

Possible Dreams 2019 - Summary

The following is a summary of Possible Dreams 2019, Team Haverhill's annual community visioning event. Possible Dreams took place on Monday, March 11, 2019 at Northern Essex Community College. There were approximately 135 attendees participating.

After two rounds of small group discussions about our city, individuals stepped forward to lead conversations about specific ideas that they were passionate about.

This summary is provided in hopes of keeping the momentum going!

The full event has been edited into an easy-to-watch video by HC Media is available here: <http://haverhillcommunitytv.org/video/possible-dreams-2019>

Action / Idea groups:

Below you will find a summary of the Action / Idea groups; their goals and next steps. If you are interested in contributing your energy or ideas to any of these groups, please contact the listed leader directly – their contact info is provided below.

A) **Cleaner and greener Downtown**

Goal: Create a cleaner and greener Downtown through cleaning, painting and planting projects to take our Downtown to the next level.

Next Steps: Partner with the Firefighter's Museum for the Adopt-a-hydrant program to paint ten Downtown hydrants, inform local businesses about Nunans

Contact: Lisa Marzilli lmarzilli@yahoo.com

B) **Preserving Powderhouse**

Goal: Preserve the Powder House building on Powderhouse Road by coordinating neighbors to preserve and value this unique and historic building.

Next Steps: Work with Rocks Village group to learn from their experiences, and go to City Hall to learn about the City's efforts on this historic building.

Contact: Alison Colby-Campbell alisonsbrain4rent@gmail.com

C) **Free all-day kindergarten / Early literacy**

Goal: Access to free all-day early education and equitable educational opportunities for our youngest citizens.

Next Steps: Merged with Group I

Contact: Joanna Dix joanna.dix@gmail.com

D) **Reaching out to the Latino community / diversity in city gov't**

Goal: Working with city government to reach out to the Latino community in our city and to increase diversity in our city government.

Next Steps: Mt. Washington neighborhood to host City Council Citizen Outreach subcommittee group meeting in the Mt. Washington neighborhood.

Contact: Abigail Perez aperez@communityactioninc.org

E) **Improve school communications (automate announcements)**

Goal: Improving school performance with robo-calls to notify all families of important events and alerts.

Next Steps: Build new relationships and nurture existing relationships to explore and examine the issue more closely.

Contact: Mirca Mejias mirca.mejias28@gmail.com

F) **Communal success**

Goal: Communal success by connecting schools, businesses, residents to achieve common goals in our community.

Contact: Jazmine Casado jazmine@jazminecasado.com

G) **Queen Slipper Shoe Museum**

Goal: Create a Queen Slipper City Shoe Museum, purchased by the City and get the Haverhill. Historical Commission involved.

Next Steps: Learn from Firefighter Museum about their experience.

Contact: Jim Mamonas jimamonas@comcast.net

H) **Better soccer fields**

Goal: Improving community soccer fields in Haverhill.

Next Steps: research costs and find funding sources to convert southeast corner of Riverside Park and convert softball fields into soccer fields.

Contact: Edward P Felker edfelker@me.com

I) **Grade level reading proficiency**

Goal: A campaign for grade-level reading to get all of our children reading on grade-level by grade 3.

Next Steps: Have School Committee meet with City Council. Create a Reader Day. Get books that have both English and Spanish on each page so parents can read with their child at the same time. Make videos for parents that ask “What is the best way to get my child reading?”

Contact: Gail Sullivan gail.sullivan@haverhill-ps.org

J) **Merrimack Valley Food Co-op**

Goal: Creating a local, member owned grocery store, The Merrimack Valley Food Co-op, that supports local farmers on a year round basis.

Next Steps: Project in progress – next meeting is Sunday April 14th 3-5pm.

Contact: Suzanne Carey-Fernandez golocal2010@gmail.com

K) **Flashing speed limit signs / Pedestrian safety**

Goal: Increase number of speed limit signs and a campaign for pedestrian safety.

Next steps: Have follow-up meetings to continue working on ideas to increase pedestrian safety.

Contact: Nina Chicoski n.chicoski@gmail.com

and

Jean Longfellow jeankathleen56401@gmail.com

L) **Breaking down barriers between Haverhill and Bradford**

Goal: Break down barriers that divide Haverhill and Bradford through the arts, education and history.

