

**PLANNING BOARD
TOWN OF WILBRAHAM**
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WILBRAHAM LAUNCHES “A VISIONING PROCESS FOR THE FUTURE”

On January 26th, the Wilbraham Planning Board accepted a Visioning Document called “Reimagining Wilbraham” from its Planning Steering Committee. The document outlined an “important, community-driven process to make Wilbraham a better place to live and work” and authorized the creation of all-volunteer Vision Task Force to spearhead the work. This exciting new effort will gather broad-based public input and generate a consensus-based vision to address Wilbraham’s current and evolving challenges and opportunities.

The Vision Document outlines its mission and cites the goal of “honoring the past, understanding the present and imagining the future.” Planning Board Chair Eric Fuller says that “the visioning process will provide a comprehensive framework for community decisions and progress to 2030 and beyond. Our goal is to gain the broadest input possible from residents, town employees, businesses and other stakeholders.”

The development of the Vision Document is the result of over a year’s work, already completed under the direction of a Planning Steering Committee composed of Eric Fuller, Dick Butler, John Pearsall, and Joe Calabrese.

Many Benefits Seen in Planning Process

Many benefits are expected from the planning process, including fostering a shared sense of direction for Wilbraham, improving the management of growth and change, guiding local

planning and decision-making, inspiring and motivating community involvement and action, strengthening the local economy, and promoting prosperity.

Participation Encouraged

The entire project will take many months and invites participation at many levels. All interested parties—including residents, students, seniors, property owners, developers, and large and small businesses—are encouraged to participate by attending public meetings, and forums, offering input, and keeping in touch with progress. The Wilbraham Town Website will post Visioning Documents, as well as announce updates on the Visioning Task Force, on scheduled public meetings and on information about the progress of the project. Visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov.

The all-volunteer Visioning Task Force is appointed by the town Planning Board and chaired by experienced planner, Chuck Phillips. Volunteers for this important committee are needed. Those who wish to volunteer should contact Chuck Phillips by phone at 596-4456 or by email at cphillips111@charter.net.

A copy of the *Reimagining Wilbraham* vision document may be viewed or downloaded on the Planning Board page of the town website at

http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/Pages/WilbrahamMA_BComm/ReimaginingWilbraham.pdf