



Possible Dreams

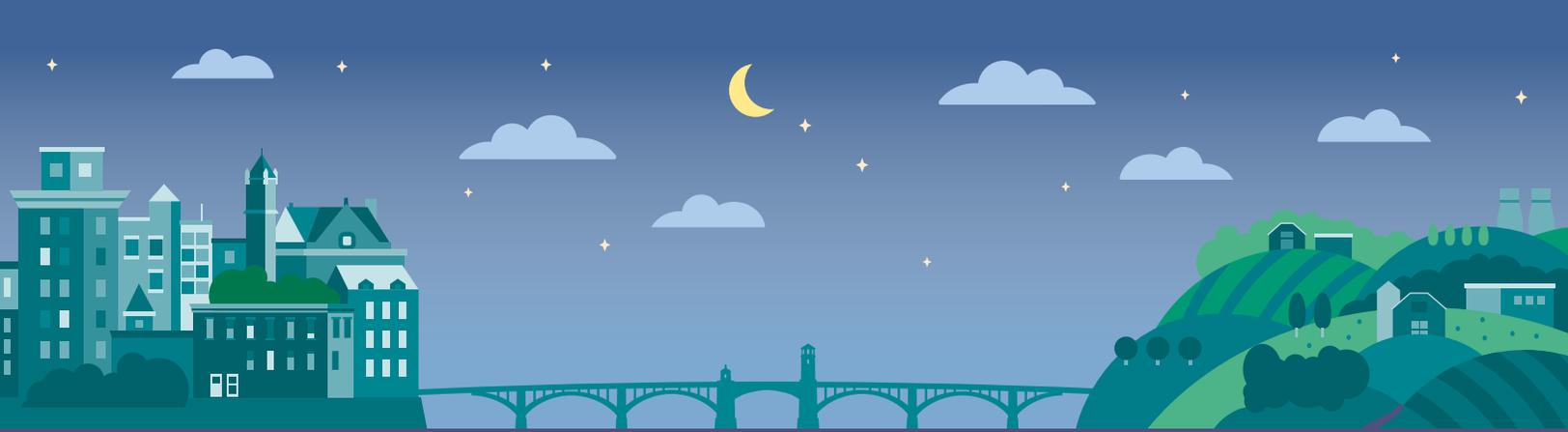
2020



COMMUNITY VISIONING EVENT

Possible Dreams 2020 - Full Report

team HAVERHILL



Possible Dreams

2020

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Possible Dreams 2020 took place on Monday, March 9th at Northern Essex Community College. There were approximately 86 attendees participating in three rounds of lively, upbeat conversation.

Team Haverhill Vice President Lisa Marzilli began the evening with an introduction, followed by a program of three rounds of discussion led by Team Haverhill Past-President Alice Mann.

The lively, upbeat conversation produced some incredible and inspiring ideas along with quite a few community members that stepped forward to champion specific "possible dreams".

The energy of our community in the room at Possible Dreams is remarkable. This summary is provided in hopes of keeping that momentum going!

Video of the full event was broadcasted and recorded by HC Media and is available here:

<https://bit.ly/PD2020Video>





SUMMARY

Participants strongly affirmed a key Master Plan finding:

"The community overwhelmingly appreciates the balance of town and country that Haverhill provides, and their priority for the future growth is to maintain the balance." - Vision Haverhill 2035.

This affirmation was evidenced by such attendee comments as:

"It's part of what makes Haverhill special. We have it all - urban core, rural and working farms in one city."

"Key to Haverhill's success over the long run."

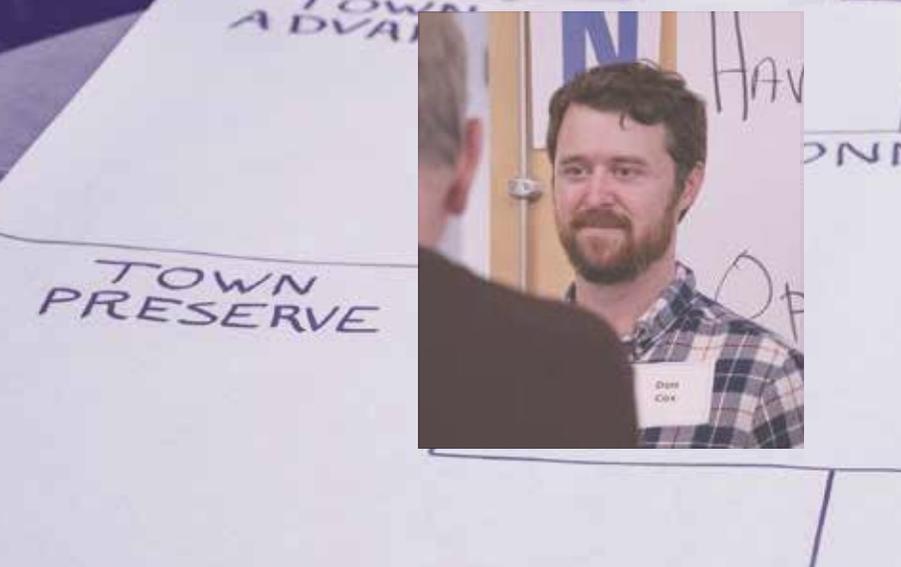
"This is what makes Haverhill unique, it is critical to the character of our city."

Within that balance, the conversation revealed a desire for:

- Thoughtful strategies for development in the higher density areas—including affordable housing, viable businesses, upgraded internet service, clean and attractive streetscape, and eco-friendly construction.
- Firm commitment to prevent sprawl, preserve our open landscapes, support our farm community, and develop open space recreational opportunities that all residents can enjoy.
- Strong community-building activity in and across neighborhoods—including events and venues that bring people together, a flourishing arts community, and well-supported public schools in every neighborhood.
- Greater attention to the needs of older youth and young adults—including recreational options, educational offerings, mental health assistance, and support for civic engagement.











THE CONVERSATION **ROUND 1** Balance of Town & Country

Attendees sat at small tables in groups of 4 to 5 and engaged in three rounds of conversation.

To begin the conversation, attendees were asked to score how important the "balance of town and country" in Haverhill is to them, on a scale of 1 - 10.

Then they were asked "Why did you rate it that way?" and were encouraged to discuss it with their table.

Their answers were written on response cards that have been transcribed and recorded.



ROUND 1

On a scale of 1 to 10, how important to you is Haverhill's "balance of town and country"?



74
number of responses

ROUND 1

After scoring, participants were asked "Why did you score it that way?"

