

SMALL TOWN, **BIG PLANS**
BLANDFORD
Bridge to **2030**
RESILIENT MASTER PLAN



IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP

We need your feedback!

FREE BREAKFAST
if you pre-register!

The Town of Blandford is completing its Resilient Master Plan, which will guide the Town's conservation and development decisions for the next 20 years. Come be a part of the conversation!

Join us for a **VIRTUAL IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP**
May 8, 2021 from 10:00am-12:00pm!

Fill out the **EVENT REGISTRATION FORM** to:



- ✓ Register for the Implementation Workshop
- ✓ Sign up for a FREE breakfast from Blandford County Store & Café
- ✓ Submit a photo for a photo contest – the winning photo will be revealed during the workshop and will be included in the Resilient Master Plan!



Scan me with your phone or visit the URL to the left!

<https://tinyurl.com/BlandfordSignUp>



Visit the **PROJECT WEBSITE** to learn more:
<http://blandfordmasterplan.pvpc.org>



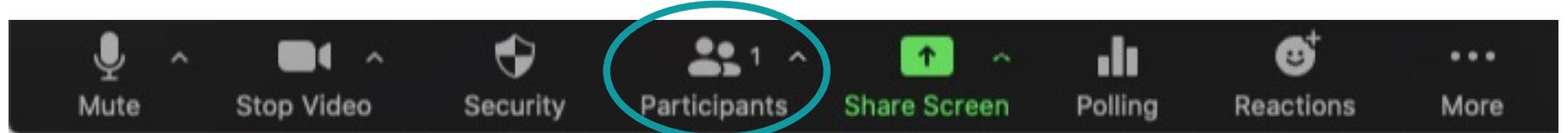
SMALL TOWN, **BIG PLANS**

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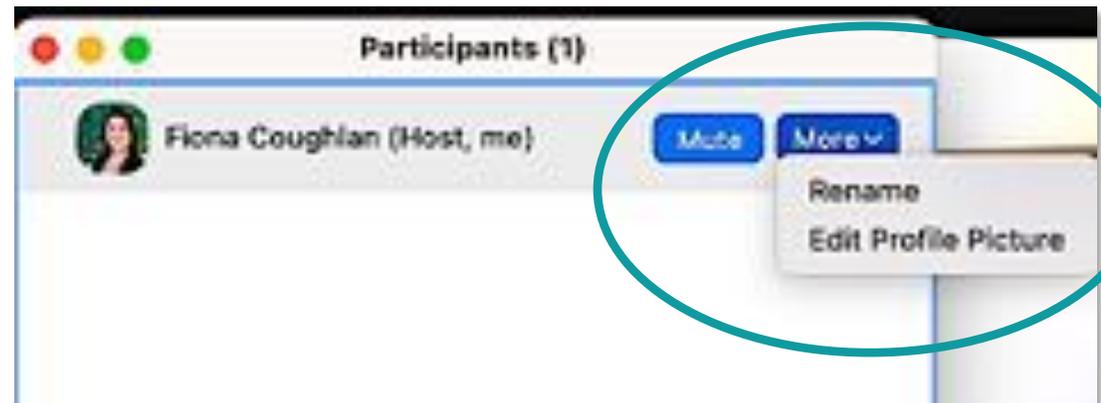
Welcome!

If possible, please update your Zoom name to include your first and last name and affiliation by clicking on the "Participants" tab on the bottom of your Zoom screen and selecting "More" by your name.



Examples:

- *Susan Thomas, Resident*
- *Joshua Garcia, Town Administrator*



SMALL TOWN, **BIG PLANS**

BLANDFORD

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RESILIENT MASTER PLAN

Welcome to the Blandford Resilient Master Plan Implementation Workshop

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2021

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

VIRTUAL SESSION *WITH BREAKFAST!*



RMPC MEMBERS

David Hopson - School Superintendent and Town Moderator

Peter Langmore - Chair, Municipal Light Board

Pat Daviau - Member, Council on Aging

Mary Kronholm - Trustee, Library & Assistant Town Clerk

Doug Emo - Maintenance of Watson Memorial Park

Veteran, Lead Organizer for Annual Memorial Day
Ceremony

Edna Wilander - Vice Chair, Planning Board

Paul Martin - Treasurer, Planning Board

Chips Norcross - Member, Historical Society

Bob Kidd - Member, Historical Society

Jen Girard - Member, Board of Health

Rene Senecal - Highway Superintendent

Gordon Avery - Water Superintendent

Margit Mikuski - Director, Council on Aging

Linda Barnard - Member, Historical Society & Historical
Commission

Cara Letendre - Chair, Select Board

David Mottor - Fire Chief

Judith MacKinnon - Chair, Council on Aging

Nicole Daviau - Library Director

Joann Martin - Member, Recreation Committee

Town Administrator Assistant

Tj Cousineau - Cemetery Commissioner

Sonja Hutchins - Zoning Board of Appeals Member

Joshua A. Garcia - Town Administrator

THANK YOU!

