

OPPORTUNITIES- Dem Town Committee

Improve downtown aesthetics

Downtown economic development

Community events(?)

PARKING (directed to parking)

Upgrade facilities at schools

Town green

Restaurants

Reopening Luther Hill summer programs

 Pavilion in past

 Summer recreation

QPEN SPACE

Closed down schools

 Maple St.

 Lake St.

O'Gara Park

Rail trail

Powder Mill

Promote trails at Sibley

Explore, expand library services

Evening Town Hall hours

Opioid crisis

Abandoned buildings

Water bill (reduce)

OPPORTUNITIES-Dept. Heads

Growth

Plenty of land

Low tax rate

Location near Worcester, Rt. 20, Mass Pike

Build off value of Rental properties

Build public transportation

 Route redirect

Programming to bring people to library other than for books (jewelry, wellness, music)

Develop more senior center programs & services

Senior work program (something for everyone)

Socialize by volunteering

Affordable housing

FMPC

Roads project

Wastewater plant upgrade - add more capacity to allow more services/businesses

Downtown revitalization

Horse park

Housing stock

Tangible

Offer programs for kids to help parents become vested in town

OPPORTUNITIES-Fincom

Continuing improvement and maintenance of road network
Improved and increased downtown parking
Spencer Fairgrounds – use more for events
Reinstate swimming program
Year-round recreational programming
Increase police
FT firefighters
Increase availability of Howe Park
Improve trails access
Increase hours Town Hall & departments, Library, Senior Center
Regionalize services with other communities
Increase hours and employees in highway dept.
Keep more students in SEBRSD & Bay Path
Increase investment in school sports, band, etc.
Support incentives on personnel for schools
Increase business opportunities
Business tax incentives – tax deferments, credits, TIFs
Targeted ? – businesses support/streamline process for new businesses
Streamline permitting process
Possible?
Solar farms
Community Preservation Act
4th of July fireworks

OPPORTUNITIES -Boards & Committees

Fireworks
Restore Luther Hill Park – open, swimming lessons
DPHS football field
Parks – renovate buildings, facilities – bring sports to town – high quality community facilities
Funding senior center 1/3 of what town requires; better consistency, annual town funding
Restore library hours to 40/week, restore Saturday hours, increase staffing
Town to gown cooperation improvement
Town employees dedicated to constituency building
Maintenance of all town buildings
Restore 35 hours/week for all town departments
Full-time fire department
Bring businesses in to town
Electricity, water, sewer capacity increase
Potential increase sewer plant capacity – more houses, cleaner water
School Department – increase desirability -make &? H...? -families
More senior housing
Improved coordination between /among town departments, e.g. parks & rec/senior center
Increase community service
501 (c) 3 cross cultural coordination of needs with resources, coordination of needs with resources

- Expanded tie-ins to sewer system
- Clean water to swim in
- Become a green community – LED streetlights, etc.
- Improved energy in public buildings
- Community Preservation Agreement
- Seek more specialized grants (604b, 319)
- Restoration of Howe Park
- Building maintenance

OPPORTUNITIES - Public Forum August 28, 2017

- Sugden Block – sell/demolish
- Increase water, sewer capacity
- Bring in more business and add housing
- Redevelop with grants (Chestnut St.)
- Bring more students into school system
- Provide 2 years of kindergarten
- Use Ch. 90 for roads
- De-regionalize schools
- Make schools #1 consideration
- Conduct exit poll/interview of students who choice out

OPPORTUNITIES Public Forum September 7, 2017

- Improve/increase infrastructure (sewer, water, roads, town buildings incl. Maple St. & Lake St. schools)
- Identify development potential, target available parcels of land
- Parking
- Business outreach
- Network with other towns in region
- Address high school needs
- Optimize, promote use of fairground
- Add cell towers, utilities (solar farm at transfer station)
- Maintain balance between rural character and vibrant town
- Develop/formalize a business organization
- Be good stewards
- Downtown revitalization
- Work with landlord, property owners to improve facades (planning, grants, etc.)
- Provide financial relationship to assist businesses in coming to town, growing in town (TIFs, etc.)
- Add more town personnel to all departments
- Invest in town departments
- Provide recreation activities – swimming lessons, summer camps
- Repurpose old buildings
- Create cultural activities
- Create cultural programs
- Derive rental income from town-owned buildings
- Open town hall, library additional hours

Hire a grant writer

Centralize/regionalize some gov't services (Veteran's Agent, police dispatch, etc.)

Revisit location of DPHS – prime commercial space

OPPORTUNITIES Schools September 21, 2017

To meet standardized testing goals

To improve public perception of schools

To reduce turnover of staff in schools

To establish/increase school-business partnerships

Fitness trail

To get businesses to sponsor capital projects, e.g. solar panels

To maximize use of school land

To get full time firefighters (maintain level after 3 year grant expires)

To restore/expand recreation facilities

To improve, maintain walking venues (Build Spencer "Freedom Trail" type plan)

Clearer instructions, guidelines for re: conservation regulations, process requirements; all building requirements

Develop key programs for outreach to keep students

OPPORTUNITIES- Gaudette-Kirk Post American Legion September 26, 2017

Maintain & use full time firefighters effectively

Downtown retail

Make it a destination

Get rid of yellow signs

Open nicer retail shops

Schools

Nicer facilities

Improve school buildings

High school – build new or refurbish – get state funding – reestablish building committee

At least change inside

Better management for school system

Spencer – place to stop in, not drive through

Shape up main street businesses

Create town common

Historic site maintenance

Create bylaw -how Main St. should look

Revitalize downtown facades and how downtown looks

It should not "look like a slum"

Incentivize property owners to fix up buildings

Local historic district bylaw

Improve downtown business center appearance

Sign bylaw – define/limit size and appearance

Look into irregular enforcement of bylaws

Enforceable penalties needed for bylaw violations

Don't renew business licenses if consistent violations

More personnel to enforce bylaws

Direct visitors to Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in South Spencer (sign near Flexcon)

Luther Hill Park – reopen, hold more programs

Get citizens more engaged in town

Open up all parks again

Howe Park

Improve, increase signage for parks, trails (e.g. Rail Trail)

Restore South Spencer Community School House

 Events use

 Potential Veteran's use

Gadbois Square – more financial support

Bring more commercial industry to town

More financial support – ODIS, Town Hall open more

More aggressive involvement in promoting economic development

Safer downtown buildings

Look at what buildings being sold to who and why (social service agencies?)

Lower Cherry St. – improve old broom factory

Main St. & Cherry St. fire stations – restore and use

Promote growth – infrastructure

Develop pro-business policies

Look at other towns, determine best practices

 Oxford Monthly Round Table – boards & committees – review what is going on, identify hurdles,
 promote free flow of information

Remove hurdles to development (streamline processes, make them more clear)