- Saving agriculture locally
- The rural part of Haverhill is important for sustainability, foodwise, and beautiful.
- Nature restores and soothes. City vibe excites and brings people together with disparate interests.
- Economic lifestyle and diversity, (mental) health benefits
- I think it is important to have a mix of these two kinds of environments.
- Offers more to everyone - families need both the convenience of city life and space for play!
- I love living in a rural area but access to the city.
- I believe that maintaining both lends to a much greater balance and appreciation for each. We learn from both.
- We are so fortunate to have this mix! Hiking, visiting a farm, bike riding by day and the dinner and art gallery at night. So lucky!
- I think the rural areas and farms are one of the great assets our community has. Our environment is a treasure to protect.
- Important to have energy in the town to draw the country people in.
- Teaching children about our natural world - key to preserving it for their future.
- Because it's a balance that has existed for centuries and what seems to attract newcomers. It's unique as a town/city.
- A better balance of town and country leads to a rare diverse economy, community, resources, and can lead toward economic growth for the city. balance is best.
- Preservation of all of Haverhill's assets - town & country- are desirable, but not to the exclusion of development to benefit its citizens.
- It's very important because it allows you to have the best of both worlds, we can shop and play.
- Both are extremely important for families and connections. Both can be inspirational and serve as a means to get people together.
- Beauty of the more rural areas; land preservation and farms make the city unique and attract people to Haverhill
- To preserve our natural environment, farms, parks, lakes, river
- When a town has balance of two great themes - its peoples, its environment, it's economy has balance.
- It would feel more like a city.
- Balance is why we moved to Haverhill in the first place. It's downtown and rural parts make us unique.
- It makes the area desirable to stay at, and can do many things without driving.
- Variety is the spice of life!
- Diversity, character, work and life balance, fulfill interests (hiking + entertainment)
- Haverhill is unique because it can offer something for everyone. As long as each part, town and country, make a commitment to look out for one another.
- Pressure to provide more housing in Eastern Massachusetts. Housing costs are exorbitant
- Key to Haverhill's success over the long run.
- I wouldn't want to see the growth of one be restricted due to a lack of growth of the other.
- Green space is essential for urban life.
- Diversity and the ability to travel from urban to rural areas in minutes.

ROUND 1 (continued)

After scoring, participants were asked "Why did you score it that way?"

- This is what makes Haverhill unique, it is critical to the character of our city.
- It is very important to me that our rural parts of town remain rural by maintaining our 2-acre zoning in the rural residential zone.
- Town - access to services. Country - peaceful life.
- Worry that we will lose the rural character of our city and its farms.
- Not everyone likes everything, but I want to live in and participate in a community that makes everyone feel welcome and valued and takes ownership of our environment (created and natural)
- Energy of the city... beauty and peacefulness of the country.
- I wanted to keep my horse in my backyard. The country is the reason I moved to Haverhill. Country is where our food (Local) is grown. Town is close enough to do business with.
- The downtown is completely unique but the rural areas share qualities with rural areas from surrounding towns.
- It is important to keep the city the diverse community that it is.
- More arts in the city. Refurbish old buildings with art.
- Economy, life balance, health
- I live in SC (Special Conservation Zoning) It is on the Planning Board agenda to change it.
- Nature is important. Free space is important. Farmer's land and freedom to farm be preserved. I do not want Haverhill to become a city city.
- We moved to Haverhill in Oct 2017 because of two major things. 1) A 1700's house in a country setting and 2) Historic Downtown close to a railroad station.
- Each aspect offers different community resources and caters to different populations
- It's a big part of what makes Haverhill special/a desirable place to live and work.
- Green space & nature & impact on health
- Important to keep open country spaces for residents to have a place to be active in the fresh air.
- Farmland is important to maintain - continue to develop downtown.
- I shop at Haverhill farms almost every day in the summer and fall. The farms are extremely important to me.
- Haverhill's unique qualities of urban and rural are important to the identity of this town and it's people.
- I utilize the trails and parks almost all the time. I ride my bike all over Haverhill. I love to open space and conservation areas.
- It's part of what makes Haverhill special. We have it all - urban core, rural and working farms in one city.
- It is important to keep the history of Haverhill. Balance. To have a small town feel and city life.
- Like city activities and country breathing space
- I like the idea, but how do you define proper balance? We have a great artist community but artists have no place to buy materials.
- I think cities have more opportunities for entertainment. City life has more involvement.
- It's what makes Haverhill unique. I like the fact there are farms, hiking and downtown.
- I think it is important to take care of our city and make it nice and make people welcome.
- Balance is important to growth.
- We have a lot of land, usage needs change.
- I like having options to "escape" the downtown atmosphere I live in.



THE CONVERSATION ROUND 2 Preserving, Advancing, Connecting

Attendees were asked to switch tables to meet new neighbors as a more direct framework was introduced for the second round. The tabletops were marked in a grid, with five labeled "boxes":



Attendees were asked to record their answers on their response cards, to the following question:

What is one thing you would like to see happen in Haverhill in the next few years? Which box might it fit into?

Attendees were then asked to share their ideas with their table, and to explore additional ideas and possibilities for Haverhill. These thoughts were written directly on the tabletops during the conversation.

Both the answers from the response cards and the ideas on the tabletops have been transcribed and recorded.

After the event, as Team Haverhill volunteers compiled all of the thoughts and ideas from the evening, some natural 'categories' or 'tags' emerged. The comments were sorted into these subjective categories simply to provide an additional way of looking at the responses and to help gauge the energy in the room.

The categories or tags that were applied in sorting the comments are:

ARTS, CREATIVITY, MAKERS

POLICY, TAXATION, AND REGULATION

MAINTENANCE, CLEANLINESS, BEAUTIFICATION

ENCOURAGING AND CONNECTING WITH FARMS

COMMUNITY BUILDING

SCHOOLS, EDUCATION, CHILDREN

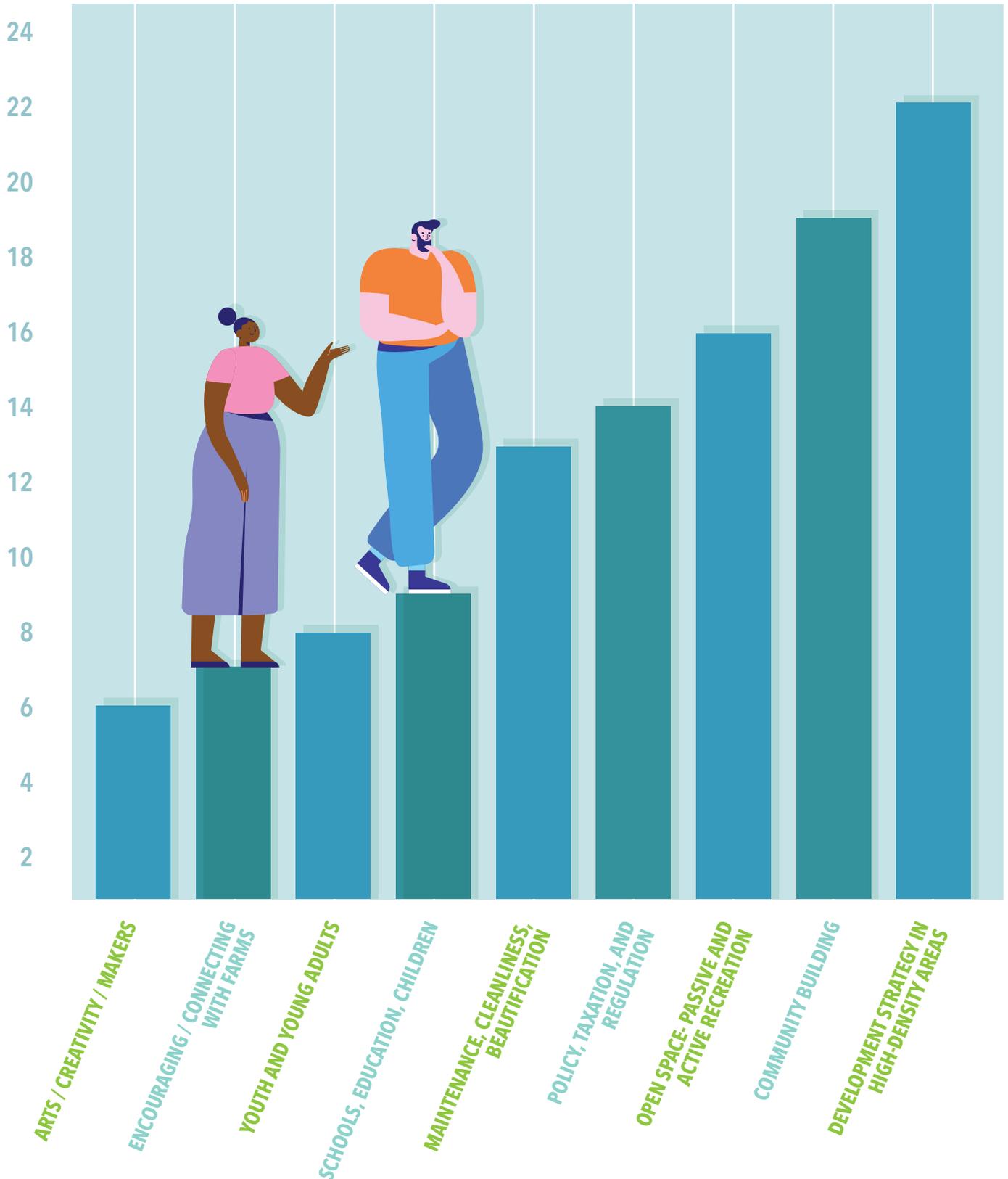
OPEN SPACE - PASSIVE & ACTIVE RECREATION