AGENDA

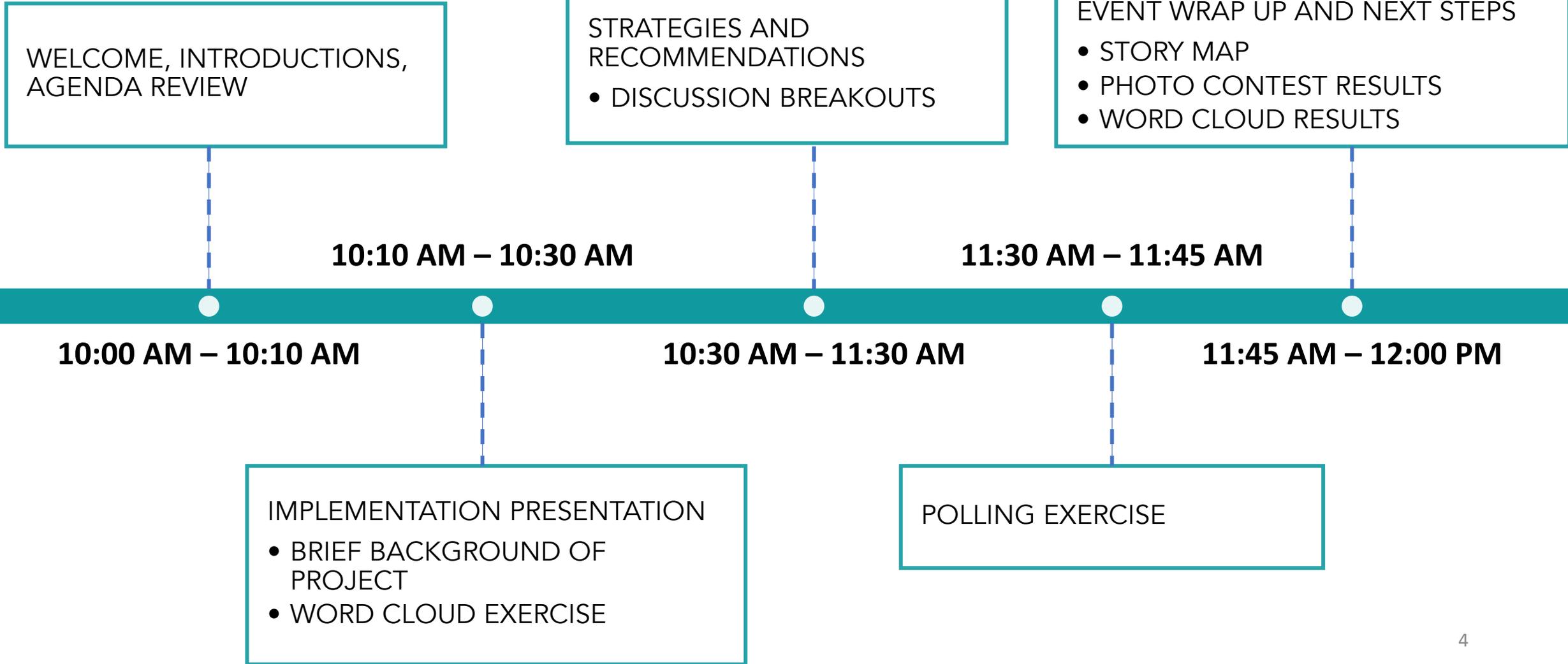


PHOTO CONTEST!



We will be announcing the
winner of the **Photo Contest**
at the end of the event... so
Stay Tuned!



