

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

BLANDFORD RESILIENT MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

MEETING #5
MARCH 18, 2021

3:00 PM, VIRTUAL MEETING





SMALL TOWN, BIG PLANS

BLANDFORD

Bridge to **2030**
RESILIENT MASTER PLAN

**COMMUNITY SURVEY,
FOCUS GROUP TAKEAWAYS
VISIONING,
ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES**

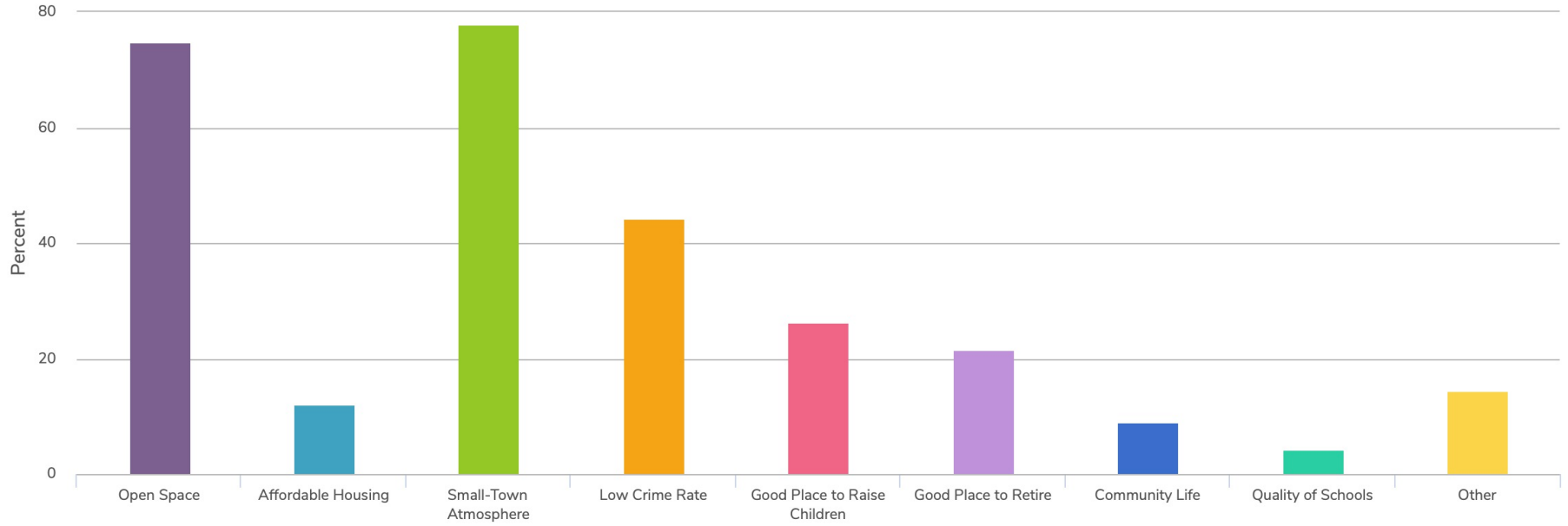
PRESENTATION AGENDA

1. Community Survey Results
2. Focus Group Takeaways
3. Vision Statement
4. Issues and Opportunities

COMMUNITY SURVEY DATA + FINDINGS

- Survey Period: Mid-January - February 15, 2021
- 170 Respondents
- Questions to identify respondents
 - Length of residency
 - Homeowner, renter or household member
 - Gender identity
 - Description of Household