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN HIGH-DENSITY AREAS

ROUND 2

This graph shows the number of Round 2 answers in each category, after sorting.



ROUND 2

Responses to: What is one thing you would like to see happen in Haverhill in the next few years?

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN HIGH-DENSITY AREAS

- Being careful about where and how we allow development in our urban areas.
- More eco-friendly and arts focused development in downtown
- Push for more public buildings to install solar panels
- Solar energy
- Tree help
- Affordable condo projects, especially along river
- More affordable housing
- Fewer rentals, more owner occupied apartments
- UMass residence halls near downtown to increase foot traffic
- Purchase river front properties and rent
- Improved traffic flow to encourage more foot traffic downtown (and congestion of course)
- Increased parking, expansion of restaurants
- No empty storefronts downtown
- All retail spaces filled in Harbor Place
- Downtown historic preservation and restoration
- New plans for old paper mill on river in Bradford
- Small business

ARTS / CREATIVITY / MAKERS

- Opening of Cogswell Art Space
- *I'd like to see the Cogswell open and thrive, hosting lots of community events.*
- I like the idea of a downtown theater, but an outdoor amphitheater would be better.
- *Performance center*
- More street performers
- More opportunities for makers

*** Comments that apply to multiple categories have been added respectively, and are italicized.*

MAINTENANCE, CLEANLINESS, BEAUTIFICATION

- *I would like to see a nice clean city that has less pollution, uses less trash and recycles more.*
- Have recycling bins in city apartment buildings
- Improved walkability downtown - year round
- Downtown sidewalks repaired – brickwork
- Clean-up/revitalize downtown city areas that need it
- More attractive and charming downtown / Better appearance of some stores
- Downtown cleaning and greening
- More cleanliness
- Parks reputation / cleanliness & safety
- Apple trees along downtown stretch.
- Beautification of train platform and upkeep - dirty, trash, needs some personality
- Restore fountain in Gale Park (Mill @ Kenosza)
- Clean-up Lafayette Square

OPEN SPACE - PASSIVE AND ACTIVE RECREATION

- Merrimack River restoration
- City owned land on river should be parks
- Make trails on protected farm lands.
- Preserve open space by purchasing land, and value our open space.
- Open space preservation
- Expand rail trail to connect to other towns.
- Lengthen Rail Trail.
- Regatta on the River
- Bring back boating program on Plugs Pond.
- Micro-brewery- open in a mill building or at a farm
- I would like to see an ice rink built.
- Fishing piers at Round Pond, Plugs Pond, Chadwick Pond for recreation, free for all
- Use space adjacent to the fire station as a park for families and recreation.
- Parks reputation / cleanliness & safety
- *I'd like to see a Nature Center at Tattersall so teachers of all grades could have an outdoor education experience interpretive center.*
- Nature center (schools)

ROUND 2 (continued)

ENCOURAGING / CONNECTING WITH FARMS

- More projects and events that link city and farm.
- Educate public where their food comes from. Make Haverhill a farm tour destination.
- Farm tours.
- Winter farmers market
- Indoor Farmers Market
- Hydroponic farms are the future of growing.
- More working, organic farms

SCHOOLS, EDUCATION, CHILDREN

- Development of an attitude of energy and positivity in our school system
- Project-based education
- More equity in the various schools - each receiving their fair share of resources
- Repair/replace schools that need it
- More small neighborhood nested schools
- *City-wide summer reading challenge*
- *I'd like to see a Nature Center at Tattersall so teachers of all grades could have an outdoor education experience interpretive center.*
- *Nature center (schools)*
- New schools

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

- Young people to have a stronger influence in our community
- Youth center - safe space for high school and young adults to go to/utilize
- Success to the Haverhill Promise initiative
- Shopping and more educational programs for youth or just youth activities, mental health help, more art
- *City-wide summer reading challenge*
- Safe, engaging, cost friendly experiences/places for youth and teens
- Youth civic engagement
- More outdoor activities and events geared towards older youths and young adults (vs. kids + adults). Community engagement