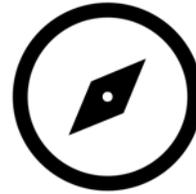
MASTER PLANNING 101



**Guided by
MGL c. 41,
§81D**



**Blueprint for
the next
10-20 years**



**Guides zoning changes,
capital improvements,
decision-making, and
policy implementation**



**Helps decide what to
do, how, when and
where**



**Analysis of all
aspects of
community
development**



**Not a zoning bylaw,
subdivision reg, CIP,
or regulatory
document**



**Plans for the Town's
physical evolution
and growth**



**Long-range
implementation subject
to amendments**

TOPICS IN A MASTER PLAN

GOALS

Land Use

Housing

Economic Development

Transportation

Services & Facilities

Cultural & Historic Resources

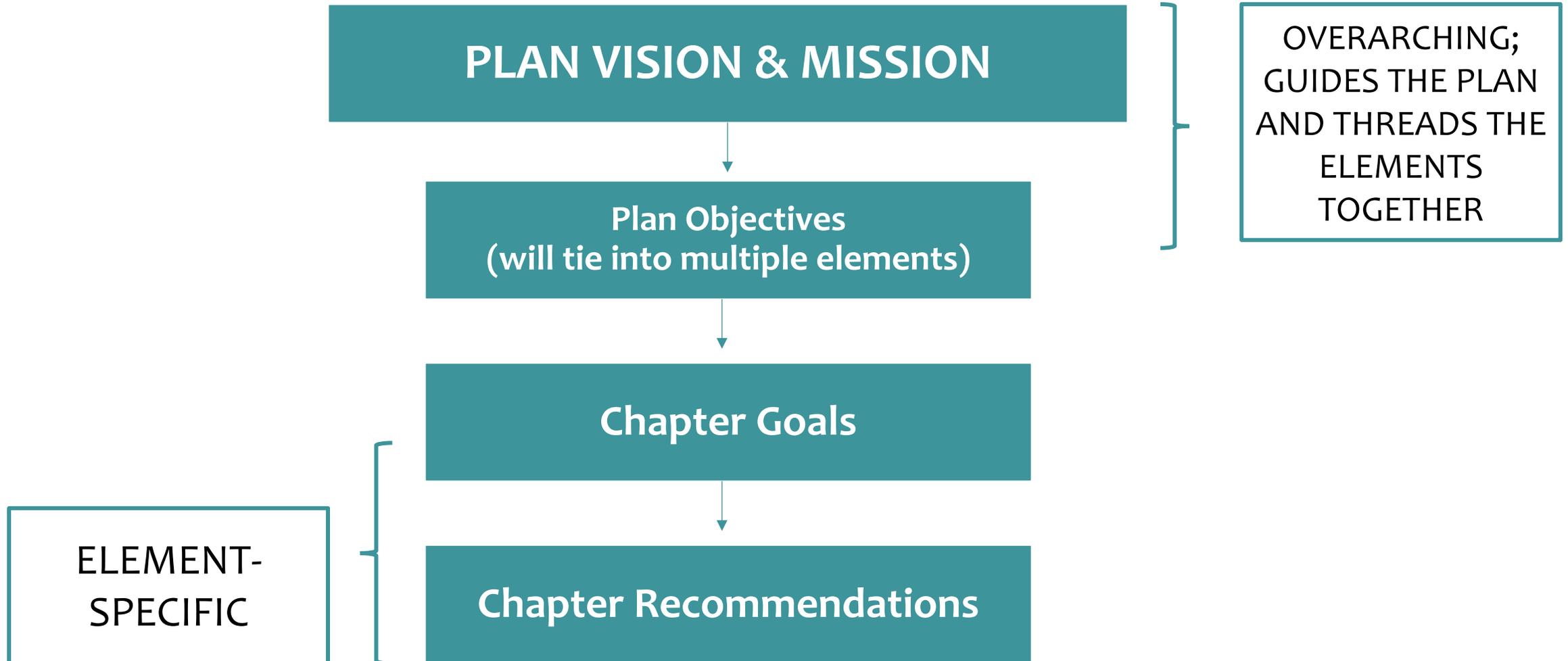
Natural Resources

Open Space & Recreation

IMPLEMENTATION



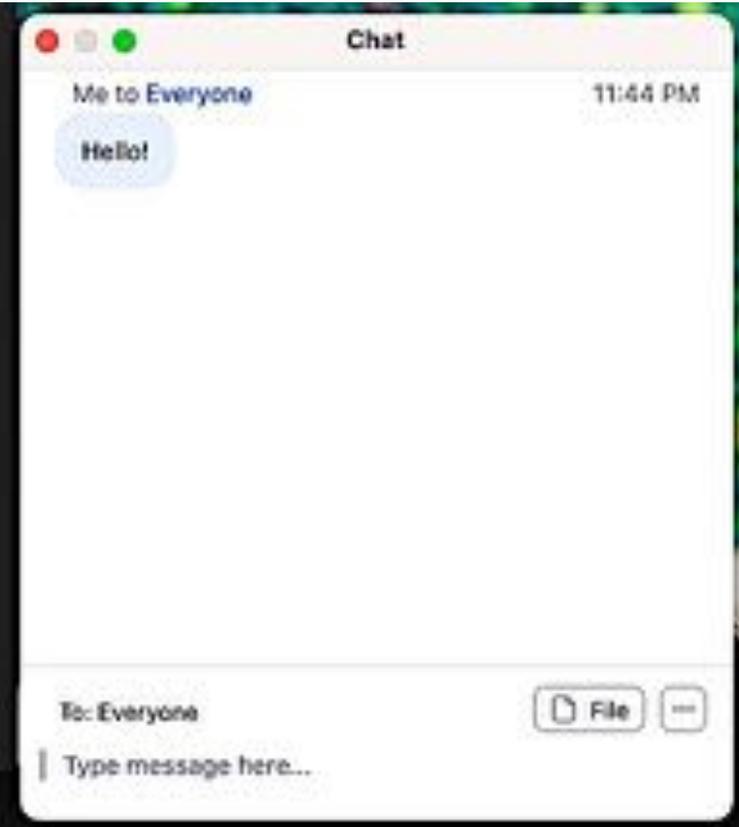
RESILIENT MASTER PLAN FRAMEWORK



- Review** existing conditions and conduct data analysis
- Gather public input via the outreach process** - survey, Visioning Session, MPC meetings, focus groups, OSRP meeting, Walk Audit, and the Implementation Workshop
- Identify issues and needs**
- Develop goals** based on needs
- Develop strategies and recommendations** to achieve goals
- Implementation:**
 - The town's **legislative and executive bodies** implement the Plan's recommendations
 - Boards/Commissions use the Master Plan to **guide decision-making for the next decade**

