



POSSIBLE DREAMS 2021: MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Community Visioning Event

Possible Dreams 2021
Summary Report



POSSIBLE DREAMS 2021: MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

took place on Monday, March 8th, virtually, via the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

There were approximately 97 participants joining in on the lively, upbeat conversation, from all corners of Haverhill.

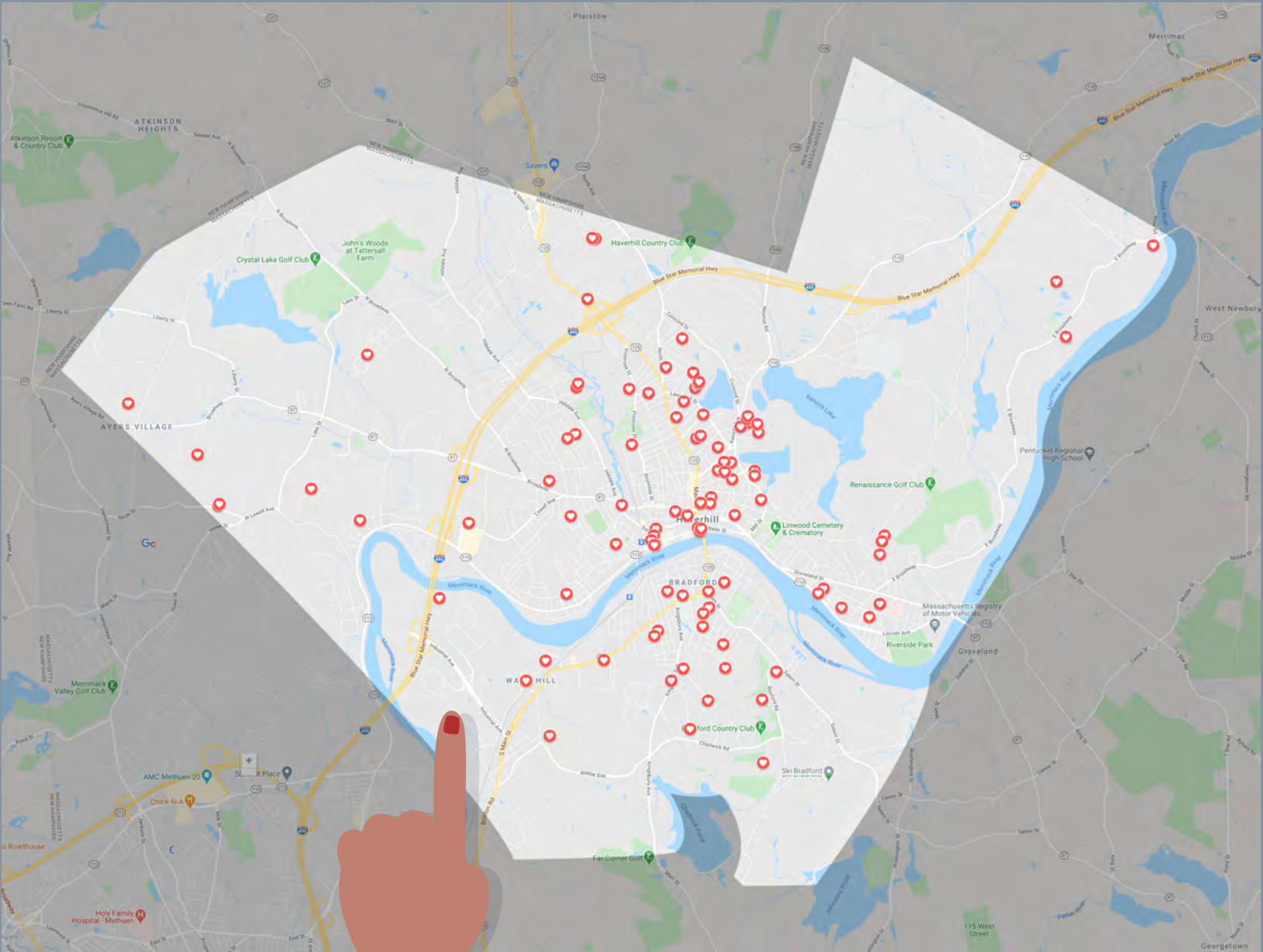
Prior to the event, ideas were solicited from the community. Ten of these "possible dreams" were presented by inspired residents during the event, each hosting small group conversations in individual Breakout Rooms discussing and exploring ways to make their dream a reality for Haverhill.