**** Comments that apply to multiple categories have been added respectively, and are italicized.**

COMMUNITY BUILDING

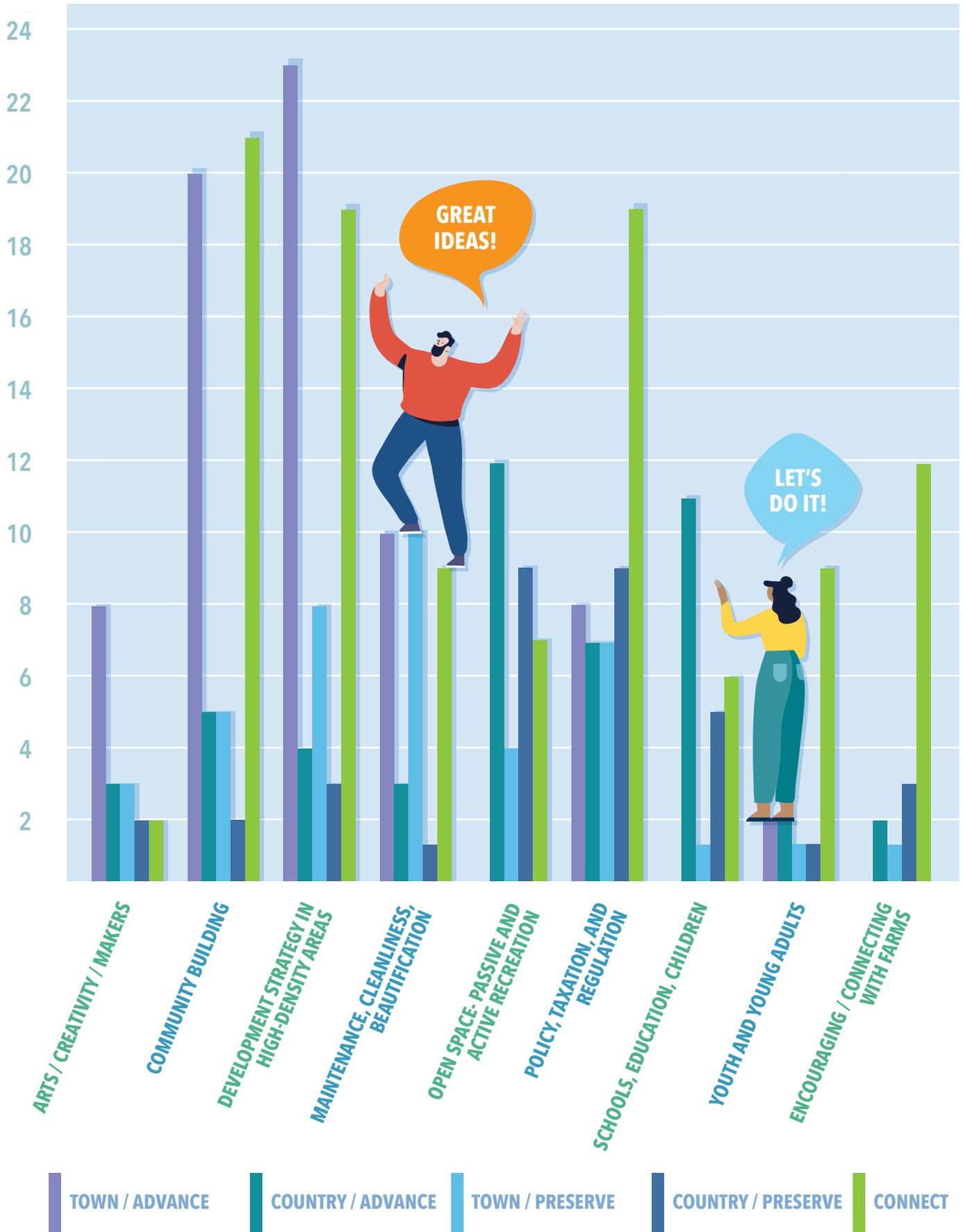
- Better sense of community events. We are dismissing the strengths and talents of folks who go unnoticed.
- The neighbors to know each other better / More events
- More cultural events that involve the general public.
- The growth of the multicultural festival to celebrate the many cultures of Haverhill residents
- Multicultural Festival
- More interaction with Latino community
- *Performance center*
- *I'd like to see the Cogswell open and thrive, hosting lots of community events.*
- Downtown Bike Race
- Bookstore that serves as a community hub
- Local bookstore co-op
- *City-wide summer reading challenge*
- Merrimack Valley co-op become a reality
- Community, connection & outreach!
- More volunteer opportunities with non-profit organization
- Addiction/mental health help access
- A better way to communicate the stuff we already have
- Acknowledgment of Jimmy Rothman, winner of the 2013 Nobel Prize for Medicine
- *More police*

POLICY, TAXATION, AND REGULATION

- Broadband, competition for Comcast - TV, Internet, phone
- Broadband/Public wifi
- Broadband
- Comcast competition
- Alternate internet provider
- Community Preservation Act adoption
- Creation of a Conservation Fund
- Maintain the Rural Residential Zoning (2 acres)
- Right To Farm Bylaw passed
- Charter change to "Council - Manager" form of government rather than current "Strong Mayor"
- Higher taxes
- *I would like to see a nice clean city that has less pollution, uses less trash and recycles more.*
- Road improvement
- *More police*

ROUND 2

This graph shows the number of Round 2 tabletop comments (by "box") in each category.



ROUND 2: TOWN / ADVANCE

Ideas and thoughts recorded on the tabletops during small group conversations.

ARTS, CREATIVITY, MAKERS

- Street Performers
- Bradford College Hall Theater preservation
- More opportunities for makers/artists/crafters
- Cultural Event Center - performance
- More cultural events for general public
- Performing arts center
- More street performers - musicians
- Cogswell open and thriving

COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Dedicated website to inform people what is going on in Haverhill
- Celebrating hometown heroes like James Rothman, 2013 Nobel Prize winner, and link to school curriculum "What you could achieve" ie. role model
- More events involving small businesses - encourage sales
- More seasonal events
- More cultural events for general public
- Social media advocacy
- Resiliency
- Increase collaboration between communities
- Neighborhood connections
- Bike race
- HCC Multicultural festival - June 20th
- HCC MultiCultural Festival June 20, GAR Park
- Bookstore co-op
- Bookstore that serves as a community hub
- Addiction/homelessness services
- Addiction help & access
- Website with list of current volunteer opportunities either for town projects or at local non-profits (could be for high school onward age-wise)
- Waterfront theater
- Cogswell open and thriving
- Public ice skating rink

OPEN SPACE- PASSIVE AND ACTIVE RECREATION

- Dog waste pick-up enforcement
- Enforce building codes + zoning
- Parking deck on Essex Street
- More free parking - less meters
- Increase downtown parking
- Improve lighting on the city streets
- Possible to divert some traffic from downtown driving - peak hours - Is it possible to redirect some traffic and reduce congestion.
- Roads

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN HIGH-DENSITY AREAS

- More small business friendly programs & development
- Eco-friendly downtown development
- Living up to potential w/ development
- Fewer rentals downtown - more condos
- Develop building on Stevens Street - enhance Lafayette Square
- Support small businesses (prevent premature closures)
- Provide incentives for keeping businesses open - rent reimbursement etc.
- Micro brewery in a mill building
- More technical business to town
- Harbor Place full
- Building on Stevens Street
- Smart growth
- Support Make-IT Haverhill
- No more empty storefronts downtown
- Retail spaces at Harbor Place occupied
- Retail spaces downtown filled
- Improve storefront facades
- Store for basic necessities - food co-op downtown
- Increase downtown owner-occupied inventory
- Develop PaperBoard site (50 acres)
- 6 hubs - neighborhood hubs with pre-school + store
- More affordable housing
- More affordable / workforce housing

MAINTENANCE, CLEANLINESS, BEAUTIFICATION

- Plant apple trees and blueberries for public
- More community gardens
- Educate to decrease pollution - Green initiative (packaging)
- Parks reputation for safety & cleanliness
- Clean up & revitalize
- Apple trees in medians
- Sidewalks!
- Increase attraction of downtown streets
- Clean-up Lafayette Square
- Improve walkability year-round downtown - snow removal

SCHOOLS, EDUCATION, CHILDREN

- School building repairs
- Schools with smaller classes

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

- Youth center (older youth)
- Jobs for kids

ROUND 2: COUNTRY / ADVANCE

Ideas and thoughts recorded on the tabletops during small group conversations.

