



TOWN CONTINUES PLANNING TRADITION WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Wellesley is an attractive and successful Town because it has a tradition of planning for the future.

The Town is continuing that tradition with its fourth Comprehensive Plan. This update of the 1994 Comp Plan for the next 10 years will create the framework for decision making about future growth and development, as well as the continuing protection of Wellesley's character.

The Update will have two phases:

Phase I - September 2004 to February 2005 focusing on:

- Goals and Policies
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Land Use
- Progress Report for Town Meeting

Phase II - Spring 2005 - Winter 2005 focusing on:

- Natural and Cultural Resources
- Open Space and Recreation
- Circulation and Transportation
- Services and Facilities
- Implementation

Information and documents related to the Comp Plan Update are posted on a web page within the Town's website at www.ci.wellesley.ma.us.

Goody Clancy & Associates is leading the Town's consultant team for Phase I, advised by a housing specialist, Bonnie Heudorfer; a real estate market analyst, Byrne McKinney & Associates; and BETA Group for transportation issues.



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS A KEY COMPONENT

The Comp Plan Update process will be guided by a Steering Committee made up of members of the Planning Board and a Town Meeting member from each precinct.

The Steering Committee will keep Town boards and commissions updated on the progress of the plan and seek their input. In addition, knowledgeable Town residents will be asked to be involved in the review and discussion of plan recommendations on specific issues.

All Steering Committee meetings are open to the public and the meeting schedule and all draft plan documents will be posted on the project web page for public comment and review.

The Planning Board began the update process with a February 2004 survey of residents about what they see as positive and negative trends in Wellesley. A Summary of the results is available on the project web page.

To launch the update, a series of town-wide and neighborhood workshops for residents, business and property owners and other interested persons was held in October. At those meetings participants reviewed the Town's progress since the 1994 plan, reviewed and modified the 1994 plan's goals and objectives and identified priorities for the next ten years.

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

All communities experience change, even mature suburban towns like Wellesley. A Comprehensive Plan is a guidance document to help Town residents and Town officials shape change rather than react to it after it has happened. The planning process gives citizens the chance to understand and consider a range of opportunities, constraints and options in an explicit way, rather than forcing them to improvise under pressure. The Plan will provide guidance on how to balance development changes with preservation of community character and quality of life. The Plan may make recommendations on new or revised regulations, guidelines and standards; public improvements and programs; decision-making processes; and zoning changes.

Because Wellesley is a successful, well-run community, the Comp Plan process will focus on the issues that

are most difficult to resolve or that require attention from multiple town government authorities. Among the issues that are expected to be a focus of attention during Phase I of the Comp Plan Update are affordable housing and future mixed-use development opportunities.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Look for the next newsletter in early November, which will include a report on the results of the public meetings.

SUGGESTION BOX

The project web page has links to send email to the Town Planning Director and to the consultants. Let us know what you think!



Wellesley Comprehensive Plan 2004-2005 Update Steering Committee:

Planning Board Members

Thomas Frisardi
Rose Mary Donahue
James C. Meade
Sue Wright
Edward Chazen
Frank S. DeMasi

Town Meeting Representatives

Gerald C. Hume, Precinct A
Richard McGhee, Precinct B
Jacqueline Hatch, Precinct C
Joellen Toussaint, Precinct D
Henry Lysaght, Precinct E
Barbara McMahon, Precinct F
Judith Hull, Precinct G

Rick Brown, Wellesley Planning Director
Consultant: Goody Clancy & Associates
More information at:
www.ci.wellesley.ma.us - look for the Comprehensive Plan button