1. Please choose the TOP THREE reasons why you live in Blandford. (Additional items can be added under "Other")

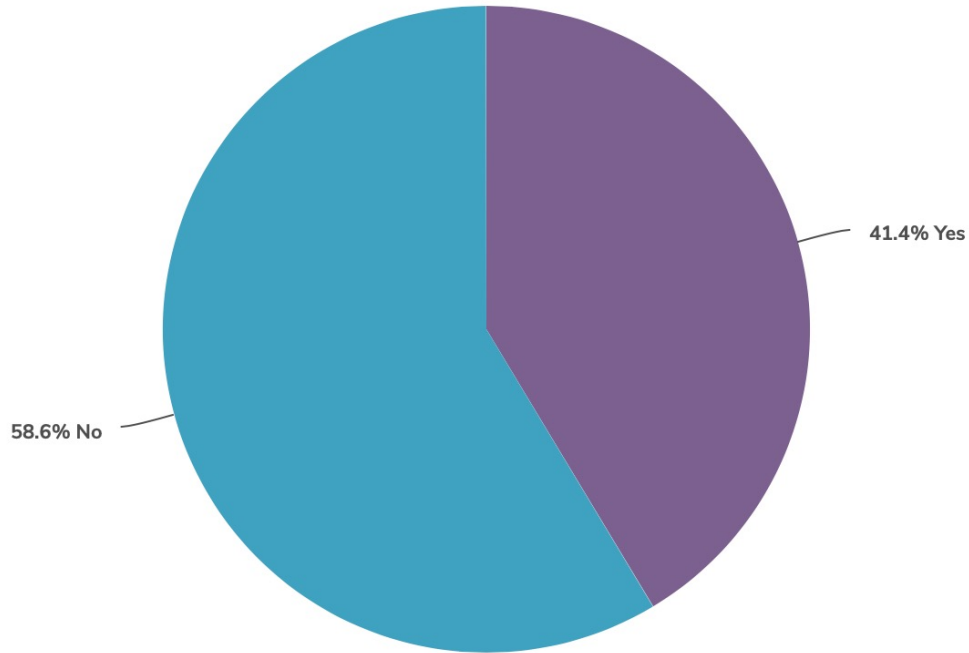


Value	Percent	Responses
Open Space	74.9%	125
Affordable Housing	12.0%	20
Small-Town Atmosphere	77.8%	130
Low Crime Rate	44.3%	74
Good Place to Raise Children	26.3%	44
Good Place to Retire	21.6%	36
Community Life	9.0%	15
Quality of Schools	4.2%	7
<u>Other (click to view)</u>	14.4%	24

- Other reasons:
- Privacy
 - Inherited homes
 - Low taxes

HOUSING

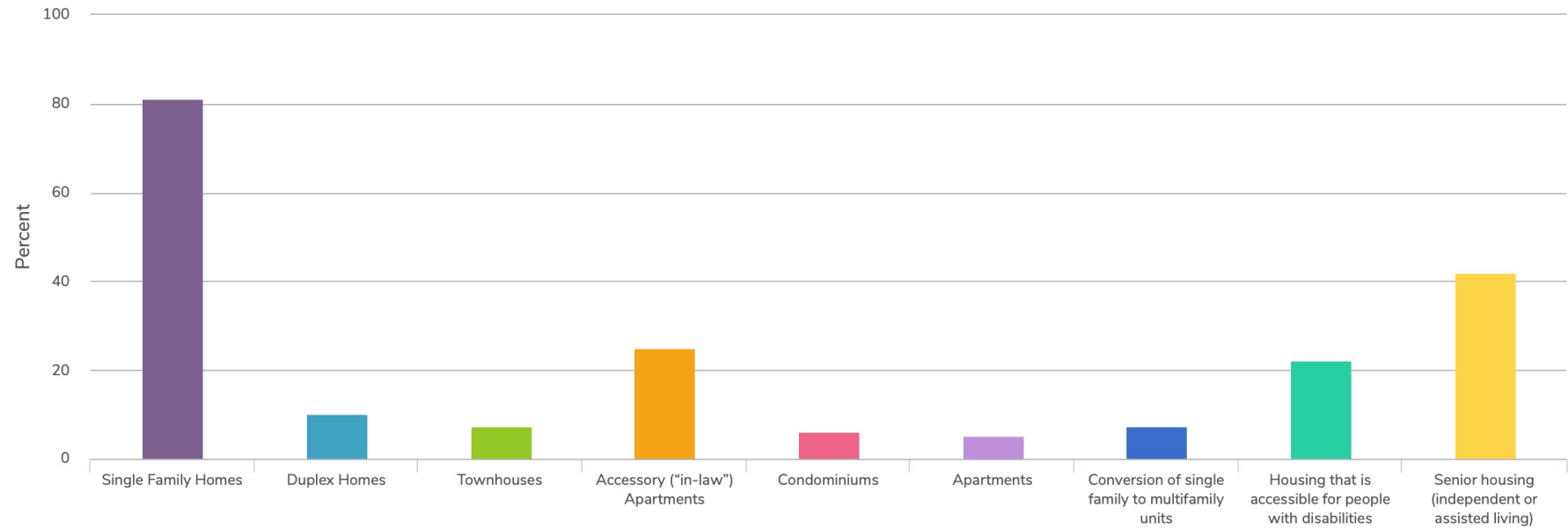
Do you believe there is enough housing for Blandford seniors of varying incomes and abilities?



Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	41.4%	60
No	58.6%	85
		Totals: 145

HOUSING

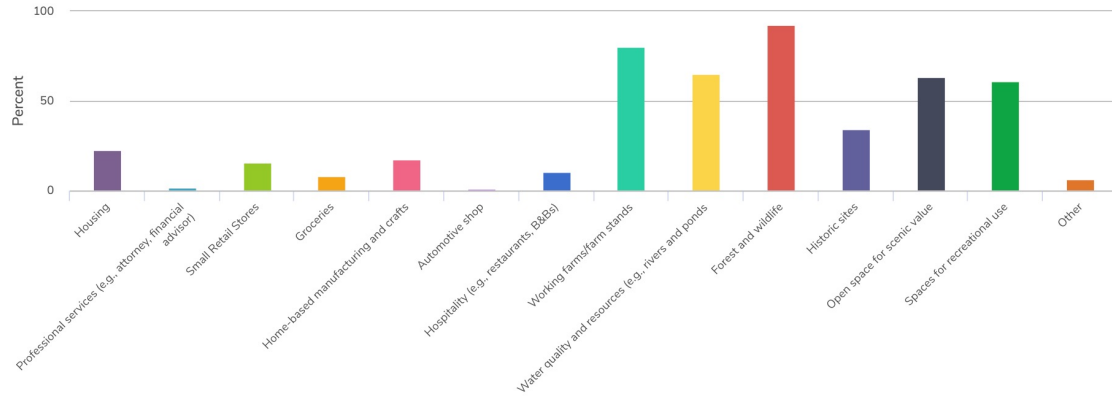
19. I would like to see the Town promote the following housing types: (Choose all that apply).



Value	Percent	Responses
Single Family Homes	81.1%	120
Duplex Homes	10.1%	15
Townhouses	7.4%	11
Accessory ("in-law") Apartments	25.0%	37
Condominiums	6.1%	9
Apartments	5.4%	8
Conversion of single family to multifamily units	7.4%	11
Housing that is accessible for people with disabilities	22.3%	33
Senior housing (independent or assisted living)	41.9%	62