ARTS, CREATIVITY, MAKERS

- Performers at farm events
- Whittier birthplace - reenactments, plays, etc.
- Music festival in rural areas

COMMUNITY BUILDING

- More community gardens
- Educate the public about where their food comes from
- Interactive nature/wildlife park
- Nature center Tattersall park
- Parks reputation - cleanliness + safety

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN HIGH-DENSITY AREAS

- More community gardens
- Make small business friendly infrastructure
- River access
- Better use of Merrimack River - recreational use without fear of getting sick

ENCOURAGING AND CONNECTING WITH FARMS

- Performers at farm events
- More community gardens
- Scenic byways -> increase tourism
- Market the great country in Haverhill
- Need working organic farm program to help trees flourish
- Educate the public about where their food comes from
- Winter indoor farmers market
- Nature center Tattersall park
- Organic farm
- Music festival in rural areas
- Land for young farmers

MAINTENANCE, CLEANLINESS, BEAUTIFICATION

- Merrimack River Initiative
- Repair and restore fountain at Gale Park @ Mill & Kenzoza
- Better use of Merrimack River - recreational use without fear of getting sick

OPEN SPACE- PASSIVE AND ACTIVE RECREATION

- More community gardens
- Scenic byways -> increase tourism
- Merrimack River Initiative
- River access
- More attractions to encourage enjoyment/entertainment in the country -horsebackriding -nature trails (signage) -kayaking, etc. -picnicking
- Paved parking lot for disc golf course
- Nature center Tattersall park
- Better use of Merrimack River - recreational use without fear of getting sick
- Fishing piers on ponds
- Organize summer recreation programs
- Parks reputation - cleanliness + safety
- Expand rail trail

POLICY, TAXATION, AND REGULATION

- Pass the right-to-farm bylaw
- City purchase open space in rural areas to conserve it
- Maintain rural zoning
- Merrimack River Initiative
- Better use of Merrimack River - recreational use without fear of getting sick
- Parks reputation - cleanliness + safety
- Right to farm bylaws

SCHOOLS, EDUCATION, CHILDREN

- Interactive nature/wildlife park
- Nature center Tattersall park

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

- Kids activities
- Organize summer recreation programs

ROUND 2: TOWN / PRESERVE

Ideas and thoughts recorded on the tabletops during small group conversations.

ARTS, CREATIVITY, MAKERS

- Bradford College Theater Hall Preservation
- Cogswell Art Space
- Cogswell Art Space up + running

COMMUNITY BUILDING

- James Rothman acknowledgement - 2013 Nobel Prize Winner in Medicine - from Haverhill
- Cogswell Art Space
- Encouraging walking tours
- Encourage younger people to participate
- Cogswell Art Space up + running

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN HIGH-DENSITY AREAS

- St. Gregory School - what's going on??? - Harrison Street
- Closed buildings downtown to be preserved or redeveloped
- Preserve historic buildings on the river - City keep the ones we own
- Historic Downtown Preservation
- Character of downtown
- Add a park (expand) by former Friends Landing
- Look into bridge technology to fix Basiliere Bridge
- Community Preservation Act

ENCOURAGING AND CONNECTING WITH FARMS

- Encouraging walking tours

MAINTENANCE, CLEANLINESS, BEAUTIFICATION

- Clean up railroad stations - modernize
- Improving the beauty of downtown
- Haverhill clean-up days in addition to Earth Day
- Character of downtown
- Clean-up + revitalize
- Community Preservation Act
- Fix potholes
- Street lights on more streets
- Repair downtown sidewalks - brick work
- Repair facades downtown

OPEN SPACE- PASSIVE AND ACTIVE RECREATION

- Encouraging walking tours
- Preserve or create another "Skateland"
- Add a park (expand) by former Friends Landing
- Community Preservation Act

POLICY, TAXATION, AND REGULATION

- Design Review
- Rent raise restrictions to preserve current residents
- Preserve historic buildings on the river - City keep the ones we own
- Architectural review board
- Design review committee
- Fully fund library
- Community Preservation Act

SCHOOLS, EDUCATION, CHILDREN

- Fully fund library

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

- Encourage younger people to participate.

ROUND 2: TOWN / PRESERVE

Ideas and thoughts recorded on the tabletops during small group conversations.

ARTS, CREATIVITY, MAKERS

- Education about country & architecture resources
- Access of info to the architectural history of Haverhill (Buttonwoods)

COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Events where kids visit farms - learn to farm, where veggies come from
- Fishing piers at ponds

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN HIGH-DENSITY AREAS

- Maintain Bradford riverfront properties as parks
- Community Preservation Act
- Choose carefully where development occurs

ENCOURAGING AND CONNECTING WITH FARMS

- More farmlands donating land to conservation for possible teaching and exploring
- Preserve farms - tour farms
- Events where kids visit farms - learn to farm, where veggies come from
- Farms resiliency
- Keeping farmland as farmland!

MAINTENANCE, CLEANLINESS, BEAUTIFICATION

- Community Preservation Act

OPEN SPACE- PASSIVE AND ACTIVE RECREATION

- More farmlands donating land to conservation for possible teaching and exploring
- Preserving open space
- Merrimack River recreation
- Open space preservation as land trusts
- Preserving green space
- Fishing piers at ponds
- Conservation Fund
- Community Preservation Act
- Feed the trees + maintain

POLICY, TAXATION, AND REGULATION

- Protecting zone laws
- Maintain Bradford riverfront properties as parks
- Preserve current rural residential zoning
- Community Preservation Act
- Survey nature reserves
- Preserve rural residential zoning
- Protect and maintain rural residential zoning (2 acres) and special conservation zone
- Keeping farmland as farmland!
- Choose carefully where development occurs

SCHOOLS, EDUCATION, CHILDREN

- Education about country & architecture resources
- Access of info to the architectural history of Haverhill (Buttonwoods)
- Events where kids visit farms - learn to farm, where veggies come from

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

- Events where kids visit farms - learn to farm, where veggies come from

ROUND 2: CONNECT

Ideas and thoughts recorded on the tabletops during small group conversations.

ARTS, CREATIVITY, MAKERS

- Farmers Market for launching businesses
- Art connection?

COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Multicultural Festival June 20, 2020 - Music - Arts - Food - Community - Connects town to country
- Festivals, Farmers Market etc. Connects everyone in community
- Increase police force
- Positive city marketing re-shape city
- Restore community boating project
- More equity in the various schools - each school receiving their fair share.
- Scavenger hunt
- Peace walk promotion
- Create more outdoor activities, events, geared toward older youth and young adults
- City-wide summer reading challenge!
- Improve community info, connection + outreach! (i.e. events, programs, etc.)
- Multicultural festival
- Peace Walk - get the whole city involved
- Educational programs for specialized financial literacy
- Community boating on Plugs Pond
- Draw people in from every neighborhood for yearly Peace Walk
- Activities for kids
- Young voices need to be able to make more of an impact in our community
- More police
- Activities/events for older teens and young adults
- Central, coordinated Haverhill happenings website

OPEN SPACE - PASSIVE AND ACTIVE RECREATION

- Docking on the river
- Restore community boating project
- Encourage historical walking tours
- Community boating on Plugs Pond
- Community Preservation Act
- Community Preservation Act
- Community Preservation Act (CPA) adoption - Funds open spaces, affordable housing, outdoor recreation and historic preservation.