After the Breakout Room discussions, a short report was given to the reconvened "full meeting" by each group.

Even without the intimacy of a typical in-person Possible Dreams event, the energy of our community was easily noticed. This summary is provided in hopes of keeping the momentum of the evening going and moving forward together to help these possible dreams become a reality!



POSSIBLE DREAMS 2021 REGISTRANTS... FROM ALL OVER HAVERHILL!



01830 = 55

01832 = 22

01835 = 26

SUMMARY

Two broad themes at Possible Dreams 2021 that had tremendous energy were community based 'arts & entertainment', and 'environmental & beautification' goals for Haverhill.

This was reflected in both the ideas that were submitted for discussion and by the interest of the participants, as noted during registration.

Four of the ten ideas were art and entertainment related.

Haverhill Art Walk ~ Drive-In Theater ~ Sculptures on the New Rail Trail Extension ~ Destination Downtown

Four of the ten ideas were environmental and beautification related.

Curbside Composting ~ Replacing the Gale Park Fountain ~ Take a Plant, Leave a Plant ~ Neighborhood Clean & Green Teams

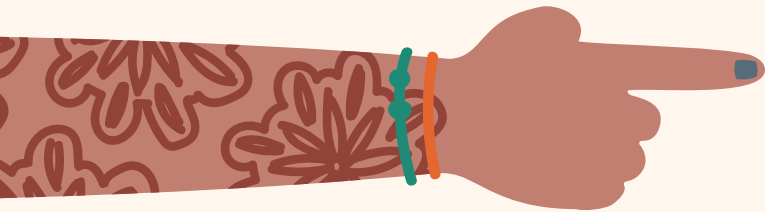
Over half the registrants showed interest in both the Haverhill Art Walk and Destination Downtown conversations. Both of these "possible dreams" aim to activate the downtown with regularly scheduled art, food and entertainment events.

Over one third of registrants showed interest in each of the following:

Neighborhood Clean & Green Teams, Curbside Composting, Take a Plant - Leave a Plant, Sculptures on the New Rail Trail Extension and Replacing the Gale Park Fountain.

The desire for 'downtown arts & entertainment' and community-wide 'beautification and environmental' goals further reflect the valued balance of "urban and rural" unique to Haverhill, that has been highlighted at past Possible Dreams events.





MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Notes from each of the Breakout Room discussions are included at the end of the report.

Whether you attended Possible Dreams 2021 or not, if you are interested in helping to move any of these ideas forward, please email the listed contact. If you know of any resource, individual or organization, funding source or sponsor, volunteers or any other connection that might be able help, please take that extra step and connect them with the listed contact too! Possible dreams only become a reality when action is taken.

Curbside Composting Contact:

Devan Ferreira devanmferreira@gmail.com

Logan Airport Park & Fly Contact:

Terry Morose gtmorose@comcast.net

Art Walk Contact:

Hailey Moschella haverhillartwalk@gmail.com

Take A Plant, Leave A Plant Contact:

Kathy Fitts kathy.fitts.25@gmail.com

Replacing Gale Park Fountain Contact:

Kristine Sheehan ewsheehan@comcast.net

Sculptures on Rail Trail Ext. Contact:

Ann Jacobsen aejacobson@comcast.net

Drive-in Theater Contact:

Phil Brown mrbrownhhs@gmail.com

Destination Downtown Contact:

Jimmy Carbone jimmypotsandpans@gmail.com

Veterans Video Archive Contact:

Dave Shultz dave.shultz8@gmail.com

Neighborhood Clean & Green Contact:

Christine Kwitchoff christinekwitchoff@comcast.net

Please consider getting involved with a “possible dream”, that did not host a Breakout Room during the event.