WORD CLOUD EXERCISE

IN 3 (SEPARATE!) WORDS, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THIS PLAN?



Click on the link in the chat to submit your response to the Word Cloud!
OR
Scan the QR Code with your cell phone





DISCUSSION EXERCISE: RECOMMENDATIONS

We will now split into breakout groups to discuss the Plan's recommendations and strategies. We will reconvene at 11:30!



***Please allocate 7 minutes of discussion for this slide.**

LAND USE

- Strengthen the Town's Site Plan Review Bylaw and Process by adding a site plan review bylaw that includes design guidelines.
- Promote Home Occupations and Cottage Industries by explaining and publicizing the process to residents.
- Protect Blandford's Scenic Vistas by adopting a new local regulation.
- Explore an open space residential development/cluster housing bylaw to promote permanently preserved open spaces, agricultural lands, forest lands, and other natural resources.
- Investigate protection of scenic roads and roadway trees through passage of the Scenic Roads Act.
- Adopt a Town Center Overlay District to create incentives for mixed use development, including business, retail, residential and civic uses and including other requirements to assure consistency with the existing look and feel of the Town.

****Please allocate 7 minutes of discussion for this slide.***

TRANSPORTATION

- Monitor pavement condition and advance maintenance and improvement projects based on the 2020 Local Pavement Management Study, assuring regular ongoing data collection.
- Perform regular traffic data collection to assess existing travel speeds and volumes at key locations.
- Consider an in-depth safety study for the curved section of Otis Stage Road as identified in this chapter.
- Work with MassDOT to identify opportunities to replace the existing deficient structure on Otis Stage Road and continue to monitor the state of bridges and culverts in town through the MassDOT municipal data dashboard.
- Pursue adoption of a local Complete Streets Policy and develop a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan to become eligible for funding from the Massachusetts Complete Streets Program.
- Utilize the results of WalkBoston's Walk Audit to advance improvements to pedestrian safety and encourage more pedestrian activity.
- Expand the existing map of walking routes for use by residents.
- Explore opportunities with the FRTA to improve the reliability of existing services and to expand existing Senior Van service in the future.
- Apply to the Community Transit Grant Program to support existing volunteer senior rides services.
- Work with surrounding communities and special interest groups to identify opportunities to provide additional senior rides services in the future.

***Please allocate 7 minutes of discussion for this slide.**

HOUSING

- Explore senior housing development and programs that allow for aging in place, such as an accessory apartment bylaw or other regulatory and non-regulatory tools.
- Expand the types of residential uses allowed in town, including zoning changes to allow three or four unit homes.
- Plan for Affordable Housing by developing a Housing Production Plan.
- Adopt Low Impact Development standards for all new residential developments.
- Explore the benefits of adopting an Accessory Apartment (In-law) Zoning Bylaw.

***Please allocate 5 minutes of discussion for this slide.**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Pursue cultural district designation for the village center.
- Form a collective that brings together village center institutions for problem solving and planning.
- Work with nearby communities that bring like-businesses and econ. dev. strategies together for all, including the Gateway Hilltowns Collaborative.
- Provide mini grants through recovery funding to activate outdoor spaces in the village center.*
- Advance drinking water upgrades.
- Create a visitor readiness plan for the village center that includes good wayfinding.
- Evaluate what will be the best strategy moving forward for a new tenant or owner at the Old Town Hall.
- Conduct traffic counts throughout the seasons to get a sense of how much additional vehicle travel occurs along Route 23 during summer months.
- Analyze permanent and temporary street-side signage to understand what would be most effective for attracting passersby to village center businesses.
- Re-examine zoning standards for signs.

****Please allocate 5 minutes of discussion for this slide.***

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Promote shared technical skills to enable all village center businesses and institutions maximum social media exposure.
- Identify possible trail linkages, thinking about the use of the dirt road network, existing off-road trails, and potential opportunities.
- Develop trail wayfinding resources, including a recognizable directional sign.
- Evaluate parking, signage, and access to bathroom facilities along the trail network.
- Meet with trail advocates in other towns to begin identifying how connections could be made for longer walking journeys.
- Initiate a more robust conversation with Ski Blandford owners to understand how the Town might support a mountain biking park.
- Work with local mountain bikers and local Northeast Mountain Biker Assoc. members to gauge interest in mountain biking resources.
- Advocate for PILOT payment revenue that adequately compensates for the full value of protected open space.
- Seek assistance and tools for permitting solar and marijuana development and ensuring payments are of net benefit.