Next Steps: Working with cultural organizations that already provide educational events. Explore how transportation can be used to achieve the goal.

Contact: Erin Padilla erin.cogswellarts@gmail.com

M) **Music and arts start-up village**

Goal: New arts community offering music lessons, dance lessons, photography... looking for other artists looking to start up their own creative businesses.

Next Steps: Invite all creative entrepreneurs to 145 Washington Street.

Contact: Letriah Masters 1Letriahmasters@gmail.com

N) **Cultural festival in 2020**

Goal: The Haverhill Cultural Commission is working on a multicultural festival in 2020, striving to showcase individuality while celebrating the diversity of Haverhill.

Contact: Helen Sheehan hdsheehan1@yahoo.com

O) **Puffing Harbor Place to work!**

Goal: Recognize that downtown is the "Welcome Mat" of Haverhill and the importance of activating Harbor Place.

Next Steps: Field trip to Providence WaterFire.

Contact: Dougan Sherwood dougan@haverhillchamber.com

P) **Fire safety education / Adopt a Hydrant**

Goal: Increasing fire safety and the maintenance of our hydrants through the Firefighter Museum's Adopt-a-Hydrant program.

Next Steps: get everyone to tell one other person about

Contact: Shelley Dame Smith shelleydamesmith@haverhillfirefightingmuseum.org

Q) **Fix up the Denworth Hall**

Goal: Start an initiative to save Denworth Hall at Bradford College/North Point Bible College

Next Steps: Research plan in place – scheduled a coffee meet-up.

Contact: Contact: info@teamhaverhill.org

R) **Master Plan Engagement**

Goal: Make sure that the community has input on the City's upcoming Master Plan.

Next Steps: Request more transparency and community involvement in process from the City.

Contact: Christine Kwitchoff christinekwitchoff@comcast.net

S) **Mental health wrap-around services**

Goal: Create and provide mental health services and training for our whole community.

Next Steps: Perform an assessment for need of mental health facility in Haverhill. Get grant for training of two people.

Contact: Eva Montibello me@evamonti.com

Round one Responses:

Below is a list (in no specific order) of thoughts, comments and ideas that were shared by event attendees when asked in Round One, to list “*one great new thing happening in Haverhill (or my neighborhood)... I think that is great because.....*”?

Downtown store fronts are filling up. Generates energy and commerce

Improved Farmers Market

Disc Golf Course. NECC/UML

Restaurants, Noticing Haverhill

Snow removal campaign, Self-esteem/Self-confidence workshop

Rebuilding downtown – Merrimack Street

Public Art – Murals

People are getting to know each other through public events. This is great because we work together to improve our city.

As former chair of the Haverhill Energy task Force, I think it's great that we have LED streetlights.

Rail Trail Extension, New Superintendent

Conservation land donated to city. Buildings being re-done.

Interest in literacy

New buildings being remodeled and rebuilt for good causes – veterans, affordable housing. UMass Lowell – new college. Make-It Haverhill, Coco Brown, 311, New School Superintendent

Our flourishing public art

What Noah was working on downtown (Mass Development Grant) Cohesive view into future.

Grassroots activity in Mt. Washington

Mt. Washington Alliance organizing and empowering the community.

New art coming downtown. It will draw more people/businesses.

The compound, Coco Brown, Make It Haverhill

Park along Merrimack – Hannah Dustin Landing

New restaurants and art spaces. Harbor Place.

Increased interest in education in the HPS.

Improving Haverhill Youth Soccer. Our children, present and future, will benefit from the new fields project.

Haverhill soccer is important and we need to improve our fields. Model for other community programs. Kids stay active and learn a sport that is internationally popular and growing in the USA.

New school superintendent, more money in city treasury.

KidFest – needs to be expanded to include more youth groups, scouts, Boys & Girls Club – demonstrations pertaining to each org.

Summer farmers Market Downtown and partnering with Willow Springs Vineyards on off season.

Vacant buildings being converted, new Farmers Market location, new restaurants, new murals.