Revitalize The Buttonwoods Contact:

Janice Williams jwilliams@haverhillhistory.org

THANK YOU!

We are very thankful to every participant that gave their time, ideas and energy to Possible Dreams 2021! Thank you!

A big thank you to those participants that submitted their "possible dreams" and led Breakout Room discussions.

Thanks to all of our Breakout Room hosts that helped to keep the conversation on track and take notes of each session.

Thank you to all the Team Haverhill volunteers and friends that helped us practice on Zoom and shared their insight to help make the event run smoothly.

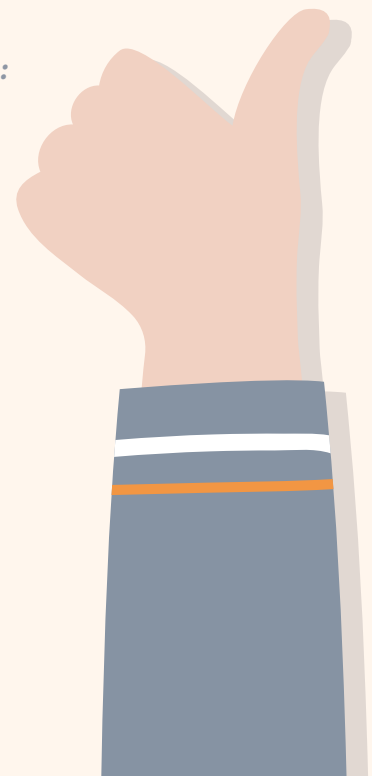
Special thanks to Alice Mann, the creator of Possible Dreams; a masterful moderator, insightful leader and community collaborator.

Thanks to Annie Liebert for her amazing graphic design work.

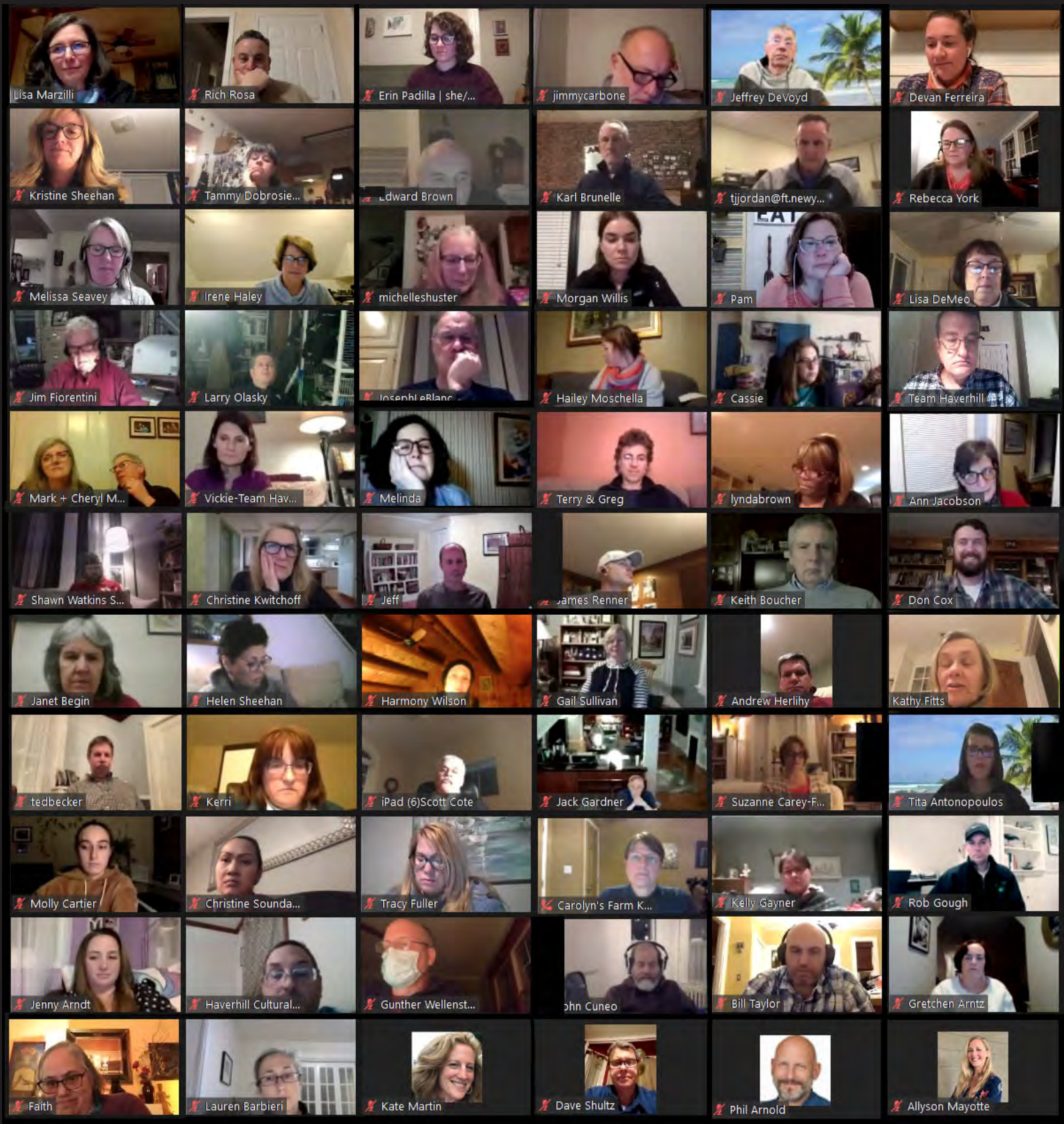
We would also like to thank the Greater Haverhill Foundation for their continued support.

