and reduced reliance on cars.

## Thematic Highlights

Walkability  
and Sidewalks

Public  
Transportation  
and Biking

Connectivity  
and Mobility

Accessibility  
and Inclusivity

Reduced  
Reliance on Cars



# Business & Economy

Residents are discussing small business support, the impact of AI on the economy, and the completion of sewer extensions that would trigger multiple projects. They are exploring ways to balance affordable housing and land preservation while considering commercial development near the food bank. Additionally, they are interested in the role of technology in employment and the importance of infrastructure development on Route 5 and 10.

## Thematic Highlights

Small Business Support

Impact of AI on the Economy

Balancing Affordable Housing and Land Preservation

Accessibility and Inclusivity

Reduced Reliance on Cars

# Farming

Residents recognize the importance of farming and maintaining agricultural land in the town. They acknowledge the need for affordable housing but also want to preserve farmland and support active farms. Priorities include maintaining the rural farming community character, exploring Farmland Trusts, and addressing farmers' concerns about preservation, diversification, and climate change.

## Thematic Highlights

Maintaining Rural  
Farming Community  
Character

Preserving Farmland  
and Supporting  
Active Farms

Diversified  
Farms in Town

Farmland Trusts  
to Dedicate Land  
to Farming

# Open Space & Recreation

Residents are discussing various recreational and open space initiatives. Suggestions include embracing water as a resource and creating recreational spaces, such as pocket parks with benches and swing sets. There is a desire for safe sidewalks, access to nature trails, and more park spaces for activities like pickle-ball and concerts. Concerns about vulnerable populations on trails and the need for facilities like bathrooms and handicap accessibility are also raised. Additionally, residents express interest in preserving land for agriculture, protecting wildlife, and providing education about the river ecosystem.

## Thematic Highlights

Preserving  
Natural Spaces

Recreational  
Infrastructure

Community  
Gathering  
Spaces

Accessibility  
and Inclusivity

Education and  
Awareness

# Climate & Infrastructure

Residents are recognizing the importance of emergency preparedness and protecting and improving infrastructure. Issues such as drought, tornadoes, flooding, and the need to enlarge the sewage treatment plant are raised. There is a focus on controlling growth, careful development, and protecting critical resources and infrastructure. The maintenance of a levee to protect against flooding is deemed crucial. Concerns about climate change, resilience during flooding, and the cost of action or inaction are also expressed. Additionally, there is a need for emergency planning, signage for evacuations, and assistance for individuals with mobility limitations or health risks.

## Thematic Highlights

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Flood Protection and Resilience

Infrastructure Maintenance and Improvement

Climate Change Adaptation

Resource and Asset Protection

# Character & Community

The residents are reflecting on the character and community of Hatfield. They express the desire for a community space to gather, a welcoming environment for people of all backgrounds, and a place that connects different generations and residents. They highlight the importance of welcoming newcomers to help them understand town governance and get involved. There is a recognition that despite being a small town, there is a need to address feelings of disconnection and improve accessibility. The residents emphasize the value of maintaining the town's rural character, preserving its charm, and remaining a close-knit community. They also mention the need for more community events, a historic area that can serve as a hub for all ages, and improved communication and interface among town committees. Additionally, there are discussions about retaining the town's identity while welcoming diversity and addressing the challenges faced by busy parents. The residents express the desire for a new library, better facilities, and a visioning statement that reflects the town's direction. They also stress the importance of taking care of long-time residents and fostering inclusivity.

## Thematic Highlights

Community  
Engagement and  
Connection

Community  
Spaces and  
Facilities

Welcoming and  
Inclusive  
Environment

Preserving Town  
Character and  
Charm

Communication and  
Integration Among  
Committees

# Schools

The residents express concerns about the future and strength of the school system, emphasizing the importance of good schools for attracting residents. They discuss the impact of schools on property values and the need to enhance the school experience. There is a desire to educate youth for a changing world and explore options to keep the schools open without burdening taxpayers. They also consider the impact of school choices on home values and explore complementary visions for the schools

## Thematic Highlights

Strengthening and Supporting the School System

Educational Opportunities and Adaptability

School Choice and Property Values

Community Engagement in Education

# Housing

Participants engaged in a discussion about housing and affordability in Hatfield. The conversation touched upon the importance of retaining and attracting young families to the area, the challenge of balancing affordable housing with preserving farmland, and the role of creative zoning in increasing the supply of affordable homes while preserving land. Concerns were expressed about potential opposition to affordable housing projects due to misconceptions about low-income housing. Access and availability for low-income individuals were emphasized, alongside the need to avoid displacing current residents while accommodating new families. The potential for increased rental housing and the possibility of creating neighborhood communities beyond the downtown area were discussed as well. Ultimately, the participants recognized the necessity of expanding housing options to promote a diverse demographic and economic mix in Hatfield.