Master Plan – helps our city to be proactive instead of reactive. Haverhill Promise – promoting literacy will have ripple effects for years to come.

Great new leadership in Haverhill Public Schools. Haverhill Promise.

Redevelopment & Downtown buildings

Farmers Market, Hollywood Pics

Haverhill Heights, NECC Culinary Arts School

Rail Trail extension allows us to walk about easily. Pedestrian safety is an issue! Car free! Senior Center.

Make IT Haverhill → Will provide jobs / job training, networking and collaboration.

New monuments coming to both Winnekenni Park and to new Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park in 2019 – great for many reasons!

The influx of restaurants and businesses on Rt. 125 near the Plaistow border.

Tree planting.

Local non-profits are getting better at marketing and getting the word out.

Merrimack Valley Music & Arts. Education.

The uptick in education and colleges. Our future will grow, live and be educated all in Haverhill.

Neighbors table in Mt. Washington

New public art

One night I walked from an event at The SwitchBoard to BattleGrounds poetry to Shoe City Bistro for dinner. Awesome night, able to walk.

The new murals on Washington Street – great because it highlights the city.

Latin community is being organized as groups named “Latino Coalition”, to interact with the city and being part of the solution.

Make IT Haverhill – great place for developing skills, interests and bringing folks to Mt. Washington.

Gerson Bldg – Rail Trail – Our Mayor – Best Wishes

Riverside Park Shoreline, CocoBrown, restaurants, Co-working, trails, playground, retail, Multicultural event – Haverhill Cultural Council

Mural and bridge art for gateway to Haverhill bridge.

New restaurants, murals. It's great because I can enjoy different food and great art.

Haverhill Promise → improve reading ability. Legal pot shops.

The grade level reading initiative, known as Haverhill Promise.

Community connections – volunteer groups connecting.

City art, sculptures, paintings (murals).

Art, Mt. Washington Alliance

The Rail Trail extension – it promotes walking in my part of Bradford.

Preserved spaces. Activities at vineyard.

Downtown – business revitalization.

Clean-up of the cemetery – makes it a pleasant place to walk and discourages vandals.

Walking trails, Farmers Market, family friendly environment

New restaurants and cafes. Walking trails.

We have a new school superintendent.

New murals bring color and new life. New development downtown – fewer empty storefronts. Haverhill Promise. New museum educator at Buttonwoods.

Make IT Haverhill maker space in Mt. Washington neighborhood to train students and parents and citizens.

Easy walk-ability Ample restaurants. Creative opportunities. Access to services and retail. Public art. Great places to hangout and spots to stop. The TRAIN!

Arts. Walks. Neighborhoods. Ideas. Involvement. Housing. College.

New school superintendent

Round Two Responses:

Below is a list (in no specific order) of thoughts, comments and ideas that were shared by event attendees when asked in Round Two, to list “*one great new thing I hope will happen in the future in Haverhill (or my neighborhood)... A first step to getting that done is....*”?

Trail extension. MORE parking downtown.

Downtown renovation continues

Safe dedicated bike lanes for all major streets. Safe walking trails with access to water and good signage

City government outreach to Latino communities

School equity, Diversity in our government

Elderly Housing – create a Master Plan to accommodate – Planning appropriate location downtown

A Master Plan for all downtown building – architecture should not be all over the place in terms of design

Agricultural Commission and Right-to-Farm bylaw – Assess interest of Haverhill Farms

Our news co-op up and running. (Haverhill Matters)

Design Review Board for Commercial Buildings – talk the Mayor into it

Cleaner & greener Downtown. Plan with land conservation in mind → zoning

Coalesce around literacy/early literacy initiatives

Rent control, Compromise with landlords/owners. Robo-calls to announce meetings/alerts.

A continued growth in our public arts. Reaching for private partnerships.

More support for public festivals.

I would like to see businesses work with our schools.

We get a test kitchen. Getting the city involved.

There are more rent/home buying opportunities for working families or workforce.
Rejuvenation.

Activate river – fill Harbor Place. See Haverhill as an example for other post-industrial cities.
Serious developers – meet-up.

More events at Tattersall and Merrimack park. Protect rural.

Study of redevelopment projects in neighborhoods.