Thank you Haverhill - we hope to see you at Possible Dreams 2022!

***Team Haverhill's Possible Dreams Planning Committee:
Lisa Marzilli • Kevin Burke • Jeff Grassie***



MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER



CURBSIDE COMPOSTING

Diverting trash, good for environment, useful by product. 5 gallon home containers. Hamilton, MA first town to mandate, some cities contract privately, some do it themselves. Some towns have totes and you drop off. Some pickup like with regular trash.

\$65 per ton of garbage to go to the incinerator. Some communities have 800-1000 tons per year food scraps being composted. Arrowhead Farm created their own drop-off time and place for their community

Challenges - Where would compostables go? Options: private contractors, DPW throws it in pickups, throws it in a dumpster, Crescent Farm has a digester and could take it, partnering with local farms? Education to keep trash out of compost. Regulations? Farms can start composting programs through the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR).

Smart marketing campaign - Will take education to get people to adopt it and do it successfully. Do you really want that smelly banana peel in your garbage? Learn from the success of recycling marketing.

State and federal funding? Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) does grants. Look for most accessible grants, small scale pilot, and a composting site (DPW, or a farm). Make an example to prove that it could work. Devan tried it at a school, 300 lbs of food scraps collected and picked up by a private contractor, kids enjoyed it.

Starting points: Continue conversation to think through details. Start with a pilot. In a neighborhood or school. DPW could accept pumpkins as a simple starting point.

Get involved with this group!

Contact Devan Ferreira devanmferreira@gmail.com

ART WALK

Creative Haverhill along with Hailey Moschella, Creative Haverhill's Art Walk Coordinator, are developing an ongoing Art Walk throughout downtown Haverhill following a very successful inaugural Art Walk back in 2019. The 2021 Haverhill Art Walk will be an outdoor and indoor event occurring on the second Saturday of the month from May - September from 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Art Walks will highlight local businesses, forgotten alleyways, and underutilized spaces with plein air painting, exhibitions, demonstrations, and music performances and will become an annual program. There will be volunteer opportunities for each Art Walk event.

More info: <https://www.creativehaverhill.org/haverhill-art-walk>

During the discussion, a downtown business owner shared that businesses could participate by doing creative window displays or by displaying artwork in their window displays along with hosting an art exhibition and/or demonstration.

