



## *Williamsburg Planning Board*

141 Main Street, P.O. Box 447

Haydenville, Massachusetts 01039-0447

Phone: (413) 268-8400

Fax: (413) 268-8409

Minutes for meeting on **July 10, 2023**

Member	Present	Not Present	Member	Present	Not Present
Tariq Abu-Jaber	X [R]		Jean O'Neil	X [R]	
Chris Flory		X	Eric Schmitt	X [R]	
Holly Hendricks	X [R]		Steve Smith	X [R]	
<b>Other attendees:</b> Ken Comia, PVPC					

At 7:05 pm Chair Smith called the meeting to order.

Ken Comia reviewed a [draft of the Comprehensive Plan Visioning survey](#) (see below). Survey questions were reviewed and revised.

Meeting Date	Comments	Motion to Accept	Motion to Accept as Amended	Second	Vote Yea - Nay
6/26/2023	Meeting minutes	O'Neil		Hendricks	6-0

The next meetings are planned for July 24th and August 21st.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Schmitt

SURVEY DRAFT — REVISED DURING MEETING



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Dear Williamsburg Survey Respondent,

The world is changing and it is going to affect Williamsburg and its residents. How can you help your community prepare for the future? The Williamsburg Planning Board is developing a Comprehensive Plan to guide our growth and development over the next 10+ years.

We are eager to hear your opinions. This community survey has been prepared to assist the Board to develop a long-range plan based, in great part, on your input. Your honest participation in this survey is critical to the successful development of this Comprehensive Plan.

Complete this community survey by **MONTH DAY**, 2023. Completed surveys can be delivered to **LOCATION** or brought to **OTHER LOCATION**. You may also mail to: Williamsburg Planning Board, 141 Main Street, PO Box 447, Haydenville, MA 01039.

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts with us. To learn more, please visit the Williamsburg Comprehensive Plan website at **WEBSITE**.

If you have any additional questions about the survey or need language translation assistance, please reach out to **CONTACT**.

Williamsburg Planning Board

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1. Do you live in the Town of Williamsburg?

• Yes • No \*Thank you, but this survey is only for town residents <END SURVEY>

2. What street do you live on? (please choose one)

- |                   |                    |  |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| • Adams Road      | • Cole Road        | • Fort Hill Road                       |
| • Ashfield Road   | • Dansereau Rd     | • Geer Hill Road                       |
| • Briar Hill Road | • Deer Haven Drive | • Goshen Road (West of Hyde Hill Road) |
| • Bridge St       | • Depot Road       | • Goshen Road (East of Hyde Hill Road) |
| • Bullard Road    | • Dewey Circle     | • Grove Street                         |
| • Buttonshop Rd   | • East Main St     | • Hatfield Road                        |
| • Chesterfield Rd | • Eastern Ave      | • Hemenway Rd                          |
| • Cider Mill Road | • Edwards St       |  |
| • Clary Road      | • Fairfield Ave    |  |



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- High Street
- Hillenbrand Rd
- Hyde Hill Branch
- Hyde Hill Road
- Ice Road
- Judd Lane
- Kellogg Road
- Kingsley Ave
- Laurel Road
- Lawton Hill Rd
- Main Street
- Maple Street
- Mill Street
- Mountain St (West of the transfer station)
- Mountain St (East of the transfer station)
- Myrtle Avenue
- Nash Hill Place
- Nash Hill Road
- Nichols Road
- North Farms Rd
- North Kellogg Rd
- North Main St
- North Street
- Old Goshen Rd
- O'Neill Road
- Petticoat Hill Rd (West of Petticoat Lane)
- Petticoat Hill Rd (East of Petticoat Lane)
- Petticoat Lane
- Pine Street
- Pondview Drive
- Reservoir Road
- River Road
- Round Hill Dr
- South Main St
- South Street (North of Eastern Ave)
- South Street (South of Eastern Ave)
- Sunset Drive
- The Lope
- Unquomunk Rd
- Valley View Rd
- Village Hill Ave
- Village Hill Rd
- Walpole Rd
- Williams St
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is your age?