LAND USE

2. Please choose the TOP FIVE land uses you view as important. (Additional items can be added under "Other")



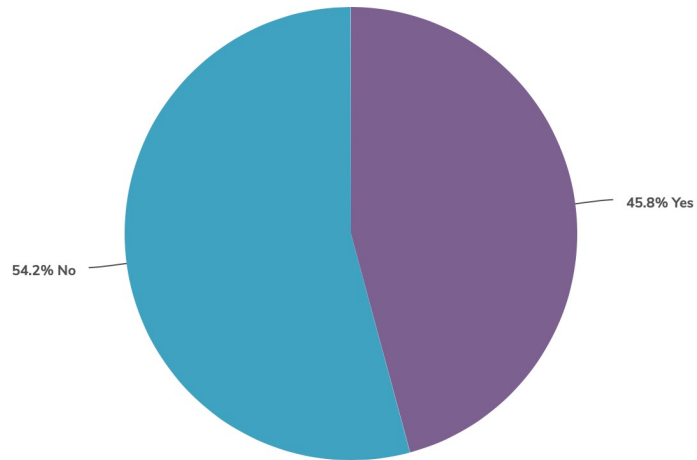
Value	Percent	Responses
Housing	22.9%	38
Professional services (e.g., attorney, financial advisor)	1.8%	3
Small Retail Stores	15.7%	26
Groceries	8.4%	14
Home-based manufacturing and crafts	17.5%	29
Automotive shop	1.2%	2
Hospitality (e.g., restaurants, B&Bs)	10.2%	17
Working farms/farm stands	80.1%	133
Water quality and resources (e.g., rivers and ponds)	65.1%	108
Forest and wildlife	92.2%	153
Historic sites	34.3%	57
Open space for scenic value	63.3%	105
Spaces for recreational use	60.8%	101
Other (click to view)	6.6%	11

26. What type of strategies should the town adopt to address future growth? Please check the answer you agree with

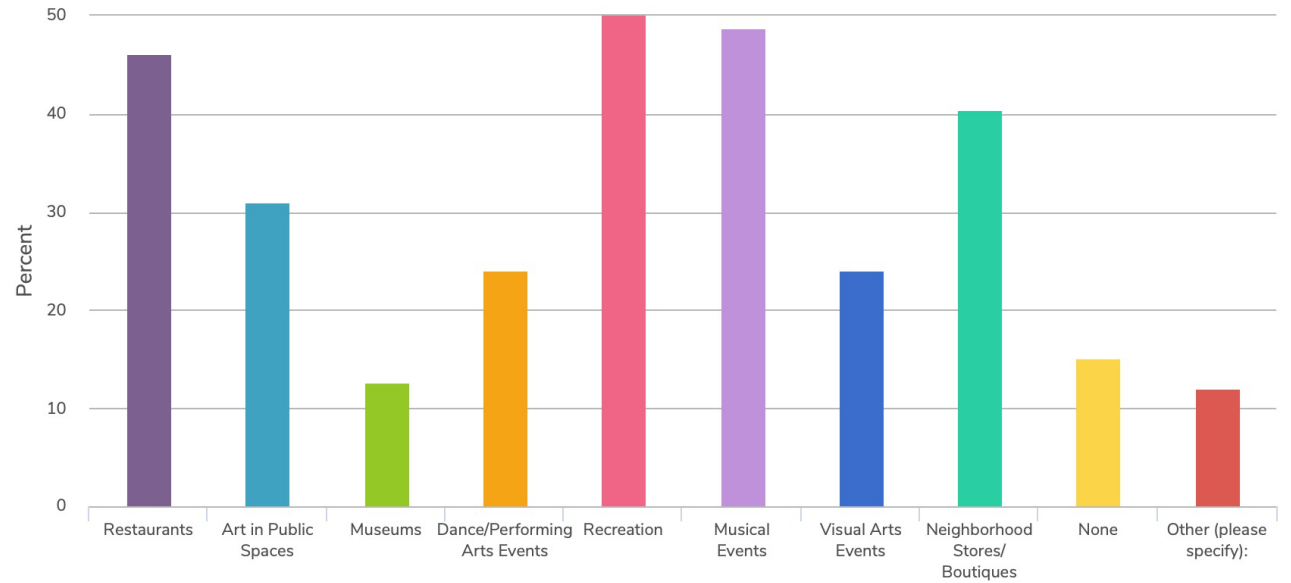
	Support	Indifferent	Oppose	Total Checks
Update zoning to designate residential, commercial, and industrial districts for development Checks Row Check %	56 39.4%	37 26.1%	49 34.5%	142
Identify areas appropriate for mixed-use development. Checks Row Check %	65 44.5%	32 21.9%	49 33.6%	146
Adopt zoning to protect agricultural lands. Checks Row Check %	124 80.5%	16 10.4%	14 9.1%	154
Adopt clustered homes development zoning bylaw. Checks Row Check %	25 18.0%	34 24.5%	80 57.6%	139
Adopt zoning for high density residential development. Checks Row Check %	8 5.6%	26 18.3%	108 76.1%	142
Revisit design standards for non-residential development Checks Row Check %	34 24.5%	63 45.3%	42 30.2%	139
Increase mobility options for non-motorized vehicles i.e., bike lanes. Checks Row Check %	51 34.9%	45 30.8%	50 34.2%	146
Limit development to the capacity of the town's water supply Checks Row Check %	69 47.9%	47 32.6%	28 19.4%	144
Continue to educate landowners about options for permanently protecting land and preserve Blandford's open spaces in perpetuity. Checks Row Check %	112 74.2%	29 19.2%	10 6.6%	151
Create new active recreational resources such as horseback riding trails, etc. Checks Row Check %	102 69.9%	29 19.9%	15 10.3%	146

