

#### STRENGTHS-Fincom

Citizens

Low tax rate

Town administrator

Volunteerism of businesses and citizens to support community

Choices of commercial amenities in close area (lots of stores, restaurants, etc. on Main St.)

Abbey

Trails, open space with easy access (Sibley, Rail Trail, etc.)

Recreation

Rural character

Senior center

Library 4-H camp

Investment in town roads

Some downtown businesses take pride in downtown facades

Nearness of major cities

15 minutes from major routes – 20, Pike, I190, I290); on 9

Scenic back roads

Excellent, dedicated town employees – take pride in their work

Diverse, committed, dedicated volunteers

Lifelong friendships

Closeness to neighbors

Close to trauma, medical centers

Parks (Powdermill playground)

Emergency services (police, fire, rescue squad)

Spencer Fairgrounds

Spencer Fair

Network of trails

Church bazaar (many return for it)

Improved traffic flow

Wedding/event venues

Long- term businesses (Flexcon, Whitco, Banks)

Restaurants

Town employees & volunteers willing to work to get job done; they don't do it for \$

#### STRENGTHS-Dem Town Committee

Affordability

Safe

Rural character

Spencer Fair

Business/retail base

Klem's/Whitco/\$\$good

Park facilities

Schools

Artist community

Legion/Knights/Exchange Club/Lions

Medical

Fire/rescue services

Library

Improving roads  
Anne Gobi – in town  
Good spirit  
Friendly people  
Good location Pike/Rte. 9/Worcester  
Abbey & local churches

Spencer Town Department Heads, August 3, 2017

#### STRENGTHS

Love nature  
Financing behind conservation  
Opportunity for growth  
Town employees  
Dedicated employees  
Fiscally prudent  
Community cares  
Nostalgic  
Multi-generational population  
Very supportive of veterans  
    Vets support other vets  
Location  
Sense of community  
People stick together (?)  
Frugality  
Status quo  
Hold on to rural roots  
Volunteers  
Water  
Wastewater system  
Willing to support tangible items  
Road network – don't have just one way in and out

#### STRENGTHS – Boards & Committees

Small, tight knit community works together  
River resources, ponds, lakes, Sibley Farms  
Strong school system & reputation  
Senior center – outstanding director  
Library – new director, fine programs, excellent resources, community center  
Great parks & rec facilities, resources incl. Spencer Fairgrounds  
Camp Marshall  
Access to public lands  
Good diversity of businesses  
Lots of industry ????  
Variety of accessible medical facilities  
Fixed WRTA bus services  
Open opportunities to intv...for services ....serve here  
Elderbus

Centralized location, access to major highways  
Walkable downtown  
Food pantry  
Salvation Army  
Meals on wheels  
Opportunities low income housing  
Still affordable community, relatively speaking  
Trust in Spencer  
Lots of community participation  
Affordable ?  
High ...? ... ? ...?  
Senior work off program – win for departments, win for seniors  
Services, home businesses – diversity  
Strong economic value? Built? WTV? Power  
Lots of tradesmen, small businesses  
Abbey  
Spencer Fair  
Abbey Fire department, Brewery Open House  
International Bazaar (Mary, Queen of the Rosary)  
Town wide yard sale  
Library book & bake sale  
4-H Fair  
4-H Camp  
Christmas Parade of Lights  
Barnstorm Cycle Events  
American Legion

#### STRENGTHS – Public Forum August 28, 2017

Between country and city living  
Close to Worcester & it's offerings, e.g. Hanover Theater  
Rural character – clear boundaries – not like adjacent towns where it's not clear that city has ended and town has begun  
“country” town  
“bedroom” town  
Residents know each other – 50% know others who live here  
Easy town to feel part of  
Isolation not prevalent as in cities  
Services we provide (Town Hall, library, Sr. Center, public works, parks, etc.)  
Roads project  
Rescue Squad independent

#### STRENGTHS Public Forum September 7, 2017

Library  
Parks/land  
Open spaces

Quiet

Central location/easy access to cultural activities (Worcester, Northampton, etc.); highways (Mass pike)

Infrastructure (Town sewer, water, roads)

Protected areas (hiking trails, parks)

Reasonable taxes

Fairground

Town events

Excellent maintenance of buildings

Public services – police, fire, library, town hall

Rescue squad partnership

Buildings/historical character

Camp Marshall

Senior Center

Schools have potential

Trails

Abbey

Food venues

Reasonable housing options esp. for seniors

WRTA routes

#### STRENGTHS Schools September 21, 2017

Spencer Fair

Land area

Town sports

Nice library

Great teachers

Revitalizing downtown

Fixing roads

Businesses/partnerships

Lifestyle – down to earth people

Good values

Sense of community

Powder Mill Park (all parks)

Snow mobile trails

Parades

School system

Cleanliness, technology

4-H Camp Marshall

Library walks

#### STRENGTHS-Gaudette-Kirk Post American Legion September 26, 2017

Forward looking community

Infrastructure improvements

Newer schools

Food police department

Full time firefighters

Businesses here a long time doing well

Great industry – Flexcon

Create jobs

Major routes through town

Bus route – WRTA

Innovation lab cutting edge

Road system investment