A participant asked if we will be providing booklets to lead people through the Art Walks. We explained that the Art Walk will be an organic experience where we will be providing maps that show which businesses are participating and where they're located so people can experience the Art Walk at their own speed and can pick and choose where they would like to go. A suggestion was made to try to develop an Art Walk app instead of providing the maps. This idea was seconded by another participant who explained that using an app would be better for the environment, it could direct people to artist websites and contact info, and could entice people to participate who just happened to be in the downtown area during the event. He also shared that he might be able to help develop this app so we plan to follow up to see if this is something that we could create for the Art Walk events.

Get involved with this group!

Contact Hailey Moschella haverhillartwalk@gmail.com

REPLACING GALE PARK FOUNTAIN

Gale Park is a triangular space between Kenosha Avenue and Mill Street and is the location for three veterans' monuments, a World War I memorial that lists the names of Haverhill residents who fought in that war; a statue of a Spanish American War soldier; and the Women's Memorial, which thanks the women in all the service branches for their service.

For more than 20 years, the Gale Park Neighbors Association has worked to take care of the park, including planting flowers and trees, cleaning up leaves and litter, and lighting up the park with a tree lighting ceremony and neighborhood party. It has become a home for a Little Lending Library. The association has paid for these items by soliciting contributions from neighbors.

The association has been trying to care for the existing fountain; an unattractive basin made of rocks and concrete and uses a fire hose with visible piping to spray water. This fountain is a sad replacement for the very beautiful Carlton Fountain that was once there, but was moved to Winnekenni after it stopped working long ago. You can find a video that explains the history of the Carlton Fountain here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_G26eTX1SDw

The association has struggled to get the current fountain to work and has already spent funds on various “band-aid” repairs. The fountain didn’t operate once in 2020 because of the cracks in the basin. Estimates for tearing out the existing fountain and replacing it with a new fountain are between \$75,000-\$80,000.

In 2019, the association met with the City Council’s Natural Resources and Public Property Committee chaired by Councilor Tom Sullivan. They suggested getting more estimates and said it was possible that the city could use its employees for some of the site work. The pandemic hit, which put the project on hold. Andrew Herlihy, of the city's Community Development Department, explained that this area does not meet the income requirements to qualify for Community Block Grant money. The city installed a bench in Gale Park and will be installing another later this year. He said he would try to think of other potential grants sources.

Suggestions: Possibly increase the scope of the project to include repairing the WWI veterans memorials in the park. Apply for grants for the larger project. Apply for a Methuen Festival of Trees grant ,although it would probably be a small amount it could be a start. Another member of the group, Lisa DeMeo, offered to help with plans and grant writing because she has experience in that area in her job as the Salisbury Public Works Director.

Get involved with this group!

Contact Kristine Sheehan ewsheehan@comcast.net

HAVERHILL DRIVE-IN THEATER & CONCERT VENUE

What: Initially a temporary/ moveable drive-in /concert venue (and, if popular it could be made permanent)

Why: Give families a safe place to gather for entertainment AND (potentially) to serve as a Haverhill entertainment "destination"

These temporary events could be set up at various locations (Winnekenni, the stadium, local farms, Bradford Ski, etc.) around the city using inflatable screens (and inflatable stages). Movies and classic rock concert videos could be shown. Live concerts could be a part. There could be laser shows and kids VR experiences. There would be an admission fee that would go to paying for the expenses (\$8,000/event). Music/ sound would be "broadcast" through car radios. Food trucks could be invited for a fee.

Next steps: Formation of a committee to discuss what Ed has already researched, develop ideas and do more research.

The main concern of those gathered was that this was a gigantic undertaking (Jenny A. shared about all the work and expense to just show movies outside of Haverhill Bank) and that it would be best to start very small.

Get involved with this group!