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN HIGH-DENSITY AREAS

- Alternate cable / broadband
- Town wide solar energy policy
- Set global goals
- Docking on the river
- Expand solar farm
- Farmers Market for launching businesses
- Allow opportunities for advocating new business
- Broadband
- Internships??
- More affordable housing (neighborhood clusters)
- Bring broadband to city - fiber optic network throughout city
- Attract business
- Greater focus on renewable energy
- Broadband moves forward competition for Comcast
- Telemedicine
- Community Preservation Act
- Community Preservation Act
- Community Preservation Act (CPA) adoption - Funds open spaces, affordable housing, outdoor recreation and historic preservation.
- Alternative cable/broadband provider
- Encouraging and Connecting with Farms
- Festivals, Farmers Market etc. Connects everyone in community
- More veggies & fruit in Farmers Market
- Farmers Market for launching businesses
- School programs on local farms
- Connect city school kids with farms - Vallyworks pays for summer jobs for kids
- Co-op open and running

MAINTENANCE, CLEANLINESS, BEAUTIFICATION

- More clean-ups
- More walkable and safer for pedestrian walkability
- Dog poop pick-up policy
- Attention to detail keeping Haverhill clean
- Beautify main city entrance ways - welcome signs
- Road improvements
- Community Preservation Act
- Community Preservation Act
- Community Preservation Act (CPA) adoption - Funds open spaces, affordable housing, outdoor recreation and historic preservation.

ROUND 2: CONNECT (continued)

POLICY, TAXATION, AND REGULATION

- Increase police force
- Town wide solar energy policy
- More walkable and safer for pedestrian walkability
- Dog poop pick-up policy
- Set global goals
- Eco-friendly incentives
- More equity in the various schools - each school receiving their fair share.
- More equitable funding for our schools in Haverhill
- Greater focus on renewable energy
- Change city government charter from "Strong Mayor" to City Manager
- Open Space Protection
- Don't reduce rural lot size
- Road improvements
- Community Preservation Act
- Community Preservation Act
- Change city charter to strong Council/Manager form of government instead of strong mayor
- Community Preservation Act (CPA) adoption - Funds open spaces, affordable housing, outdoor recreation and historic preservation.
- More police
- Repair/replace schools as needed

SCHOOLS, EDUCATION, CHILDREN

- Finish middle schools
- More equity in the various schools - each school receiving their fair share.
- Public schools - added energy and positivity - mindset of "prosperity"
- Educational programs and opportunities for special interests
- Internships??
- City-wide summer reading challenge!
- Expanding access to pre-K
- More equitable funding for our schools in Haverhill
- Educational programs for specialized financial literacy
- School programs on local farms
- Connect city school kids with farms - Vallyworks pays for summer jobs for kids
- Repair/replace schools as needed

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

- Create more outdoor activities, events, geared toward older youth and young adults
- Survey student interests, passions to help assess youth needs
- City-wide summer reading challenge!
- Safe, engaging, cost-friendly experiences/places for youth + teens!
- Safe and engaging (cost friendly) activities for teens
- Connect city school kids with farms - Vallyworks pays for summer jobs for kids
- Activities for kids
- Young voices need to be able to make more of an impact in our community
- Activities/events for older teens and young adults



THE CONVERSATION ROUND 3 Voices & Choices

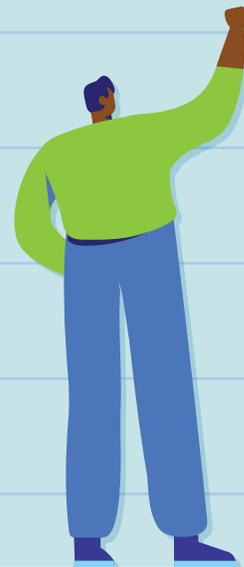
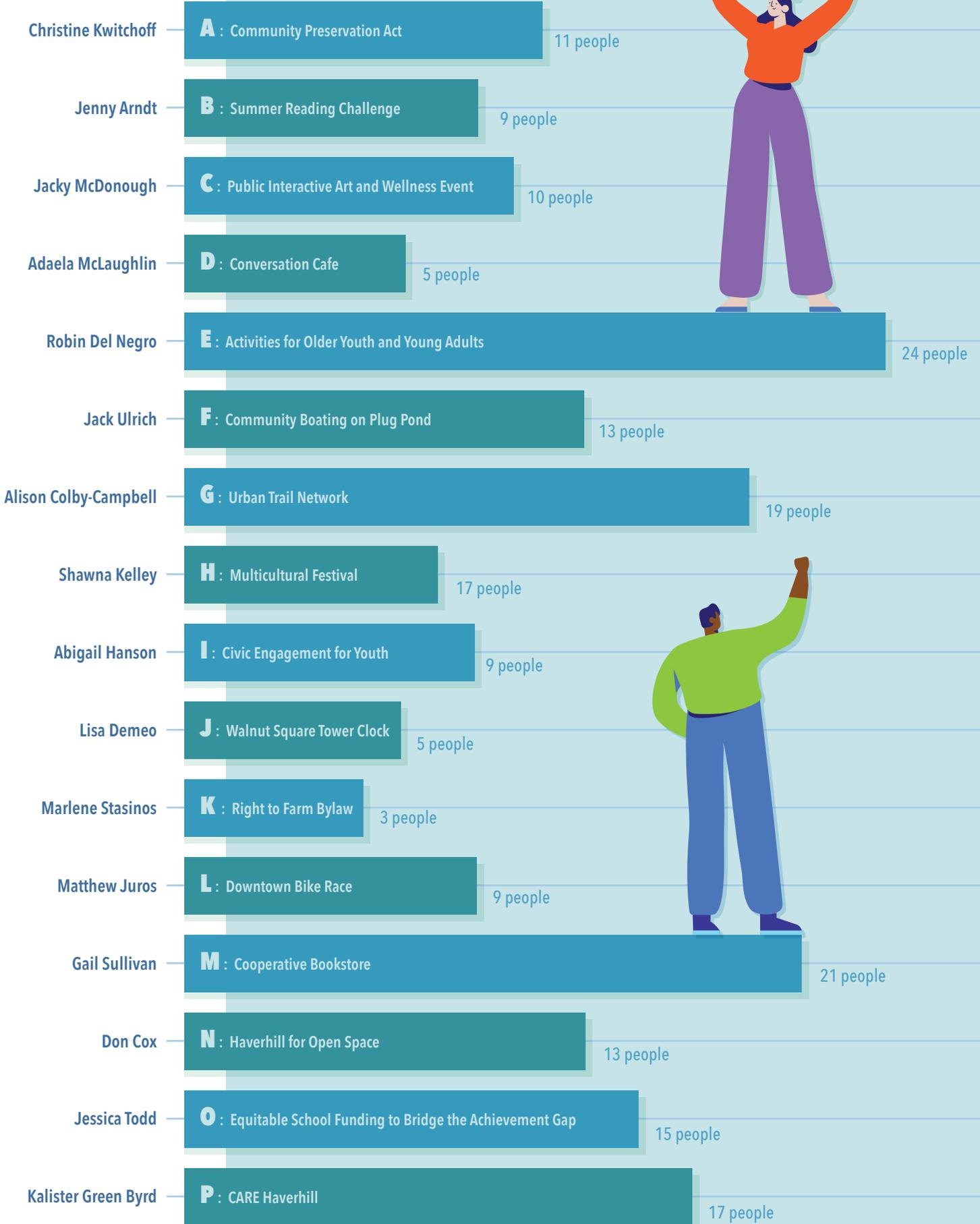
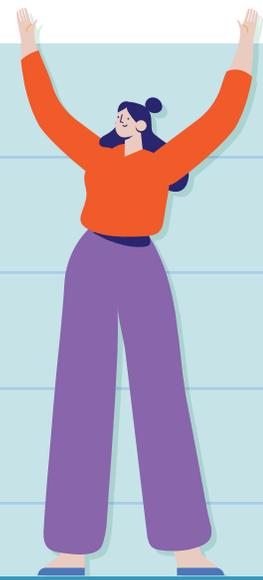
The final round of conversation began by reviewing the 'guiding principle' that; things happen when someone is ready to call for action, when there are other people ready to explore the idea and take one next step together. This is when something begins to happen and something begins to be built.

