Monterey Master Plan: Kick-Off

MONTEREY MASTER PLAN: Kick-Off Event
Event Location:
Monterey Library
452 Main Road
Monterey, MA 01245
Saturday, June 25
10AM-12PM

Contact:
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BRPC
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
What is a Master Plan?

→ A vision and policy guide for the Town
→ A plan for physical development
→ An analysis of community infrastructure and resources.
→ A long range plan- typically 15-20 years.
→ A living document that adapts and changes to town needs yet provides a framework for that change.
→ A document developed with community feedback and goals in mind.
→ Helps to strengthen local identity and sense of community.
→ Provides guidance to local leaders, townspeople, developers, permitting authorities, and businesspeople.
State Requirements: Under M.G.L. c. 41, §81D

A planning board established in any city or town under section eighty-one A shall make a master plan of such city or town or such part or parts thereof as said board may deem advisable and from time to time may extend or perfect such plan. 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, and shall include the following elements:

- Statement of Goals and Policies
- Land Use
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Natural & Cultural Resources
- Open Space & Recreation
- Services & Facilities
- Circulation
- Implementation
Communities often supplement the requirements of M.G.L. c. 41, §81D by adding elements that focus on specific local needs, such as:

- Villages
- Neighborhoods
- Smart Growth
- Energy
- Climate Action
- Sustainability
- Education
- Governance
- Public Health and Social Services
- Historic Preservation
How will a new Master Plan be developed for publication on June 30, 2023.
Informational Updates for Public

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will prepare informational material for public consideration. With input from the Planning Board, this material may be distributed through the Town newsletter, placed on the Town website, or distributed through a Town list serve or Google group.
Master Plan Sections

- Community Vision and Goals
- Land Use
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Natural, Cultural, and Historic Resources
- Open Spaces and Recreation
- Services and Facilities
- Transportation and Mobility
- Implementation
Public Opinion Surveys

A public opinion survey(s) will evaluate residents’ attitudes, needs, desires and preferences. The survey(s) will be developed as an on-line version through Survey Monkey and distributed electronically. Paper versions will be available around town.
Public Forums

1. Kick off meeting – general overview of process
2. Community Setting and Community vision statement
3. Economic and Business Development
4. Cultural Resources
5. Housing
6. Recreation, and Historic Preservation
7. Community Development
8. Utilities, Energy, Transportation and Green Initiatives
9. Resource, Open Space and Forest Protection
10. Social Services (schools, public health, seniors, veterans) & Public Buildings.
11. GIS Mapping
12. Release of Draft Master Plan & Implementation Procedures

Goal #3: Residents of all abilities have access to outdoor recreational opportunities, while respecting and maintaining the natural landscape in which these are set.

Actions:
- Develop a long-term Master Plan for the Town Hall property to serve as a recreational hub and possible future senior housing site. Favored recreation items would be an accessible walking track around the perimeter of the Town Hall field, a pavilion at the site to provide shade and cover, and off-road walking route to the Town Center.
- Create more of a park-like atmosphere at Card Pond:
  - Develop a walking loop around Card Pond; if a loop not feasible, create an in & out trail
  - Improve the parking lot
  - Consider ways to create a gathering place in the field next to the parking lot
  - Install a shelter and/or other structures for shade and cover
- Support Berkshire Natural Resources Council’s (BNRC) efforts to create a trail system leading from East Alford Road to the publicly open lands on Tom Ball Mountain.
- Support BNRC’s long-term goal of creating a High Roads route that would link the Town Center to the Olivia’s Overlook/Yokun Ridge Trail system, which reaches north to Bousquet Mountain in Pittsfield.
- Investigate opportunities to utilize the open fields of the Town’s capped landfill on Oak Street; ideas could include a public picnic area and a high/low field/pollinator mosaic with an interpretive trail; this site could be incorporated into the off-road walking route.
- Pursue greening improvements to the Town’s new acreage on Moscow Road / Harris Street.
- Work with DFW to investigate the feasibility of creating a “water trail” that would connect Cranberry Pond, Crane Lake, Mud Pond, Shaker Mill Pond.
- Improve safe biking routes across West Stockbridge, both on-road and off-road.
  - Develop a Tier II Complete Streets Prioritization Plan, using the 2004 Community Development Plan as a reference.
  - Continue investigating off-road routes, including having conversations with property owners along the old railroad / National Grid corridor, improve parking at the Peckley Hill Road trailhead.
Pin your location in Monterey.
Where do you live in Monterey?

- Blue Hill Road
- Main Road
- 522 Main Rd.
- 20 Griswold rd
- Hupi road
- Across the street from the library
- Main road near Anna's farm
- 134 Fairview rd
- 522 Main Rd.
Where do you live in Monterey?

- On a dirt road
- Sylvan rd.
- On lake garfield near town beach
- Main Road at Sandisfield Road
- 350 Beartown Mtn. Rd, 1/2 mile before turn around
- on a dirt road 2 miles from town
My Favorite reasons to be in Monterey (and Berkshire County) include...