****Please allocate 7 minutes of discussion for this slide.***

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Develop a Preservation Plan to identify cultural resources and prioritize documentation /projects to include all of Blandford's history.
- Investigate Feasible Reuse of Shepard Farm - apply to the Rural and Small-Town Fund for a feasibility study for use of Shepard Farm.
- Consider adopting the Community Preservation Act (CPA) as this state-matched funding allows residents to support many initiatives.
- Pursue a Center Cultural District Designation for the Main Street Area, between the Country Store and Cafe to the Country Club, to include Watson Park.
- Establish meetings (quarterly basis), with reps. from key groups and add to information on related websites to keep stakeholders and residents informed, and outline goals through 2030 to foster partnerships and strengthen existing resources.
- Develop emergency response plans for significant built cultural resources and collections including long-term maintenance plans for significant public and private resources. Utilize existing resources like the Blandford Country Store and Café, Porter Memorial Library, and Blandford Fair Grounds as Disaster Response Locations.

****Please allocate 7 minutes of discussion for this slide.***

OPEN SPACE & NATURAL RESOURCES

- Maintain 7-year updates to the OSRP that considers priorities for acquisition and protection of open space.
- Implement a comprehensive strategy for protecting surface water, groundwater, and the watersheds that feed them.
- Continue to coordinate planning with Springfield around Cobble Mountain Reservoir and Long Pond Reservoir watershed lands and build trust.
- Review subdivision regulations and evaluate addition of performance standards for sensitive natural areas.
- Require vegetated buffers next to wetlands, streams and rivers to filter stormwater runoff and to allow river migration and expansion during storms.
- Evaluate the potential for a performance-based stormwater management bylaw.

****Please allocate 7 minutes of discussion for this slide.***

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Adopt the Green Infrastructure and Climate Resiliency Policy.
- Apply for competitive grants to make municipal buildings and vehicles energy efficient, saving money and reducing GHG's. Include integrating the Gateway Regional School District (GRSD) into the Energy Reduction Plan (ERP).
- Work with PVPC through Green Communities funding to develop a net-zero action plan for residents and businesses.
- Conduct culvert inventory and assessment, map of hot-spot flooding, and prioritize maintenance, repair, and replacement.
- Meet MEMA and DPH standards to make Gateway Regional School and Town Hall emergency shelters, including securing backup power.
- Track hazardous materials transported on I-90 and Rte. 23; train BFD, Police, etc. on response to chemical spills, recognize, and interpret Tier II symbols, etc.
- Educate applicators of snow/ice management products about alternatives.
- Modernize and improve resilience of water treatment and distribution to meet DEP compliance standards.

***Please allocate 7 minutes of discussion for this slide.**

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

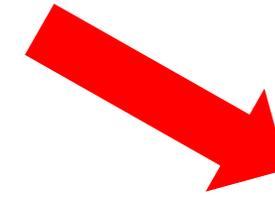
- Improve communication for civic engagement and emergency response preparedness.
- Support service and capital improvements for operations like the Porter Memorial Library and Town Clerk's Office.
- Study the feasibility for service regionalization of some services.
- Support services for senior, the disadvantaged, and veterans.
- Establish mechanisms linking the MP with work plans, budgets, and capital projects. Form a Master Plan Implementation Committee, use the RMP's implementation table as guidance, and convene an annual meeting of Town Boards, Committees, and Commissions to share progress.
- Implement building and maintenance improvements by implementing a Capital Improvement budget and Plan, with opportunities for funding through CDBG.
- Complete a feasibility study for a new, accessible Highway Dept. building site with salt shed.
- Move Fire Dept. operations to the current Highway Dept. building, to better accommodate capacity for firefighters and firetrucks.
- Strengthen the programs at the Council on Aging to include continued outreach services, health, nutrition and recreation programs.
- Provide intergenerational opportunities for engagement with school-aged residents and seniors, exploring programming through the school district and other opportunities.

RECAP FROM DISCUSSION LEADERS!

- What were the key takeaways?
- Which strategies did you like? Why?
- Which strategies did you dislike? Why?
- Which could be modified/improved?
- Other thoughts?

STRATEGIES POLLING

☐ **WHAT WERE THE TOP THREE
LAND USE RECOMMENDATIONS
YOU HEARD TODAY?**



Polling 1: Polling Questions

1.What is your favorite color?