## Thematic Highlights

- Housing Affordability and Availability
- Balancing Affordable Housing and Preservation of Farmland
- Creative Zoning and Land Preservation
- Impact of Affordable Housing on Property Values
- Access and Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals
- Creating a Mix of Economic and Generational Demographics
- Neighborhood Communities and Community Preservation Act (CPA) Projects
- Hatfield's Involvement in Affordable Housing Initiatives

# Youth & Elders

There is an awareness about children feeling anxiety and the need to address their well-being. The importance of not squeezing out seniors with new developments is emphasized. The long waiting list for facilities like Capawonk is mentioned, and options for the senior center are being explored. The goal is to keep people in their homes as long as they want to be there and address the overall needs of the residents. Attracting young families is seen as vital for the town's future, alongside supporting the aging population. The impact of climate change on young people's mental health is acknowledged. There is a dream of creating a sustainable future for the next generation.

## Thematic Highlights

Addressing Anxiety and Well-being of Children and Teenagers

Balancing the Needs of Seniors and New Residents

Access and Barriers to Retaining Residents

Infrastructure Improvements (Library, Safety Complex, DPW Facilities)

Attracting and Retaining Young Families



# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

## Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility

# Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility

A shuttle from senior center to pickleball courts/ tennis courts w/ handicap accessibility

Walkability, making sure we keep that prioritized

Nice to see folks gettin around on bikes

Some of roads are narrow, if we could have more sidewalks around town people would like that—

Public transport or making biking easier, for example

More public restroom facilities , possibly at Smith Academy or High School

access and availability for people with low income and low opportunities

Also mobility, would we get cut off from other towns, how do we stay connected and mobile

I would love to see more sidewalks in more neighborhoods in general

I'd like to see people get around more without having to get in their cars

We have 3 zip codes for a little town like ours

Accessibility

# Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility: Recommendations

Public transport or making biking easier, for example

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# Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility: Values, Principles, and Qualities to Protect

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# Transportation, Mobility & Accessibility: Dynamic Tensions & Open Questions

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# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

**Business & Economy**

# Business & Economy

Small biz support

AI—  
How will that affect the economy and the affordability

Finishing sewer extension will trigger 3-4 projects that are in the pipeline that we know of on our end

Maybe out of scope?

Additionally, yes, as planning board chair—finding balance of bringing in more affordable homes and what kind of creative zoning can we do while also increasing the amount of land we have preserved

Near the food bank—seems we could get some commercial base added

Look at the town overall, consider zoning and the changes that have occurred /balanced with needs now

Between sewer and water lines on 5 and 10

I'm suggesting that the conversation needs to be had...will we grow or shrink?

Plenty of things that can happen when that project is completed

Curious about goes to vibrancy of local economy and how jobs are sustained as tech starts to change the nature of work

Would like to see development on route 5 and 10

Steibel Eltron is a big factory and they want to expand but they can't until the sewers are on board

Also curious about the role of technology on employment or livelihoods

WE received 12m dollar grant—that facility is 40 years old and is getting a whole new makeover, which will help a lot of other things to make su

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# Business & Economy : Dynamic Tensions and Open Questions

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# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

# Farming

# Farming

Maybe more diversified farms in town

## Farming

Farmland Trust so that the land is dedicated to farming in perpetuum

Farming still exists and thrives, but sounds like there are more problems than I was aware of

Those two go against each other - you don't want to use farmland for housing but we need affordable housing

Agriculture shifting toward regenerative ag and renewing for soil, not extractive

Farmers had specific things that I couldn't expand in. That their concerns are met