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

27. Should the town encourage new commercial development?



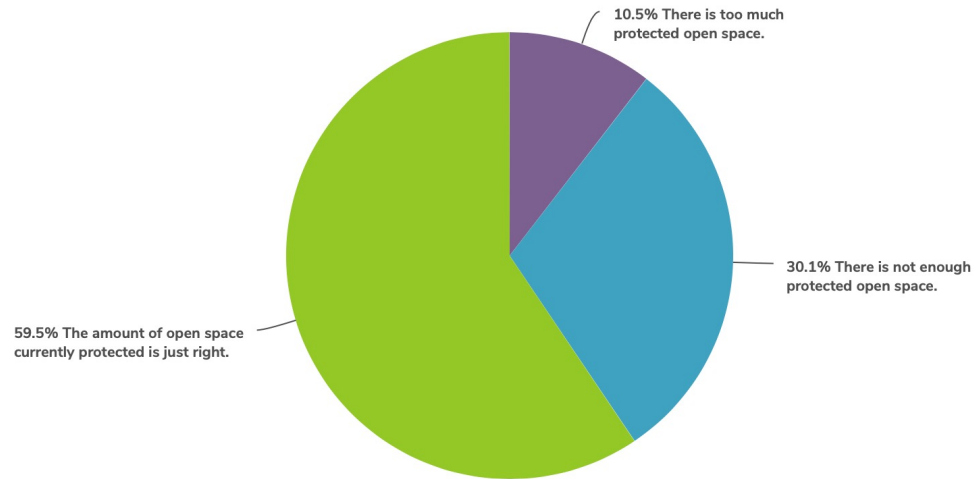
32. What would you like to see in the Town of Blandford? (Choose all that apply)



Value	Percent	Responses
Restaurants	46.2%	73
Art in Public Spaces	31.0%	49
Museums	12.7%	20
Dance/Performing Arts Events	24.1%	38
Recreation	50.0%	79
Musical Events	48.7%	77
Visual Arts Events	24.1%	38
Neighborhood Stores/ Boutiques	40.5%	64
None	15.2%	24
Other (please specify): (click to view)	12.0%	19