- 16-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46-55
- 56-65
- 66-75
- 76 or older

4. How many years have you lived in Williamsburg?

- Less than two years
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- 21-30 years
- 31-40 years
- More than 40 years

5. Which of these describe your household? (**Check all that apply**)

- Single occupant
- Couple
- Parent(s) with school-aged child(ren)
- Parent(s) with adult child(ren) at home
- Primary resident with room(s) rented out
- Household shared among unrelated residents
- Multigenerational (generations living together)
- Grandparents raising grandchildren

6. Do you have at least one child under the age of 18 living with you?

- Yes
- No

7. If you are currently employed, what amount of your working time do you spend working from home?

- None
- Some
- About Half
- Most
- All
- Not applicable (for example, retired or not currently employed)

8. Have you volunteered or been employed by the Town of Williamsburg?

- Yes, I **currently** volunteer or am employed by the town
- No, but **in the past**, I have volunteered for, or been employed by the town
- No, but I **will consider** opportunities to volunteer or work for the town
- No, and I **would not consider** town volunteer or employment at this time



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9. What are the most important reasons why you live in Williamsburg? **(Choose up to five)**

- Open space/rural character
- Good place to raise children
- Good place to retire
- Grew up here
- Have relatives and/or property in town
- Community life
- Proximity to larger metro areas/college towns
- Quality of schools
- Senior services
- Availability of stores and services in town
- Proximity to medical care
- Availability of outdoor recreation
- Access to transit
- Employment opportunities
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

10. A town comprehensive plan is intended to look ahead over a ten-year period. The state requires a common set of seven plan elements. How would you rate the importance of each comprehensive plan element below?

Are there any additional elements that you think are important?

	High priority	Medium priority	Lower priority
Land Use			
Housing			
Economic Development			
Natural and Cultural Resources			
Open Space and Recreation			
Services and Facilities			
Transportation			
Other _____			
Other _____			
Other _____			

11. The last land use reform was in the mid-90s when the current zoning map and lot size minimums were established. More businesses and houses could increase the tax base but may compromise the “small town feel” and increase demand on public services.

Thinking about this, over the next 10 years, which of the items below should the town prioritize? **(Choose up to three)**

- Additional single-family housing
- Cluster development housing with dedicated open space
- Increased minimum lot sizes or lot frontages in the rural zone
- Home-based businesses
- Small businesses, including retail and restaurants
- Commercial and industrial uses along the Route 9 corridor
- Open space and/or recreation, with public access
- Conservation land without public access (e.g., wildlife refuge)
- Renewable energy generation (e.g., solar, wind)
- Working farms / farm stands
- Food trucks / pop-up retail
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_



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• Other: \_\_\_\_\_

• Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Summary of current zoning for residential dwellings in Williamsburg

- Three zones: Rural, Village Mixed, and Village Residential. The “village” zones correspond to the Route 9 corridor and the village centers
- Single and two-family dwellings by right in all zones for conforming lots
- Conforming lot has 200 feet of frontage and 65,000 sq ft (~1.5 acres) of land
- Attached accessory apartments allowed by right in all zones
- Detached accessory apartments allowed by special permit
- Upper floor apartments allowed in mixed use buildings (Rural zone needs special permit)
- Multi-family up to 4-unit dwellings allowed by special permit on conforming lots
- Multi-family dwellings with more than 4 units allowed by special permit in the Village Mixed and Village Residential zones
- Cluster housing only allowed for age restricted (55+) developments

12. Which, if any, of the following zoning changes are worth exploring (**Choose up to three**):

- In the Rural zone, larger minimum lot sizes, frontages, or setbacks
- Housing to fill in village centers and Route 9 corridor using smaller lot sizes, frontages, setbacks
- New housing along existing roads      • New housing on new subdivisions (and roads)
- New housing as part of mixed-use commercial/residential development
- Cluster housing      • Tiny houses
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

13. I would like to see the Town encourage the following types of new housing (Choose up to three).

- Single family homes    • Accessory apartments    • Two-family homes
- Multi-family homes (3-4 units, e.g., townhouses)      • Cluster housing (all ages)
- Cluster housing (age restricted)      • Apartment buildings
- Conversion of single family to multifamily units      • Housing for all income levels
- Housing that is accessible to people with disabilities
- Senior housing (independent or assisted living) • Owner occupied with rental rooms
- The town should not encourage new housing of any sort