- **Green Acres is the place for me!** Country living is why I make the Berkshires my home.
- **Small-town life is the best.** Newhart was modeled off life in my town.
- **I love the Winter- skiing, snowshoeing, and warming up by the fire.**
- **Culture is my bag.** Tanglewood, Bidwell House and Museum, and The Norman Rockwell Museum are where you will find me.
- **Getting outdoors, whether kayaking on Buel, hiking in Beartown State Forest or Bob's Way.**
- **Summer is the season for me- lakes, concerts, and enjoying the outdoors.**
Three words I would use to describe Monterey to someone who has never visited are...

community, beautiful, peaceful

Words associated with Monterey:
- community
- beautiful
- peaceful
- history
- gardening
- rural
- nature
- people
- serenity
- freedom
- historic small town
- no commerce
- under pressure
- idyllic
- historical
- hiking lakes
- family
- community engagement
Monterey has everything, except for....

- Transportation
- Bike path/sidewalks
- Housing for younger people
- General store, place to gather for coffee, farm to table restaurant
- General store for the people not just upscale. Well functioning boards and committees without lots of conflict and hostility.
- General Store roadside cafe
- Viable businesses
- a general store that carries real supplies and is a place to gather.
- General store Roadside Safety boat patrol for Garfield lake
Monterey has everything, except for:

- Stores
  - A store, a school, gas station, speed bumps, coffee shop
- Groceries
  - An open general store
  - Safe bike lane, convenience store, low cost housing
- general store, mobile food truck, Instagram present, youth gathering opportunities, farmers market
- Community hub, walking paths to connect facilities
- Enough children

Monterey General Store
Monterey has everything, except for:

- Walking paths to connect facilities
- A store with real supplies and a place to gather
- Affordable housing
- Mobile food truck
- Elementary school
- Farmers market
- Gathering opportunities for youngsters
Monterey has everything, except for....

opportunities for gathering for youngsters
Use the scales to rate your agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

- Monterey has the variety and types of entertainment options I enjoy.
  - Rating: 3.4

- Monterey has housing that I want and can afford.
  - Rating: 2.6

- Monterey has employment that enables me to live comfortably in the community.
  - Rating: 2.1

- Monterey provides the services I need such as good schools, police and fire services, and good town administration.
  - Rating: 3.5
Reasons that I choose to live in Monterey are...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Parks and Natural Resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Sense of community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Goat cheese, maple syrup, and fresh veggies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Low tax rate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Friends and family.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Great place to raise a family.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Community-oriented police, fire, and ems services.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Great place to retire.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>School system.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Responsive local government.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Add your own reason or elaborate on why you choose to live in Monterey?

- Because it's in the Berkshires
- Found a place near a lake
- To allow our children to grow up in nature.
- A place you can make a difference, where you know your neighbors, open space, a place in time
- Beautiful area, nice people, recreation, and cultural options
- The combination of a beautiful place and a real community of interesting people
- Give the kids new opportunities
- We had lived in the area before choosing Monterey for the school, the house, the low tax rate, and the small town community that we could be involved in.
- Close enough to NYC and still far enough away.
Add your own reason or elaborate on why you choose to live in Monterey?

- Space
- Family home where I grew up. My family lives here. Good friends
- Deep connection to the experience of spending time here
- Two minutes walking commute to work!
- Ability to have a home-based business in a rural country beautiful setting.
- I can disagree with my neighbor and still have coffee with them. I've created a friends quilt in my community.
What would be most important to be included in the Master Plan?

- Sustainable energy
- Solar energy and sustainability
- General store
- Maintaining and restoring human community
- Climate resilience
- Economic and alternative energy development
- Walk/bike path
- It must be inclusive, green, and food sustainable. It must be interconnected.
- Access to a place where we can purchase necessities without having to drive a distance
What would be most important to be included in the Master Plan?

- Land preservation
- Business development
- Create an environment for young people
- Business district uses
- Sustainability, infrastructure for Community cohesion and interaction
- Preservation and protection of our forests and beaches
- Safe place to bicycle and walk on main road
- How to keep us a real community and not become a town of only rich weekenders
- Sustainability and maintaining a sense of community
What would be most important to be included in the Master Plan?

- Attractive for young people
- Place to meet and gather
- Plans re the culvert, improving town government and protecting the environment.
- Need to publicize our community meetings better so we get greater attendance
- Use what we have for the biggest impact on climate change, equal opportunity, bring schools back into towns
- Sidewalks, bike lanes, pavilion for the community center, roadside store
- Attracting young families
Thank you for participating in the Monterey Master Plan Kick-off event. Please feel free to leave any comments here.

- Thank you! Good job.
- Thank you!
- This process took far too much time for a first meeting.
- thank you for accommodating our need to speak out on how important our town is to us
- Important to get more people to these community meetings
- Great start to the process! Thanks
- Very insightful to the process. How do we keep vociferous contributions in balance with quiet minds
- We need a way to limit short term tourism it undermines community cohesion
- Thank you for making it entertaining and accessible. I’m very excited to be part of this incredible opportunity to chart our future. Gracias!
Thank you for participating in the Monterey Master Plan Kick-off event. Please feel free to leave any comments here.

- Can anything be done to improve the percentage response to surveys?
- get the messages around on Instagram for young people