Contact Phil Brown mrbrownhhs@gmail.com

VETERANS VIDEO ARCHIVE PROJECT

Basic Overview: To record interviews with Haverhill veterans and Broadcast, Archive and Present copies to the veterans and their families Initial focus on WWII, Korea and Vietnam veterans to preserve their stories and honor their service

Discussion Overview:

- Shawn (Sr. Vice Commander of the VFW post) pledged the support and assistance of the VFW for this project
- Need to find resources and information on who the vets are and how to contact them
- Dave has started with some interviews, but his is too big a project for one person to do
- We do a lot to recognize those veterans who are deceased, but we don't often recognize those who are still with us
- Attempt to get our local youth. Involved, HS students and college students to kindle interest in history and veterans
- This is an opportunity to create an archive for future generation to save these little pieces of history that tell a story of the bigger picture
- Potentially include those veterans we have already lost by checking with the library and with families to see if they have letters, papers, photographs etc that could be read by a family member to create a record for those men and women

Next Steps:

- Work to get a comprehensive list of veterans living in Haverhill
- Reach out to local groups to get them involved (veterans groups, ROTC, scouts, high school, local colleges)
- Set up a team so that Dave isn't a one man show trying to do this alone
- work together with the VFW to use their meal program to get info on this program into the hands of the vets themselves

Get involved with this group!

Contact Dave Shultz dave.shultz8@gmail.com

LOGAN AIRPORT PARK & FLY

Idea: To organize a park and ride service and location to serve Haverhill and the surrounding communities.

We believe this idea would be a tremendous asset:

It could be an alternative to the train.

Cheaper than parking or Uber - we've all done the calculation on paying to park for shorter trips vs taking a service for longer ones.

More environmentally friendly.

The service could easily be expanded:

Commuting to Boston.

Casino trips.

Other cities like NYC.

Next Steps:

- **Research**

Research existing services: NBPT, Portsmouth and Wilmington (companies, costs, schedule, etc)

Research locations: Ward Hill, Target, etc.

- **Reach out to the MVRT and Private Companies to gauge interest**

Get involved with this group!

Contact Terry Morose gtmorose@comcast.net

TAKE A PLANT, LEAVE A PLANT

Idea: Create a plant sharing structure so residents can share plants and promote gardening

We believe this idea would be a tremendous asset for the community:

Provide free plants and trees to residents

Encourage gardening for all ages

Provide a location/opportunity for gardeners or landscapers to share/donate extra plants

Increase the greening of Haverhill-environmental impact

Discussed possible location for plant stand:

- Nearby Goeke parking deck?
- Haverhill Public Library? (shade)
- City Hall?
- Boardwalk behind Harbor Place-this location has good foot traffic, city owned, and may have potential waterer (breakout member)

Ideas Discussed:

- City (DPW) could donate free trees to plant
- In winter, could bring inside a location for sharing indoor plants (coffee shops?)
- Connect with landscapers so they could donate plants they don't need
- Spring and Fall are the big time for sharing plants
- If plant stand is successful, it could easily be expanded through city (like Little Free Libraries)- UTEC may be a good partner to build future stands

Challenges:

- Unlike the little free libraries, plants do need a curator (water) - need committed volunteers.
- Need awareness so residents know they can donate-can use social media

Next Steps:

- Build and paint the first plant stand (similar to image)-Team Haverhill will fund materials and provide volunteer
- Continue to communicate with Haverhill Garden Club
- Reach out to Montessori School about watering plants?
- Discuss the boardwalk as a possible location

Get involved with this group!

Contact Kathy Fitts kathy.fitts.25@gmail.com

SCULPTURES ON THE NEW RAIL TRAIL EXTENSION

After a brief formal pitch by submitter Ann Jacobson, this Possible Dreams breakout group said it is willing to work to bring more public art to the rail trail for present and future expansion. Members know that thousands of residents and visitors enjoy the sculptures now in place. They feel it is important that this work continue.

We learned that construction is already underway to expand the rail trail to the east towards the Crescent Yacht Club. A \$1.1 million contract has been awarded to Onyx Corp. (Acton), who will be working with designers from Stanec. Work on the site is underway, so it's important that stakeholders get to work planning for new public art in this next phase.