Red

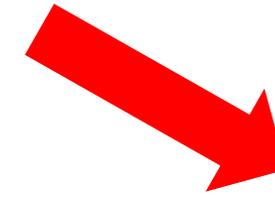
Green

Blue

****THE POLL SHOULD
APPEAR ON YOUR
SCREEN, AS SEEN
ABOVE***

STRATEGIES POLLING

❑ **WHAT WERE THE TOP THREE
TRANSPORTATION
RECOMMENDATIONS YOU HEARD
TODAY?**



Polling 1: Polling Questions

1. What is your favorite color?

Red

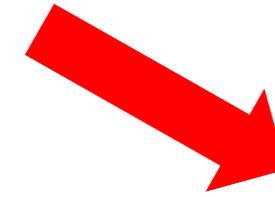
Green

Blue

****THE POLL SHOULD
APPEAR ON YOUR
SCREEN, AS SEEN
ABOVE***

STRATEGIES POLLING

☐ **WHAT WERE THE TOP THREE
HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS
YOU HEARD TODAY?**



Polling 1: Polling Questions

1. What is your favorite color?

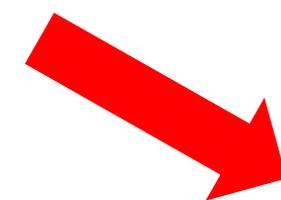
Red

Green

Blue

****THE POLL SHOULD
APPEAR ON YOUR
SCREEN, AS SEEN
ABOVE***

STRATEGIES POLLING

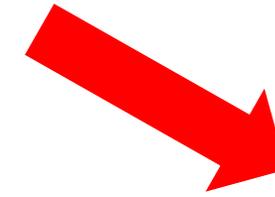
A screenshot of a mobile poll interface. The title is "Polling 1: Polling Questions". The question is "1. What is your favorite color?". There are three radio button options: "Red", "Green", and "Blue". A red arrow from the top left points to the top right corner of the poll box.

❑ WHAT WERE THE TOP SIX *ECON. DEVELOPM* RECOMMENDATIONS YOU HEARD TODAY?

****THE POLL SHOULD APPEAR ON YOUR SCREEN, AS SEEN ABOVE***

STRATEGIES POLLING

□ **WHAT WERE THE TOP THREE *HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES* RECOMMENDATIONS YOU HEARD TODAY?**



Polling 1: Polling Questions

1. What is your favorite color?

Red

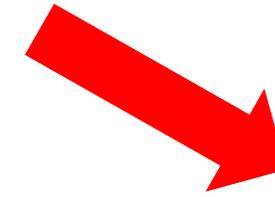
Green

Blue

****THE POLL SHOULD APPEAR ON YOUR SCREEN, AS SEEN ABOVE***

STRATEGIES POLLING

❑ **WHAT WERE THE TOP THREE *OPEN SPACE & NATURAL RESOURCES* RECOMMENDATIONS YOU HEARD TODAY?**



Polling 1: Polling Questions

1. What is your favorite color?

Red

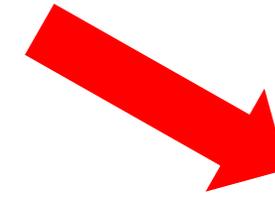
Green

Blue

****THE POLL SHOULD APPEAR ON YOUR SCREEN, AS SEEN ABOVE***

STRATEGIES POLLING

❑ **WHAT WERE THE TOP THREE *CLIMATE RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY* RECOMMENDATIONS YOU HEARD TODAY?**



Polling 1: Polling Questions

1. What is your favorite color?

Red

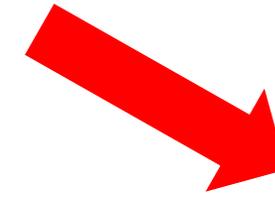
Green

Blue

****THE POLL SHOULD APPEAR ON YOUR SCREEN, AS SEEN ABOVE***

STRATEGIES POLLING

❑ **WHAT WERE THE TOP THREE *PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES* RECOMMENDATIONS YOU HEARD TODAY?**



Polling 1: Polling Questions

1. What is your favorite color?

Red

Green

Blue

****THE POLL SHOULD APPEAR ON YOUR SCREEN, AS SEEN ABOVE***

STORY MAP

WHAT IS A STORY MAP?

Story maps use **Geographic Information System (GIS)** to combine mapping data with photos, video, audio, etc. visualize a theme!

Story maps are a great for public engagement because they provide a **visual of what is going on** and can easily be shared! Check it out!