Community members with projects they are specifically passionate about were called "Voices." The "Voices" were asked to step forward and share their ideas and host a 20-minute, on-the-spot meeting about the topic.

"Choices" were the rest of the attendees, who were asked to join one of the "Voices" groups and add their energy to the conversation, in hopes of finding the next steps to make that possible dream a reality.

After their meetings, the "Voices" reported back to the room about the progress that was made during their group conversation. Following, is a description of each "Voice" or idea, their progress and next steps, and how you can get involved.

VOICES



GROUP A

Community Preservation Act

To get involved contact:

Christine Kwitchoff
christinekwitchoff@comcast.net

Development Strategy in High-Density Areas
Policy, Taxation, and Regulation
Open space--passive and active recreation

VOICE / IDEA:

Adopting the Community Preservation Act, or CPA for short, allows us to fund projects that we care about, projects that don't normally get funded by the general budget. Examples include open space protection, affordable housing, outdoor recreation and historic preservation.

62% of Massachusetts residents live in a CPA community, including Gateway Cities like Lowell, Springfield, Fall River and New Bedford. Financial models of what this looks like for Haverhill are available and it's very exciting - we are leaving money on the table by not having this!

REPORT BACK / NEXT STEPS:

Our next steps are to ask the Community Preservation Coalition, a non-profit that helps communities advocating to adopt this legislation, to come speak to our community. We will also get feedback from local legislators and the community at-large about to helping to move this forward.

GROUP B

Summer Reading Challenge

To get involved contact:

Jenny Arndt
team@haverhillpromise.com

Community Building
Youth & Young Adults
Schools, Education, Children

VOICE / IDEA:

A goal of everyone in the city to get energized about summer reading! A "Summer Reading Challenge" that includes adults and kids - so that we are all on the same page. Instead of reading Facebook, we should be reading books and modeling that for the kids around us.

REPORT BACK / NEXT STEPS:

We discussed what to be tracking, because it's not the number of books. The goal is to be reading every single day. We want to have a visual goal meter in a public place, maybe the screen at HC Media at Harbor Place, to publically track progress. We will continue the conversation through an email chain.

GROUP C

Public Interactive Art and Wellness Event

To get involved contact:

Jacky McDonough
mcdonoughj@vinfen.org

Community Building
Arts, Creativity, Makers

VOICE / IDEA:

Public interactive art and wellness event to include the folks in our community that go unnoticed, because we are losing their strengths, talents and inspirations, to make this community an even better place.

REPORT BACK / NEXT STEPS:

We are creating a collaborative to raise awareness of mental health issues across age groups, race, socio-economic levels through access to the arts and wellness opportunities in our community, through programs addressing education and resources with events that are inclusive and provide fun, interactive and community based collaboration.

GROUP D

Conversation Cafe

To get involved contact:

Adaela McLaughlin
adaelamclaughlin12@gmail.com

Community Building

VOICE / IDEA:

The Conversation Cafe is a structured, supportive conversation to help bridge the political divide. The second session is March 25th at the library and the subject will be "Teams & Tribes".

REPORT BACK / NEXT STEPS:

The Conversation Cafe is a fascinating process that allows us to explore our own beliefs. Please join us March 25th at the library.

GROUP E

Activities for Older Youth & Young Adults

To get involved contact:

Robin Del Negro

robinddel@gmail.com

Development Strategy in High-Density Areas
Policy, Taxation, and Regulation

Open Space - Passive and Active Recreation

VOICE / IDEA:

More activities, outdoor activities, and events in general, that are geared toward older youth and young adults. Right now, our community has a lot of access for young kids and adults, but nothing in the middle.

REPORT BACK / NEXT STEPS:

We discussed how there is nothing for that population as far as educational career resources, art related, health and wellness etc. We discussed creating a space - a place to be for that older age range that keeps people engaged in the community and creates an opportunity to be connected. We have an email list that we will communicate through!

GROUP F

Community Boating on Plug Pond

To get involved contact:

Jack Ulrich

ju3prov56@gmail.com

Community Building

Youth and Young Adults

VOICE / IDEA:

The goal is bringing back community boating to Plug Pond. I was the Boating Director there for six years, but the program ran out of money - would love to talk to other interested people.

REPORT BACK / NEXT STEPS:

We discussed a training program in the morning with community boating in the afternoon. To get this initiated we discussed the following next steps: We need to talk to the Recreation Department and get them on board, and talk to the Mayor to get him on board. We have decided to have a meeting and I am going to contact everyone by email.

GROUP G

Urban Trail Network

To get involved contact:

Alison Colby-Campbell
AlisonsBrain4Rent@gmail.com

Community Building

Open Space - Passive and Active Recreation

Encouraging and Connecting with Farms

VOICE / IDEA:

The goal is to develop an urban trail network of varying difficulties. It will encourage people to walk around town, learn history and see art! We'll need help mapping and deciding the best routes, and people to make this happen.

REPORT BACK / NEXT STEPS:

We discussed using trails to highlight special points of interest around the city, arts, architecture, history and commerce. We discussed creating signage and working on mapping after we determine the points of interest - arts, architecture, and history in downtown Haverhill. We will have a meeting and will start looking for destinations on the Heartbeat of Haverhill Facebook page, looking for suggestions of points of interest.

GROUP H

Multicultural Festival

To get involved contact:

Shawna Kelley
shawna103@comcast.net

Community Building

Arts, Creativity, Makers

VOICE / IDEA:

The Multicultural Festival 2020, will be on Saturday, June 20, 2020 at GAR Park. We need help cleaning up GAR Park, coming up with ideas with multicultural events etc. The headliner is an all female mariachi band.

REPORT BACK / NEXT STEPS:

This event is being put on by the Haverhill Cultural Council. We discussed what is needed for the festival, volunteers, sponsors, day-of event. A planning meeting to be held on March 16th at the MVMA at 145 Essex Street. We are on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and on the main Haverhill Cultural Council website.

