

Notes from Charrette #1 Master Plan

Those in attendance were broken down into smaller groups. Each group was asked to comment on 4 topics: Assets and Likes, Challenges and Dislikes, Things that are Missing and Opportunities for Change.

Assets and Likes:

- ➔ Resident input is welcome and encouraged
- ➔ Local businesses not chain stores that are useful and affordable
- ➔ The architectural character incorporating new and old designs
- ➔ Able to walk
- ➔ Safe
- ➔ Kid friendly businesses and activities
- ➔ The area is not a strip there are nooks and crannies
- ➔ Key services within walking distance
- ➔ “Home Town Feeling”
- ➔ The library
- ➔ Natick Center is not too congested
- ➔ A variety of restaurants
- ➔ The train station
- ➔ The walking and rail trails
- ➔ TCAN entertainment, venue for community and adds to the culture of Natick Center
- ➔ The lake and open space Coolidge Hill and Pegan Cove
- ➔ Senior Center
- ➔ History and heritage
- ➔ The trees and flowers throughout the Center and on the bridge
- ➔ The Common
- ➔ Concentrated Public Spaces
- ➔ Natick Neighborhood Bus and cab companies
- ➔ Clear lights on trees and sidewalk
- ➔ The crosswalk countdown at the lights for persons with disabilities are very useful for everyone
- ➔ Friendly people

Challenges and Dislikes:

- ➔ Train Station
 - ➔ Not Handicap Accessible
 - ➔ Not enough frequency of trains
 - ➔ No “real” train station
 - ➔ *Treacherous in rain and snow.* (comment from NCA staff)
- ➔ Car traffic congestion
- ➔ Not enough pedestrian traffic access
- ➔ Parking
- ➔ Not enough bus routes or frequency for Natick Neighborhood Bus
- ➔ South Ave
- ➔ Closes up early at night
- ➔ No connection to the malls and other major shopping centers
- ➔ Not enough affordable housing especially for seniors
- ➔ Litter and Cigarette Butts
- ➔ Multilevel parking on South Ave including housing
- ➔ Multilevel parking at West Natick Train Station

Challenges and Dislikes cont.

- ➔ Bicycle
 - ➔ Not safe for bicycles on downtown streets.
 - ➔ Not enough parking for bicycles
 - ➔ Move the flower boxes on the bridge up so more bicycles can park
 - ➔ Education for bicycle safety
- ➔ Increase diversity of businesses especially retail in Natick Center
- ➔ Attract grocery and department stores in the Center
- ➔ Signage too big in some places (i.e. Town Paint) and too small in others
- ➔ Too much protruding from ground too much vertical clutter not pedestrian friendly
- ➔ Bump outs are a hazard
- ➔ Ballards at library are not working
- ➔ Trolleys in downtown
- ➔ Bury the wires
- ➔ Double the telephone poles
- ➔ No men's and women's clothing stores
- ➔ Side streets are not as developed or as well lit
- ➔ Not enough Signage
- ➔ Limited expansion if something comes something goes
- ➔ Educating the community is essential The center is for the success of the towns future

Things that are Missing

- ➔ Parking./ large parking garage
- ➔ Grocery Store
- ➔ Affordable housing
- ➔ Economic Development Director
- ➔ Department Store
- ➔ Elevator Level Sidewalks and Lighting at T station
- ➔ Movie Theatre (documentaries family and foreign films)
- ➔ New Senior Center
- ➔ More frequent bus schedules especially for seniors
- ➔ Bus stop for T from neighborhoods
- ➔ On Demand Transportation
- ➔ Diverse retail and restaurants
- ➔ Map on the common including architectural features
- ➔ Strategic Lighting to highlight positive features
- ➔ Historical timeline
- ➔ Visitor familiarity have resources and services that are easily accessible
- ➔ Calendar of events
- ➔ 24/7 access to information preferably with a touch screen
- ➔ First class appealing of housing for people 55 years of age or older
- ➔ Higher education locations
- ➔ Skating Rinks
- ➔ Sufficient residents to support businesses or a way to get the residents to come to Natick Center
- ➔ More culture art galleries art on the common fountain etc.
- ➔ Free Wireless internet downtown
- ➔ Indoor and Outdoor spaces for spontaneous use/ attraction to draw people in.
- ➔ "Missing tooth building"
- ➔ Planetarium

Opportunities for Change:

- ➔ Additional vehicle and bicycle parking
- ➔ Utilize space between Eastern Bank and Kentucky Spirits Package Store for bicycle parking
Talk with Henry Kanner about the parking
- ➔ Fix up Pegan Park
- ➔ Promote walking trails including historic walking routes
- ➔ Create walking tours by linking Natick Walks Historical Society and Open Space organizations/committees to create better promotion and use of walking routes and the parks (include Maureen Sullivan's walking tour)
- ➔ Natural Historical and cultural assets linked and celebrated
- ➔ Additional Housing
- ➔ Director of economic development help diversify business in downtown
- ➔ an informational kiosk including school information
- ➔ Creation of Hoop Districts
- ➔ Smart Zoning
- ➔ Second floor of large buildings rezoned to allow grocers
- ➔ Develop open lot multilevel parking with police patrols
- ➔ Mixed Zoning allowing residential and commercial uses in one area
- ➔ Signage for retail, trail heads, parking, and local bus
- ➔ Lake Front use downtown connect it to main throughways
- ➔ Better use of available parking
- ➔ Transportation oriented development money
- ➔ Rail Trail Bike racks with shelter
- ➔ other trail access to Natick Center
- ➔ South Ave development
- ➔ Sidewalks on N. Main St.
- ➔ Promote tourism art and culture
- ➔ Middlesex Ave. Parking garage
- ➔ Contact National Park Service for money for trail art
- ➔ Town Hall Parking Lot
- ➔ Public transportation to connect mall and downtown\
- ➔ CSX Property
- ➔ Paperboard site redevelopment
- ➔ Armory
- ➔ Information kiosks in areas around town including train station Town Hall South Ave Parking Lot
- ➔ Pond St. lot and all other surface parking
- ➔ Senior Center
- ➔ Affordable Housing for seniors and people with disabilities
- ➔ Middlesex Ave garage include retail in parking
- ➔ Cohesive promotional campaign
- ➔ Collaboration of TCAN and Restaurants at night
- ➔ Signage