Ensuring we still have farm land and active farms in town

## Land trusts

History, agriculture, open space for community.

maintain rural farming community character

# Farming: Recommendations

Maybe more  
diversified farms  
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Agriculture shifting  
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and renewing for soil,  
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# Farming: Protect & Preserve

## Farming

History, agriculture,  
open space for  
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## Land trusts

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# Farming: Values and Principles, Dynamic Tensions, and Open Questions

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# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

## Open Space & Recreation



# Open Space & Recreation

Sit and embrace the water

If field is going to be used for the town, preserved for recreation

Safe sidewalks

Concerned about vulnerable populations on trails ...Central Facility w/ bathrooms

Pickelball courts !

Could have a hiking club or walking club so people would know it was out there

Stephanie Slysz - Planning Board to Everyone (May 31, 2023, 7:27 PM)  
There's some space on the Hatfield Elementary School. I would love to see little pockets of town-owned/maintained land be 'pocket parks' with benches or swing sets, etc like the Cronin hill/straits rd intersection, or at all of our cemetery's

Some people are taking advantage of trails in west hatfield, there is a lot more we could have up tehre

Maybe some open park space would be help

Additionally, yes, as planning board chair—finding balance of bringing in more affordable homes and what kind of creative zoning can we do while also increasing the amount of land we have preserved

Smith academy park—was taken care of by the board of trustees and got overgrown, and they did get some money CPA money and state grant to renovate the landscape, we also have some money to use for the pavilion but is has been cost and getting contractors, but going back to bid in June.

Maybe we can add on to pickleball courts to include other rec options

On the other end—recreation: open space committee is working on a bike trail into northampton.

Pocket parks

Gazebo would be nice to have (will be a post and beam structure now). Date TBD

Still in teh works and hope the town continues to support it

See lots of trespassing signs, a lot of that should not be up since they are publicly available for walking.

more access to the river and resevoir

You can walk the levee but there is no place to sit and enjoy nature

Making people aware there are more places to hike and walk

higher cost to educate because you still need the costly overhead to function

Would like to see more services/ welcoming for cyclists (parking, way finding etc. )

If anyone wants to start flower gardens the community would be open to that

Concerts will take place on that structure

Maybe wherever we are doing development, including pocket parks or playscaoes

More open spaces, more protection for wildlife , recreation

A shuttle from senior center to pickleball courts/ tennis courts w/ handicap accessibility

Up to state to fund so we can't do anything until that

Is there a commons or a park—somewhere you can sit on a bench or walk around—

Basketball court near (fishtales? )

Land trusts

There is one right across the street from your house

If you walked the block, there are a number of places where tehre are benches

The town maintains a hug part of that stip, maybe there were woodchips and a park, some families would love that

Sports complex

Helpful, doesn't increase tax rates but increases livability of town

Are there other ways to access the river that are safe?

We have defacto land preserved because of flood plain, but we could protect more land outside of the flood plain

Recreation access

If there were other areas of town where there were sidewalks people could do that in their own neighborhoods

Getting trikes from Northampton

We live on the river but the public doesn't have a place to sit and watch the river go by

Connected in the dike, there is a whole ecosystem—in addition to the farmland, how much education is there about the river ecosystem—wondering about that linked with educational comments from before

Having a public facility

# Open Space & Recreation: Recommendations

Pocket parks—  
Those could also  
be CPA projects

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the river and  
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Safe  
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Having a  
public facility

Basketball court  
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Pocket  
parks

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# Open Space & Recreation: Protect & Preserve

## Land trusts

We have defacto land preserved because of flood plain, but we could protect more land outside of the flood plain

If you walked the block, there are a number of places where there are benches

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# Open Space & Recreation: Values & Principles

Additionally, yes, as planning board chair—finding balance of bringing in more affordable homes and what kind of creative zoning can we do while also increasing the amount of land we have preserved

More open spaces,  
more protection for  
wildlife , recreation

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# Open Space & Recreation: Dynamic Tensions and Open Questions

We have defacto land preserved because of flood plain, but we could protect more land outside of the flood plain

Connected in the dike, there is a whole ecosystem—in addition to the farmland, how much education is there about the river ecosystem—wondering about that linked with educational comments from before

We live on the river but the public doesn't have a place to sit and watch the river go by

Helpful, doesn't increase tax rates but increases livability of town

Concerned about vulnerable populations on trails ...Central Facility w/ bathrooms

Additionally, yes, as planning board chair—finding balance of bringing in more affordable homes and what kind of creative zoning can we do while also increasing the amount of land we have preserved

Maybe some open park space would be help

See lots of trespassing signs, a lot of that should not be up since they are publicly available for walking.