This project has challenges. Land on both sides of the rail trail will be off limits due to environmental issues and also the private ownership of the former Taylor-Goodwin property. The working group feels that there might be room for two sculptures and/or other public art in the next phase of rail trail expansion, however. The passageway under the Basiliere Bridge provides one possible location as well as city-owned land adjacent to the yacht club. Basiliere Bridge reconstruction is likely to pose challenges as well, but the group is committed to working to meet whatever temporary challenges arise.

The working group will meet with city leaders and the Rail Trail Committee in coming weeks to discuss this project. We will also be reaching out to various stakeholders and financial, artistic and other partners. We are pleased that Pentucket Bank, a major supporter of the original Rail Art Trail, and Creative Haverhill pledged their support with details to be worked out.

Breakout group participants agreed to volunteer. They welcome others to join the group to make this Possible Dream become a reality.

Get involved with this group!

Contact Ann Jacobsen aejacobson@comcast.net

DESTINATION DOWNTOWN

The idea is to create regularly scheduled arts, food, craft beverage, entertainment activations at key downtown public spaces. Not just one off promotions or festivals, rather, regularly scheduled , end of work day or weekend happenings.

Harbor Place with Haverhill Chamber New England Cider event with a few Haverhill restaurants involved including Barrio (at Harbor Place)

Potential to partner with the Haverhill Farmers Market.

Akron, Ohio revitalizes lock system concert series, in amphitheater downtown - concerts, free movies

Abutting Putnam, CT - First Friday every month - shut down street to cars. Artisans, music, drinks. Mostly summer, ice carving on Valentines Day

More music played regularly, downtown - potentially behind Haverhill Heights on boardwalk, green space at Harbor Place, Columbus Park, Washington Square

Connect with Art Walk and Creative Haverhill

Get involved with this group!

Contact Jimmy Carbone jimmypotsandpans@gmail.com

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN & GREEN TEAMS

Possible Dream: *Build off the success of Clean & Green Downtown by expanding this concept to every neighborhood in Haverhill.*

Current State: Varies from neighborhood to neighborhood, however, many areas are plagued by a proliferation of litter and dumping.

Challenges / Constraints: Individuals, or small groups, currently work independently.

Moving Forward Together Collaborate with DPW, Brightsides, FM Adopt-a-Hydrant, and businesses. Include neighborhood associations, Cultural Treasures, Trails Committee, other non-profit and faith based groups.

Opportunity to partner with Groundwork Lawrence. <https://groundworklawrence.org/>
Engages young people via their Green Team, addresses environmental justice issues, and educates and encourages youth in underserved neighborhoods. How can we adopt their model in Haverhill?

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs make litter pickup a low priority for vulnerable neighborhoods. Despite this, must try to educate students. Litter pickup needs to be encouraged at our schools. No active neighborhood associations in the area (the Acre).

City Wide Cleanup / Earth Day generates great enthusiasm - expand on this, more than one day per year. Brightside's wants more connection with community.

One participant said that residents don't believe their individual voices are being heard. The desire is to band together as a way to coalesce political power. Create an ongoing list of work to be done by neighborhood. Have a bigger voice / platform to ensure work gets done.

Goal is to identify a Neighborhood Ambassador in each neighborhood. The Ambassador can use Team Haverhill's resources and reach to connect with a broader audience.

Next Steps: Litter pickup, fire hydrant painting, trail maintenance and the creation of master lists for DPW by neighborhood. Determine cleanup dates! Bigger message from our session was how to engage vulnerable youth into the conversation.

Get involved with this group!

Contact Christine Kwitchoff christinekwitchoff@comcast.net

REVAMP & REVITALIZE THE BUTTONWOODS

Please don't forget to consider getting involved with this “possible dream”, that did not host a Breakout Room during the event.

Possible Dream: The Buttonwoods Museum is renovating its public display spaces to reflect the community. The underlying theme and timeline will be the River. The history will be told with a nod to the past but a focus on the future. And the stories told will represent and engage all members of our Greater Haverhill community

Looking for collaborators and partners with people of color, LGBTQ community, immigrants, and more.

Get involved with this group!

Contact Janice Williams jwilliams@haverhillhistory.org