We will successfully recruit more businesses (manufacturing?) to locate here. Hiring a replacement for Nate Robertson.

Street signage. Improved roads on the outskirts of the city.

Southeast Corner and Riverside Park becomes a soccer complex. First step is underway with discussion w/council.

Long-term realistic plan for school building construction.

Outdoor theater. Businesses to sell hydroponic gardening products. Family recreation – to include amphitheater for plays and music.

More conservation and open space. We would love to see the farmers start an Agricultural Commission.

Spruce up the City ie. Painting bridge. Abandoned shoe factories, broken windows – continue to fix.

Rail Trail should be longer.

Agriculture in classrooms.

Little Free Libraries in every neighborhood – find out what has been successful in other neighborhoods

that have had them. Arts and culture as part of the city's Master Plan... get it on the city's radar.

equity across the schools → need based. Mt. Washington Bus stops → a more pleasant start to the day.

Public theater/performance space Downtown.

Queen Slipper City Shoe Museum – City to purchase a historical former shoe shop or building.

Rotating Public Art in Central Square, Bradford. First step – determine who owns the land.

More traffic officers to enforce pedestrian rights. Go to City Council meeting to advocate for

more.

Organizing the LatinX community in my neighborhood/city.

Increase Special Education funding to all public schools. Increase affordable downtown housing for artists and young adults.

Improved roads and sidewalks and new sidewalks throughout the city – especially Downtown.

Completion of the boardwalk, with most restaurants along the river having outdoor seating on the river side. Also, the Rail Trail extending to Newburyport.

More fun, free activities.

More vegetarian options in Haverhill's Downtown.

Civic - police appreciation. MHFA/NODA/BM. Creating more synergy amongst groups.

A nightlife of cafe, art, music. Merrimack and Washington Street area closes down too early. more open spaces on the river – instead of developments. Theater district.

Set-up sister neighborhoods to better integrate the city.

Music venue, activities on the water, food co-op, theater (performance center Downtown)

Maintain the wonderful mix of rural and urban that Haverhill offers. A first step to getting this is a thoughtful Master Plan to preserve open space.

Education improvement in the schools.

One thing I hope happens is that new houses will be built to solve the houses needed.

Universal pre-school.

Stage St.? And something on Ginty Blvd. Speed signs or blinking light that says SLOW DOWN!

Save Powderhouse, recognize who owns it & it's value

Cogswell ArtSpace completion campaign. More connection across river (Bradford and Haverhill).

More murals and countdown with other cities/towns.

Merrimack Valley Food co-op. Members joining and people spreading the word.

Greater commitment and funding of arts and culture by the City. Schools about improving education.

I hope to see regular improvements to our school facilities. More community involvement in our schools.

Cleanest city in Merrimack valley. More neighbors talking. Arts and Culture mecca. Green city.

Book club. Agricultural commission – grants for farms. Raised garden beds – kids interaction. Micro-

Enterprises to create opportunities to connect culturally.

Rail Trail complete. Universal hot lunch/breakfast.

More traffic officers to enforce traffic and pedestrian safety. Hiring and budget meetings.

More preservation of open space – form group to “oversee” and promote

Diversity in government. Make IT Haverhill.

Rehab of the area between the Post Office and Harbor Place as well as filling Harbor place.

Completely litter free – eyesore free. Everybody claim a half acre and clean it up – do the whole city.

More neighborhood activities. Tattersall Farm events. Children and elderly events.

Haverhill Promise / civility.

Speed limit signs and flashing “Thank You” signs

New shops – small – local – gourmet food? Outdoor amphitheater next to the river.

New broadband network – competition, education, economic development, community engagement

A market in my neighborhood (co-op grocery). Increased parking – more affordable loft/studio space for artist.

Better lights at intersections and crosswalks – people getting hurt. Bright clothes – Handout bright vests.

Shopping.

Driving safety, fix lights Downtown, traffic should move smoothly.

Elderly involvement – Don't see the. Stop elder disrespect.

Improved school performance. Informing residents of the facts.

Round Three Responses:

Below is a list (in no specific order) of thoughts, comments and ideas that were shared by event attendees when asked in Round Three, to share what topic they would be most passionate about and what their group would focus on. Some of these evolved into the Action/Idea Groups that were listed in the first section of this summary.