Are there other ways to access the river that are safe?

# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

## Climate & Critical Infrastructure

# Climate & Critical Infrastructure

emergency services a central rallying point

**Drought, tornadoes**

Protecting and improving infrastructure

Levee keeps river in to a certain extent, but as we get to south east area of town where the fields are it backs up into the mill river and comes back up into town that way

Flooding presentation, I didn't think of the question at the time, but you know, often that he revised that I mean, I guess, you know, I guess the risk is the town goes down to some level of planning and cost a lot and takes up a lot of time, but yet it's overestimated what the potential planners you know, so I guess that's hard to do these days, they're probably doing kind of worst case scenario to be safe but that that was the question I think I would have asked and I thought at the time,

controlled growth, careful development

sewage treatment plant may need to be enlarged

protecting the key resources

They examined some of the floods we had—1936 was the big flood—1984 there was a pretty big flood that cut people off from the town

Building a levee and creating protection from flooding is the most important issue

Resilience during flooding, or other climate instances

Protecting us from climate change and water which is inevitable

Protect critical resources and infrastructure

reimagining - the cost of action or inaction

Emergency planning

**The water is coming!**

Sewage treatment plant—also right next to the river and the flood plain, that's

**They levee must happen**

Flood zone presentation was pretty scary!

If we don't have a plan B?

expanding access to existing infrastructure - sewer and water

Signage for leaving town during an emergency

How do we provide assistance to evacuating those with mobility limitations or health risks

Flood stuff was intimidating—having to keep that in mind, anticipating changes with climate change and what that means for future building as well as stuff that exists

Hopefully we don't get that 20-foot flood

I don't know how to even approach starting to deal with that, but I guess it's part of the plan!

It would take a significant flood to get over levee, but it would have already backed up into town from the mill river

I'd love to see a brand new library, see the seniors get out of basement of town hall, and a new safety complex situated in the right place in town, and the expansion of our DPW facilities

The levee needs to be increased. Save lives, increase property value, protect us

**Wells can go bad**

# Climate & Critical Infrastructure: Recommendations

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# Climate & Critical Infrastructure: Protect & Preserve

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# Climate & Critical Infrastructure: Values & Principles

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# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

## Character & Community

# Character & Community



# Character & Community: Recommendations

More community events...

Would like to bring communities together (kids, students, elderly)

A community space to gather

Make use of the Smith Academy

Identify a historic area that could be a hub for the community (integrated for all ages....)

Interface of town committees

make sure we have emergency services. everyone can support that

more integrated communication

Facility for health maintenance (gym equipment)

I'd love to see a brand new library, see the seniors get out of basement of town hal,, and a new safety complex situated in the right place in town, adn the expansion of our DPW facilities

Identify the elements of a visioning statement...the direction we are going

Stay similar to current character with increase in youth families bringing diversity

Would like to have an onboarding /welcoming for newcomers regarding town governance to help folks understand what is happening and how to get involved.

Would like a welcoming for newcomers

More accessible for people to move to Hatfield

# Character & Community: Protect & Preserve

Lot of charm in  
sleepy farm town

Development... preserving  
the personality of the  
town, the reason why  
people like Hatfield

Rural  
character

a quiet  
oasis

a sleepy,  
slow town

remain a small,  
involved  
community

Town  
center

take care of the  
people who built  
the town

# Character & Community: Values & Principles

Inclusivity

Accessibility

An effort to unite those who love the natural landscape with those who experience it as their home/town.

Having a place that is welcoming to people, wildlife, non english speakers

Feeling very welcomed

easy to become community members

Sense of community

easy to get in and easy to stay



# Character & Community: Dynamic Tensions & Questions

I have talked with folks in west hatfield who rarely come to town center

I've had a good experience but there's a sense that it's hard to get 'in' and be a resident

don't start squeezing people out while making room for new family

what else could draw new residents or retain current residents?

the only reason they would come is because they have to pay a bill

[Community?] is difficult to maintain in a world with busy parents always on the go

A desirable place to live...until the new FEMA report?!