14. There are trade-offs between development, town revenues, tax rates, and many other aspects of town life. Development can bring in additional town funds, but may have other consequences, sometimes unintended. Thinking about this, over the next 10 years should the town aim to encourage, discourage, or make no change to:

	Encourage	Discourage	No Change
Rural character and feeling			
Residential housing development			



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	Encourage	Discourage	No Change
Stores and businesses in villages			
Stores and businesses across town			
Industrial development			
Agricultural development			
Travel and tourism development			
Historical preservation restrictions			

### 15. What would you like to see more of in the Town of Williamsburg? (Choose up to five)

- Restaurants • Art, dance, musical events, performance art, public space art, etc.
- Farmers market/ farm stands • Community events (dances, cookouts, live music, field day, etc.)
- Recreation and regular sport gatherings (tennis, softball, volleyball, pickleball, etc.)
- Public utility for internet/broadband
- Renewable resources (batteries, solar, wind, etc.) on private and public lands
- Outdoor recreation areas (trails, hiking, picnicking) • Nothing
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 16. Which of these do you feel would be important to support, restore, and preserve?

- Historic monuments and markers • Town Churches
- Civic organizations such as Lions Club, Boy Scouts, The Grange
- Historical Museum and Grist Mill • Historic Buildings
- Dam Site • Cemeteries • Venues for art and music
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 17. Please check all of the following activities that you enjoy (in Williamsburg or elsewhere):

	Participate Regularly in Williamsburg	Participate Elsewhere
Walking (on roads)		
Hiking (on trails)		
Bird/nature watching		
Road biking		
Mountain biking		



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Horseback riding		
Dog walking		
Visiting a Dog Park		
Hunting		
Fishing/ice fishing		
Non-motorized boating		
Swimming		
Court sports		
Playing team sports		
Snowshoeing		
Cross-country skiing		
Snowmobiling		
Ice skating		
Off-road, all-terrain vehicle recreation		
Skateboarding		
Other - Write In		



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18. How would you like the town to invest in services and facilities over the next 10 years?

	<b>Increase investment</b>	<b>Decrease investment</b>	<b>No change</b>
Roadway maintenance			
Plowing			
Emergency and first-responder services			
Historic town-owned buildings			
Water systems			
Sewer system			
Transfer station			
Board of Health services			
Senior services			
Tree services			
Public utility for internet/broadband			
Other _____			
Other _____			
Other _____			

19. Williamsburg is anticipating many changes to the transportation infrastructure over the next decade with the reconstruction of several major thoroughfares, the Greenway, two new bridges in the center of Haydenville over the Mill River, and a connection to the Northampton bike path. With that in mind, please consider the following question:



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How would you like the town to invest in services and facilities over the next 10 years?

	Increase investment	Decrease investment	No change
Bike lanes on roads			
Maintenance for existing roads and sidewalks			
Add new sidewalks			
Road signage			
Public parking			
Public transportation options (bus, taxi, ride-sharing)			
Streetscapes (street trees, landscaping, street furnishings) in business areas and village centers			
Public access to electric vehicle charging stations			
Parking availability at rail trail and other accessible open spaces			
Improved access to Rail transit			
Other (write in):			

20. If someday you move to another living situation in town, what housing might meet your future needs? **(Choose all that apply)**

- Renting a house
- Renting an apartment
- Owning a house
- Owning a condo or cooperative unit
- Owning or renting a unit in a duplex or townhouse
- Owning or renting a dwelling with everything on one floor
- Living in an assisted living/senior facility
- Living in a 55+ independent community
- Don't anticipate requiring a different housing situation
- Not interested in remaining in town
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

21. Thank you for participating in the Williamsburg Community Survey! Please provide any additional comments that you would like to share with the Planning Board.

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**Thank you for taking our survey. Your response is very important to us.**

For more information about the Planning Board, please contact Steve Smith, Chair at [ssmith@2village.com](mailto:ssmith@2village.com).



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