GROUP I

Civic Engagement for Youth

To get involved contact:

Abigail Hanson

moustacheunicorn88@gmail.com

Community Building

Youth and Young Adults

VOICE / IDEA:

The goal is to bring awareness to the fact that not a lot of people are civically engaged, especially in our town, and we want to create a next generation of students that are more civically engaged in municipal elections here in Haverhill.

REPORT BACK / NEXT STEPS:

We discussed lowering the voting age to 16 in municipal elections, in conjunction with civics education and funding to make that a requirement from 6th grade through senior year of high school and ask more current voters to support this issue by meeting with us and signing our petition and support us in meetings with the City Council, School Committee, and the Mayor.

GROUP J

Walnut Square Tower Clock

To get involved contact:

Lisa Demeo

lisad59@comcast.net

Community Building

Schools, Education, Children

VOICE / IDEA:

The Walnut Square Tower Clock project is up and running, we just need new Board members. In 1998, the clock turned 100 years old and a small group of people got it up and running again. The Board members are ready to move on and we are looking for new people that we can transition to. There is not a lot of heavy lifting, we are looking for a change in personnel.

REPORT BACK / NEXT STEPS:

We discussed the history of the project. In the mid 90's the idea was born at a PTA meeting and a couple of us got involved and as the group got bigger, we raised \$72k to repair and an additional \$45k as an endowment. Right now we are working off the interest of the endowment. The clock was crafted by E. Howard, the Rolls Royce of clock towers. Our next steps will be to email chain with new folks and the current board, then we will invite them to one of our meetings.

GROUP K

Right to Farm Bylaw

To get involved contact:

Marlene Stasin

marlene@chrisfarmstand.com

Policy, Taxation, and Regulation

VOICE / IDEA:

Fight for the Right-to-Farm Bylaw. We need to keep our open spaces open so that we can grow food to keep our community safe with their food.

REPORT BACK / NEXT STEPS:

There was no report back from this group as their conversation merged with group "N".

GROUP L

Downtown Bike Race

To get involved contact:

Matthew Juros

mjuros@fishbrook.com

Community Building

VOICE / IDEA:

The Downtown Bike Race a few years ago was a great event. Racers from all over the country are attracted to this event. The national sanctioning body said that this is one of the best venues for a criterium race that they have seen in the country. We need people who will be committee members and be diligent in sharing the responsibility to get this thing organized. This event is great for the city and shows us in a great light... it's so dramatic and fun!

REPORT BACK / NEXT STEPS:

We need a durable, year long committee so we can plan. It is really a 12 month planning process. We are looking to build a team, looking for talent and good ideas and people that can put the time in.

GROUP M

Cooperative Bookstore

To get involved contact:

Gail Sullivan

gms62345@gmail.com

Community Building

VOICE / IDEA:

The goal is a cooperative bookstore. People would join and work there in exchange for discounts on books. It works to promote the idea that reading is essential and it is fun. You can get together with other people and discuss what you are reading. It's amazing... we want all of our kids to read but we have 64,000 people in our city and no bookstore. What's the message? We need a vibrant, exciting wonderful place - a cooperative bookstore that serves as a community hub.

REPORT BACK / NEXT STEPS:

We discussed being the heart of community and talked about how much books would cost. We decided to try to meet with the head librarian to learn valuable information. We discussed maybe starting with used books or maybe a pop-up store to try it out and see how that goes. There is a great website of independent booksellers and we will learn as much as we possibly can. We also decided we would create a group on Facebook.

GROUP N

Haverhill for Open Space

To get involved contact:

Don Cox

decox14@gmail.com

Open Space - Passive and Active Recreation
Development Strategy in High-Density Areas

VOICE / IDEA:

Creation of an advocacy group, Haverhill for Open Space, to create awareness about issues affecting our city that impact our environment, farms and open space, and advocate for common sense protections for enjoyment of one of the greatest assets of our city.

REPORT BACK / NEXT STEPS:

H4OS creating awareness and advocacy around issues impacting our environment, farms, downtown green space and open space. One issue that came up is a discussion going on about cutting in half lot sizes in rural zones, that would impact the environment and the rural character of our city. There is a feeling of little awareness around the issue and it is coming before the Planning Board this Wednesday, 7pm at City Hall.

GROUP O

Equitable School Funding to Bridge the Achievement Gap

To get involved contact:

Jessica Todd

jtodd1211@gmail.com

Policy, Taxation, and Regulation
Schools, Education, Children

VOICE / IDEA:

We want to discuss equitable school funding to bridge the achievement gap between haverhill schools.

REPORT BACK / NEXT STEPS:

We talked about the Student Opportunity Act, where school districts have specific requirements to close that achievement gap. Superintendent Marotta is looking for input from the community on how to spend that funding. Our next steps are to invite teachers, parents and community members to the Haverhill Education Coalition's Budget Meeting on March 18, from 7-9pm at the iHub. There is a Student Opportunity Act survey going around, please reach out to as many people as possible to fill out that survey.

GROUP P

CARE Haverhill

To get involved contact:

Christine Soundara

csoundara@communityactioninc.org

Community Building

VOICE / IDEA:

CARE Haverhill - Working on racial equity in Haverhill.

REPORT BACK / NEXT STEPS:

CARE Haverhill is a city-wide initiative, and CARE stands for Community Allies for Racial Equality. We are a group of people across all sectors and industries who have been organizing for the last year, with a focus on racial equality and racial injustice. We recognize the great work that has already been done in Haverhill with leadership from POSE, Power of Self Empowerment, the Haverhill Latino Coalition, the Haverhill Diversity Committee, the Haverhill Education Coalition, the Mount Washington Alliance and more. CARE Haverhill is a coordinated effort bringing Haverhill residents and leaders in public and private sectors, Haverhill Public Schools, faith based organizations, Haverhill Police Department, City Council and more. The coalition is working together towards a common goal. We care about Haverhill and want to make a difference. We are not experts - we do not have the answers.. but what we do have is a passion and commitment. We invite everyone to learn more, there will be a large group meeting at UMass Lowell iHub, March 11, 2020 from 4-6pm at 2 Merrimack Street.



A FEW IMPORTANT THANKS

We are incredibly grateful to every attendee that brought their ideas and energy to Possible Dreams 2020! Thank you!

Kudos to those participants that stepped forward as "Voices" and led group conversations.

Thanks to all of our diligent Table Hosts that helped to keep the conversation on track and fill the tabletops with insights, and to all of the Team Haverhill volunteers and friends that pitched in to help make the event run smoothly.

Special thanks to Sarah Blackstone for the great photography, and to Annie Liebert for all of the excellent graphic design.

Finally, we would like to thank the Greater Haverhill Foundation for their continued support, Northern Essex Community College for the venue support, and HC Media for broadcasting and recording the event for the community.

We hope to see you at Possible Dreams 2021.

Thank you Haverhill!

Team Haverhill's Possible Dreams Planning Committee:

Kevin Burke • Jeff Grassie • Alice Mann • Lisa Marzilli • Mark Michel • Vickie Popkowski

team **HAVERRHILL**