How we stay connected—that the phone signal is really low

East side of 91 and west side and sometimes route 91 separates people a bit

a more diverse town would be a bonus which may be at odds with the old style

Yes, you want to move here...we're ahead of the FEMA projections!

Even though we are a small town I feel we are disconnected in some ways

Be a leader, be known for the fact that we have created a farm community while meeting the challenges in to support our school system

# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

# Schools

# Schools

Smallest school system in the state

Personally most concerned about, the viability and strength in the school

Complicated conversation... can't wait too long (schools/housing)

The schools is a lingering threat as well

High community engagement in town

If you don't have good schools, affordable housing won't matter because people won't want to move here

Education—maybe comes in youth piece

Enhance the school experience or replace if the schools go away

Again, impacts the property values

the third rail - schools

How do we educate youth to exist in a changing world, changing landscape.

We've had such a great school choice in in the last 15 years, which has waned a bit, time to turn that around and get that back up again

what does the impact look like for schools, home values?

Also a way to keep the burden of keeping the schools open off the tax payers, by bringing them in

What are we teaching younger people so they are adaptive 20 years out

The schools keep our property values up but what if kids choose to go to larger schools

There are other visions that could complement the schools

# Schools: Recommendations

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# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

# Housing



# Housing

Moved here in 2021 in Bridge street

Housing affordability

Affordable housing

Hopes: hope we can keep plenty of families in the area, young families moving in

Good way to get a lot of people into town in 1 fell swoop

I have young kids from 2 to 8 who live the school system and balancing between young families, affordable housing

Places to buy in and have true ownership

Those two go against each other - you don't want to use farmland for housing but we need affordable housing

Moving if necessary

Suspect that if we come into town there would be fair amount of opposition because affordable housing is often associated with low income housing, and they are not the same

Additionally, yes, as planning board chair—finding balance of bringing in more affordable homes and what kind of creative zoning can we do while also increasing the amount of land we have preserved

RE affordable housing development—there may be places we could utilize but there have been no proposed projects

Adding more affordable homes for families

Property value could go down

If you don't have good schools, affordable housing won't matter because people won't want to move here

access and availability for people with low income and low opportunities

don't start squeezing people out while making room for new family

what does the impact look like for schools, home values?

Almost half of Hatfield's housing is rented.

More opportunities to create neighborhood communities outside of downtown

Those could also be CPA projects

On housing: on board of valley CDC, we do a lot of affordable housing. Hatfield has not been on our radar

I'm not sure why, maybe because of space

more housing to allow younger families into town to mix the economic and generational demographics

# Housing: Recommendations

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# Housing: Values, Principles, and Qualities to Protect and Preserve

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# Hatfield 2040

May 31, 2023

Thematic Clustering

## Youth & Elders

# Youth & Elders

More children are feeling this anxiety in a serious way -

not squeezing out seniors with the new

400 people on a waiting list to get into facilities like Capawonk all around the area

## What about teenagers ?

dream that my daughter can inherit my home rather than a swimming pool...for all people of her generations, in her early 20s

Looking at options for the senior center

Addressing the needs of the elderly who want to be in their home

keep people in their homes as long as they want to be there

As a new resident, hope is town is thriving and young people are finding a home here still

An aging population and a young population that is declining

Will help us keep the town youthful

What will access and barriers do we need to address to keep enough people?

We have to take care of seniors and keep the time vital

Would like to understand the overall needs of the people who live here and play here

Deborah, We witness the anxiety of our children being afraid of their future, in tonight's presentation

I'd love to see a brand new library, see the seniors get out of basement of town hall, and a new safety complex situated in the right place in town, and the expansion of our DPW facilities

Didn't realize there as such a long waiting list for Capawonk

Protect the sanity of the young people and make them feel safe in the community of Hatfield

## What will attract young families?

20 years from now, don't know demographics, but the older group—making sure they feel supported in aging in place—making that happen while also

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It's sad to see young people living with anxiety and fear of climate change

# Youth & Elders: Recommendations

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