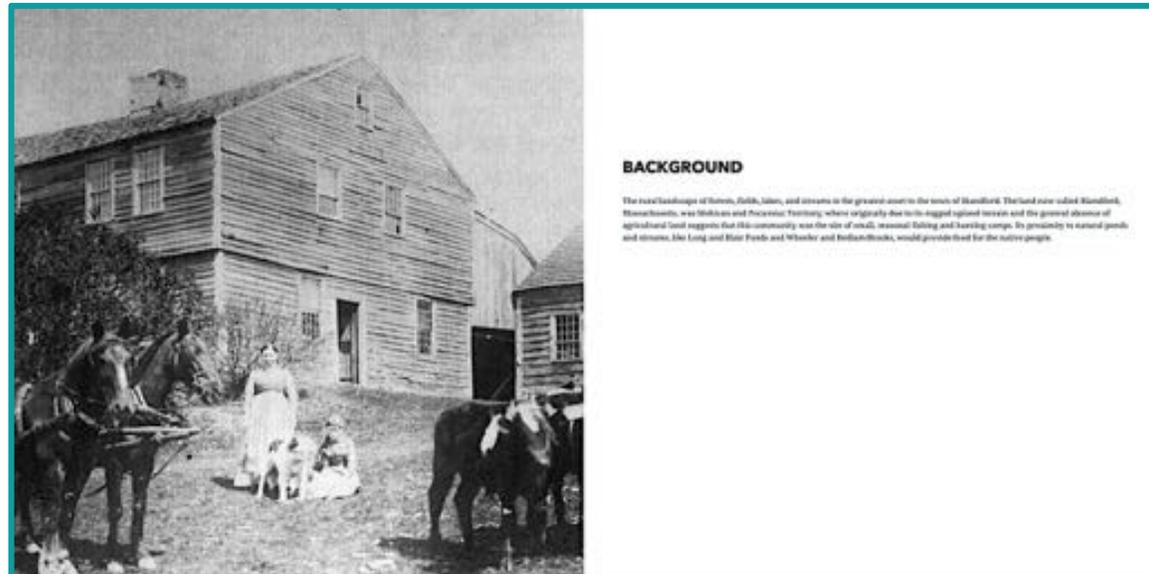
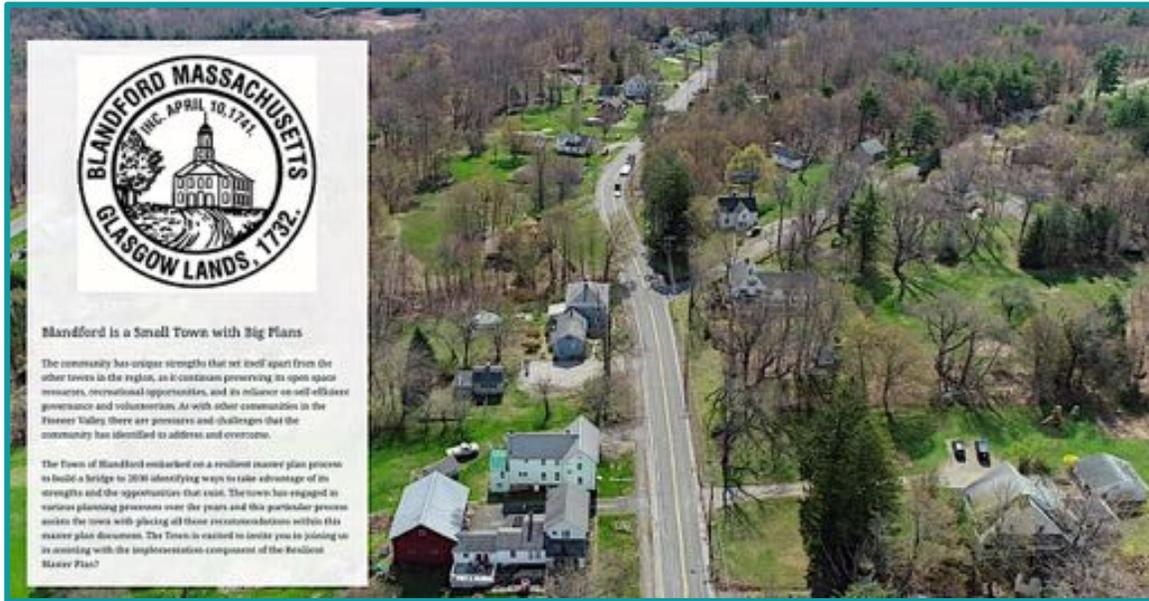




PHOTO CONTEST!

AND THE WINNER IS...

SMALL TOWN, BIG PLANS
BLANDFORD *Bridge to 2030*
RESILIENT MASTER PLAN



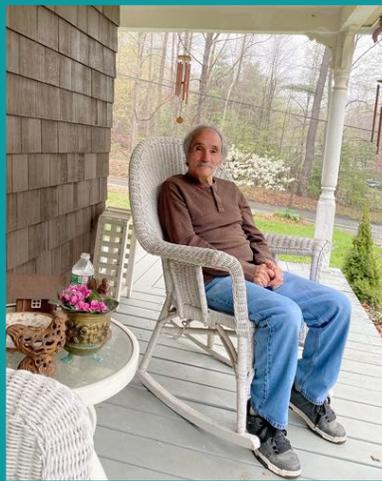
*Photo by
Peter Langmore*



*Thank you all for your submissions!
We will incorporate as many as possible into the final document!*