OPEN SPACES + NATURAL RESOURCES

33. Choose the statement that most closely reflects how you feel about the protection of open space in Blandford.



34. Please check all of the following activities that you enjoy (in Blandford or elsewhere):

	Participate Regularly in Blandford	Adequate Space in Town	Participate Elsewhere	Total Checks
Walking (on roads) Checks Row Check %	105 61.4%	39 22.8%	27 15.8%	171
Hiking (on trails) Checks Row Check %	85 51.5%	39 23.6%	41 24.8%	165
Bird/nature watching Checks Row Check %	86 63.7%	29 21.5%	20 14.8%	135
Road biking Checks Row Check %	26 33.3%	24 30.8%	28 35.9%	78
Mountain biking Checks Row Check %	12 23.1%	24 46.2%	16 30.8%	52
Horseback riding Checks Row Check %	13 27.7%	22 46.8%	12 25.5%	47
Dog walking Checks Row Check %	63 56.3%	29 25.9%	20 17.9%	112
Hunting Checks Row Check %	29 51.8%	18 32.1%	9 16.1%	56
Fishing/ice fishing Checks Row Check %	28 37.3%	13 17.3%	34 45.3%	75
Motorized boating Checks Row Check %	8 21.1%	4 10.5%	26 68.4%	38
Non-motorized boating Checks Row Check %	16 25.0%	5 7.8%	43 67.2%	64
Swimming Checks Row Check %	15 17.4%	6 7.0%	65 75.6%	86
Playing team sports Checks Row Check %	8 19.5%	12 29.3%	21 51.2%	41
Snowshoeing Checks Row Check %	59 57.8%	32 31.4%	11 10.8%	102
Cross-country skiing Checks Row Check %	35 50.0%	19 27.1%	16 22.9%	70

