

IMAGINING HARVARD

Community Vision

In twenty years, the Town of Harvard will be a town with:

A Sense of Community

Active participation of citizens in the town's civic life combined with small town celebrations and traditions will forge a strong sense of community.

Harvard will be home to all ages and a broad range of household sizes and incomes.

The cooperation of highly motivated staff, caring Town personnel and actively involved parents will contribute to schools that provide both a nurturing environment and high quality education.



Harvard, Fall 2001.

A Sense of Place

The Town Center will serve as the social, governmental and cultural heart of the community, with other thriving village centers further strengthening Harvard's economic and community base.

Harvard will support working orchards and farms and preserve its landscape of woodlands and fields, rural roadways and scenic vistas, and will connect these features and the Town and village centers with walking trails.

The town will have clean air and an ample supply of clean water.

A Sustainable Future

Diverse commercial and residential bases will enable the town to realize its vision and provide the flexibility to adjust to changes in the economy.

Close cooperation with neighboring towns and organizations involved in regional planning and resource protection will provide opportunities for realizing an expanded vision.

Master Plan Goals

Town Character Preservation

- Maintain a balanced mix of village centers; agricultural, forested and open space lands; and small neighborhoods.
- Maintain the rural characteristics of the Town by:
 - Insuring no net loss of trees or stone walls and no net gain of asphalt width on existing scenic roadways.
 - Preserving and/or enhancing view sheds.
 - Preserving historic structures and landscapes.
- Ensure a vibrant town center by maintaining a balance of residential, commercial, municipal and institutional uses.
- Provide for a balance of non-vehicular and vehicular use on public roadways.



The view from Fruitlands.

Housing

- Increase housing options, particularly the number and types of moderately priced senior and handicapped-accessible units.
- Provide an environment to significantly increase the retention of young and senior citizens.

Agriculture

- Increase the options for economic viability of agricultural enterprises.
- Identify and protect significant Chapter 61 lands.

Economic Strategies

- Broaden the sources of Town revenue.
- Balance the costs and delivery of services with the available sources of revenue.

Natural Resources & the Environment

- Protect groundwater, recharge areas and wetlands to ensure a safe and adequate water supply.
- Identify and protect wildlife habitats and other natural assets, such as Bare Hill Pond.
- Preserve air quality and control noise, light and other environmental pollution.

Implementation

Integrate the Master Plan into the operations of the town, Town Meeting and the Municipal boards and offices.