MORE Parking downtown

Education or environmental issue

Industrial policy for Haverhill – match jobs, education, investments, services. Mental health services for seriously mentally ill (SMI) not just worried-well. Mental illness is often invisible and chronic. Not a solution to hand out lists of providers. Need to accompany families.

I will help reach out to Latino community

Elderly Housing

Encouraging more retail shops downtown and in Bradford

Strengthen Haverhill Farms (open space). Agricultural Commission, Right-to-Farm bylaw, connecting Haverhill farmers, to develop economic growth opportunities

How to find out where things are?

Cleaner & Greener Downtown. Deep cleaning projects, painting hydrants, planting in the downtown to bring it to the next level.

Coalescing around Early Literacy/education. Connect to and be strong foundation for HP.

More opportunities and access for more young children.

To improve school performance in communication about meetings, announcements and alerts.

Cleaner & Greener space + Public Arts = Beautification?

Performing Arts Center: indoors and/or outdoors. Locating a site.

Everything pertinent to Haverhill – Ditto!

Connecting businesses, schools and residents. How communal success can change the

future of Haverhill. The concept of businesses, schools and residents collaborating.

Education or environmental issue

What is one thing that could be done in the community for less than \$1000 by May 1st? What is a business we could create for less than \$5000 that could be run by kids? Could we go visit another old city rebuilding itself?

Central performance space – available to all.

Performance and art spaces available.

Focus on repairing all of our school buildings and getting out of crisis management mode.

Allowing children access to full day kindergarten.

Better soccer fields. Recreational space (broadly) – soccer fields (specifically)

Community input in school system design.

Outdoor art exhibit Downtown. For both professional and amateur. Portrait painting available. Music and book stores.

More conservation and open space in Haverhill. Starting an Agricultural Commission in Haverhill.

Upkeep and fix-up of vacant buildings, painting bridge.

Need an agricultural commission. Start with City Council.

Creative neighborhood engagement.

FREE All-day kindergarten and early education. Giving all students free access to public early education for equitable educational opportunities for our youngest citizens.

Improve youth soccer fields and family spaces in Haverhill.

Queen Slipper City Shoe Museum – Purchase building (Downtown Haverhill) by City. Get

Historical Commission involved.

Advocate Harbor Place – bring it to life!

Raise “expectations” re: pedestrian safety and making way for emergency vehicles.

Launching the collaborative workspace Make IT Haverhill.

Artist living-learning apartment spaces.

Some kind of beautification group I would probably be interested in most.

Keeping the Merrimack River clean – working with the City to deal with the CSO issues (combined sewer overflows dumping waste water in the river)

Wrap around mental health care. Better care for each other. Doctor – Mental Health Crisis center

Sister neighborhoods to better open communication lines.

Master Plan involvement.

Master Plan with community involvement.

School problems.

Preserve Powderhouse Building – Coordinating neighbors & Rocks Village to discuss how to do it. How to incentivize and coordinate neighbors to value & preserve this unique and historic building.

Bringing down the barriers for the Bradford/Haverhill divide. Through the arts (visual – mural?), through history, through education – perhaps a trolley tour? Collaborations. Duck Boat Tour.

Merrimack Valley Food Co-op. Spreading the word to help our member owned grocery store to support local farms year round.

Promoting development of LWM into a regional airport / transportation hub. Economic development / Aviation education.

The recognition of the role public schools play in an individual's or family's decision to move to a city.

Green and clean city.

Creating an opportunity to integrate farming with areas in the city that have food needs or educational / learning needs.

Adopt-a-Hydrant Program – along with promoting education for fire safety.

Showcasing local artists in a community social environment. Block party / Art show – walk a la Portsmouth / Portland.

Education / Haverhill Promise

Auto-flashing and speed limit signs.

Retail/shopping, historic preservation Powderhouse

Auto flashing speed limit signs.

Community engagement. A citywide “play” initiative to bring families together, to promote play in older communities, and to encourage more opportunities for joy in our neighborhoods.

City Council representative to speak to Mayor for ideas to benefit Haverhill.

Improve school performance.