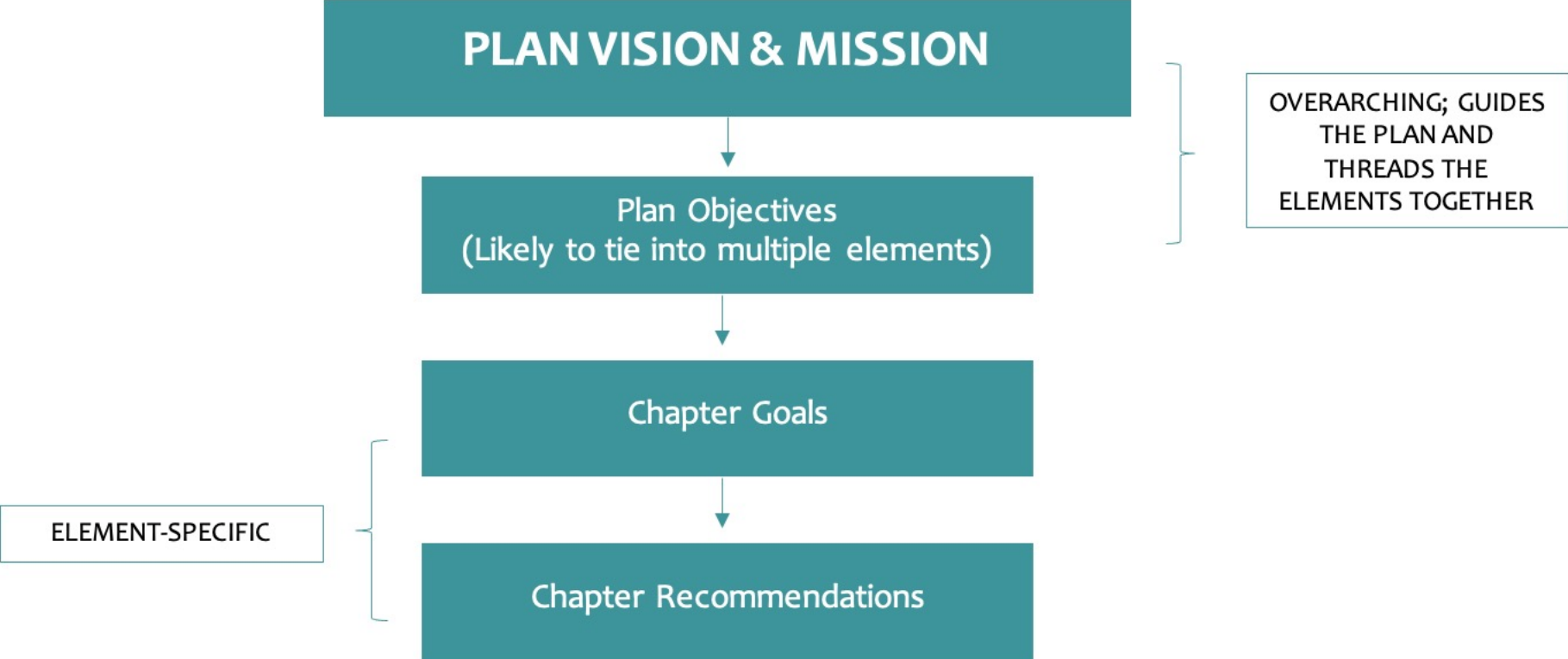
COMMUNITY SURVEY DATA + FINDINGS

- Residents are not inclined to support multi-unit housing styles, which can address housing availability for younger families, singles, and seniors
- Opportunity should be provided for small businesses to land in the Blandford town center
- Residents really want to see more community events, utilizing venues like the Town Hall Gym or White Church.
- Land owned by Springfield Water Department has limited access to Cobble Mountain Reservoir for Blandford residents - an amenity that was enjoyed prior to September 11, 2001.
- Nature and a low population has drawn people to Blandford to live

FOCUS GROUP TAKEAWAYS

- Residents love the rural, small-town living
- Seniors could use additional programming and housing for aging in place
- Turnpike!
- Springfield Water Department
- Ability to use other town destinations as opportunities
- Reliance on volunteers
- Continued dependence on Town Administrator

VISION STATEMENT



Plan Vision

Blandford's 2030 Resilient Master Plan continues to honor Blandford's historical roots, small-town charm, and rural beauty while welcoming opportunities for positive change, sustainable growth, and climate change resilience.

Plan Mission

We embrace the unique strengths that set Blandford apart, including our sense of community, open space resources, recreational opportunities, level of civic engagement, and dedicated Town staff and volunteers. Through the implementation of this Resilient Master Plan, we will balance planning for the manageable evolution of the Town with protecting all that we treasure about our community and reducing vulnerability of our community to extreme weather events. We will achieve this vision through open dialogue, local and regional partnerships, responsible fiscal management, and the democratic process.

Plan Objectives

We are a small town with big plans for our future. To achieve our vision, we will:

- Fortify our infrastructure and provide reliable services to all residents.
- Increase cultural, agricultural, commercial, and entertainment options.
- Preserve and promote our Town's rich historic resources.
- Make sustainable land use and preservation decisions.
- Conserve our flora and fauna.
- Enhance and promote our Town's sense of place.
- Prioritize services for our seniors.
- Support our schools and expand youth programming.
- Remove barriers for our disabled community members.
- Plan for climate change resilience.
- Ensure that our community is welcoming, accessible, and inclusive to all.

*More general than
before so they are
overarching to chapter-
specific goals.*

ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES

LAND USE

- Encouraging redevelopment in the town center
- Rural features
 - Scenic Roadway Designations + Public Shade Trees
 - Restrictions on (re)development
 - Site Plan Review standards
 - Home occupations/cottage industries
 - Open Space Residential Development (Cluster housing)

ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES

TRANSPORTATION

- Complete streets
- Senior van service
- Continued monitoring of roadways and culverts to remain in a state of good repair
- Expand existing pedestrian network

ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES

HOUSING

- Population and growth
 - Aging community
- Housing affordability
- Housing choice types
- Resilience in home construction

ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES

OPEN SPACE and NATURAL RESOURCES

- Sustain high water quality
- Springfield Water Department
- Connect wildlife and trail corridors
- Community resilience
 - Addressing stormwater
 - Continued evaluations of potential impacts of climate change

ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES

CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Historic buildings
- Preservation Plan and Resiliency
- Cultural events and opportunities

ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES

PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES

- Public services
- Fiber optic installation
- Water infrastructure
- Building Maintenance and Accessibility
- Continued

ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES

CLIMATE CHANGE & CLEAN ENERGY

- Natural resources need to be tied into the plan
- Remote lifestyles have resulted in challenges
- Eversource and poor response time
- Community does come together in the event of an emergency
- Ahead of its neighbors
 - Green Community Designation, EV leader, hybrid police cruiser
- “Be Green” program to provide intergenerational opportunities



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QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

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Pioneer Valley
Planning Commission