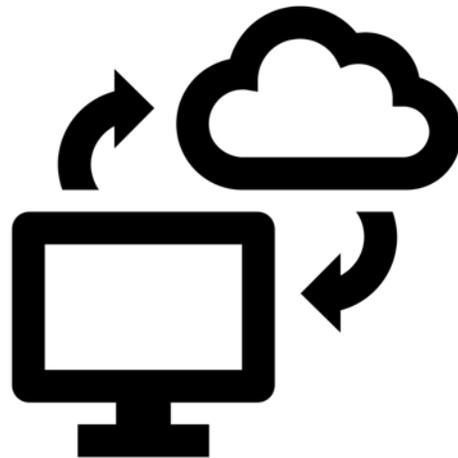
SMALL TOWN, BIG PLANS
BLANDFORD *Bridge to* 2030
RESILIENT MASTER PLAN





WORD CLOUD EXERCISE

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THIS PLAN?



STAY INFORMED!

*Scan me or visit
the URL to the left!*



Visit the **PROJECT WEBSITE** for
updated information about the
Master Plan

<http://blandfordmasterplan.pvpc.org>



NEXT STEPS

IMPLEMENTATION
WORKSHOP FOLLOW UP

TODAY

MAY-JUNE

- INCORPORATE FINAL COMMENTS INTO DRAFT
- CONCLUDE ALL OUTREACH EFFORTS
- PREPARE FOR SUBMISSION
- FINAL RESILIENT MASTER PLAN ADOPTED BY THE PLANNING BOARD

Thank you for attending the Blandford Resilient Master Plan Implementation Workshop!

Catherine Ratté, cratte@pvpc.org

(P): 413-285-1174

Ken Comia, kcomia@pvpc.org

(P): 413-285-1175

Joshua Garcia, administrator@townofblandford.com

(P): 413-848-4279



To: The Blandford Resilient Master Plan Committee
From: Barrett Planning Group LLC
Date: May 8, 2021, 10am-12pm
Re: Implementation Workshop Summary



Overview

The Blandford Implementation Workshop produced a turnout of 15 public attendees, most of whom are Resilient Master Plan Committee members including chair Mary Kronholm and Co-Chair Joann Martin. Not included in that count are the consultants from PVPC (6) and Barrett Planning Group (3), and Town Administrator Joshua Garcia who welcomed attendees to the session and invited Chair Mary Kronholm to address participants. Fiona (the Meeting Host) then provided a brief project background and invited participants to engage in a word cloud exercise where they shared their top wishes for plan outcomes. Attendees were then assigned to two breakout rooms to review proposed plan recommendations and ask questions. The breakout group sessions were approximately 75 minutes long, with roughly 11 people per group. PVPC project managers Catherine Ratté and Ken Comia each led the discussion groups, with Shannon Walsh (PVPC) and Alexis Lanzillotta (BPG) taking notes. Following the breakout groups, attendees were polled and asked to pick three recommendations that were most important for Blandford. The Host concluded with final slides informing attendees of the Story Map engagement opportunity, the results of the word cloud (below) and the winner of the photo contest.

Suggestions for Recommendations

Based on the discussion during this workshop, the following adjustments or additions to recommendations are proposed for committee consideration.

MODIFIED RECOMMENDATIONS

Changes are in bold.

- Continue to support service and capital improvements for operations like the Blandford Porter Memorial Library, **Town Hall, and Historical Society building.**
- Continue to engage and coordinate planning efforts with Springfield around Cobble Mountain Reservoir and Long Pond Reservoir watershed lands and continue to collaborate and **increase access. Pursue legal review of contract if necessary.**
- **Review and consider adopting** the proposed Green Infrastructure and Climate Resiliency Policy.
- Provide intergenerational opportunities **and space (i.e., a community center)** for engagement with school-aged residents and seniors, exploring programming through the school district and other opportunities.
- Apply to the Massachusetts Community Transit Grant Program to help support existing volunteer senior **and disabled** ride services provided in town.
- Work with surrounding communities and special interest groups to identify opportunities to provide additional senior **and disabled** ride services in the future.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider the adoption of a statement (not regulation) affirming celebration of Native American history.

- Explore national standards for historic preservation and consider their applicability for Blandford. *(Check with Bob Kidd for clarification, as this was his suggestion.)*
- Explore and consider promoting “Tread Lightly” and “Leave No Trace” educational campaigns for residents.
- Pursue expansion of the Town-owned Historical Society building. *(As an alternative to adding “Historical Society building” to the recommendation above about capital improvement)*
- Pursue noise abatement through MassDOT to alleviate noise from the Turnpike.
- Consider prohibiting use of jake brakes near residential areas.
- Continue to facilitate the installation of Town-wide broadband. *(Accidentally omitted and placed back in!)*

Other Feedback

WORD CLOUD RESULTS

What do you want to see as a direct result of this plan?



PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

