

**Town of Wellesley Natural Resources Commission (NRC)**  
**Wellesley LCP Public Charrette - 11/21/24, 6:30 PM - 8 PM**

**Exit Survey Results**

1. What should the Town focus its land protection efforts on? Please rank the following 1-8, with 8 being the highest priority. (We understand that each of these values is important, please do your best).

<b>Conservation Value</b>	<b>Average/mean rank</b>
Expanding Open Space	5.37
Reducing Flood Hazard Areas	4.14
Enhancing Existing Passive Recreation Opportunities	4.95
Expanding Trees Canopy and Forest Cover	5.63
Protecting Scenic Historic and Geological Features	4.08
Protect Areas that Support Water Quality	5.58
Protect Areas that Support Public Water Supply	5.83
Protect Areas that Support Wildlife Habitat	6.28

*To calculate the mean ranking for each conservation value, rankings were summed based on responses by all respondents for that value, and the total was divided by the number of respondents.*

2. What concerns do you have regarding land preservation efforts? (Select all that apply)

	<b>No. of People who selected</b>
Impact on property taxes	5

Restrictions on land use	7
Effect on local economy	5
Loss of personal freedoms	3
Conflicting Town goals (i.e., housing)	27
Other (write in below or on back)	3

3. What percentage of a real estate tax increase would you agree to in order to increase land protection for your priority purposes? (Check all that apply)

	<b>No. of People who selected</b>
Over ½ % (average \$100+ a year)	21
½ % (average \$100 a year)	11
¼ % (average \$50 a year)	4
1/8% (average \$25 a year)	1
0% (I do not support more taxes)	4

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**Post-Session Individual and Group Debriefs**

**Individual Participant Feedback (8-15 people)**

**1. How was the process for you? What worked and what didn't you like?**

- Technical questions: I didn't have the expertise on these, and it was hard to get oriented with the maps.
- Maps were great; it was helpful to see towns laid out. However, I'm not sure if asking people to identify places to conserve works well.
- I would have liked to know what the exercise (process) would entail beforehand.
- A group conversation with individual facilitators and note-takers would have been beneficial.
- The NRC chair began the process by stating it was not prudent to save all of our forested spaces. This didn't work for me as it wasn't explained why it wasn't prudent, and many in the community feel we don't have enough forested space. Who says it's not prudent?
- The maps were great, and the staff and board members were very helpful.
- Placement of "dots" was a little confusing at first, but the facilitators were very helpful.
- Overall, it was good; I thought it worked well.

**2. In what other ways would you like to be engaged?**

- Engage younger folks, people with kids, and others with diverse perspectives in the community.
- Facilitate more conversations.
- Get more town people involved through surveys and remote meetings.

**Group Debrief (8-12 people)**

**1. How was the process for you? What worked and what didn't you like?**

- Thought it was terrific; people were very engaged.
- Found the process a little chaotic (the way it was designed) and repetitive.

- Maps were very hard to interpret and navigate. I had to reorient myself every time I came to a map.
- Michael's map was the best and engaging. However, I was looking for some places to capture the concept. I liked that the more maps I saw, the more ideas would pop.
- If people could read the hazardous mitigation plan of Wellesley, it would provide a great baseline to understand the maps better.
- The maps were terrible. The plan should include a forestry plan.
- The data represented is not very accurate, representative, or classified appropriately for the town.
- The overlays on many maps don't represent the data well (not accurate to today's maps), and the data itself is relatively skewed. For example, information is out of date (2016) and that private pools are shown as waterbodies.
- The reasons for preserving the tree canopy need to be explained. The town hasn't appropriated funds in decades—why now?

## 2. In what other ways would you like to be engaged?

- If we could narrow it down and look at specific parcels, that would help. Maps should be updated and broken down to provide detailed information on the parcels.
- Focus on important forests.
- The four biggest parcels are not acknowledged, nor is how much engagement we have with them.
- It would help to come back with a condensed version of what was discussed here, including feedback on opportunities, risks, pros and cons, and recommendations for the people who provided input. This is not only about telling people what they said but also addressing opportunities and challenges, plus identifying groups that can take action.
- Continuity of contiguous spaces should be emphasized. Didn't learn much; we need another layer of information that hasn't already been provided.
- Narrow down the focus and work on connecting areas.
- Expand this conversation as much as possible, especially to town meetings.
- Highlight the importance of contiguous regions—for example, emailing residents of smaller regions and organizing meetings with them.

### **3. Next Meeting: Suggestions for Changes**

- All of the above (breakout groups, charrettes, facilitation).
- Need to broadcast and encourage participation.
- Provide opportunities for introductions, small group breakouts, and reassembly.
- The real focus should be on each attendee talking about the area they know well. It is important to involve people who specialize in specific areas to play devil's advocate. Conduct discussions by neighborhood.
- I liked the different maps.
- Use precincts to gather opinions.
- It would be great to have colleges represented.

## **Town of Wellesley Natural Resources Commission (NRC)**

### **Wellesley LCA Public Charrette - 11/21/24 6:30 PM - 8 PM**

#### **Sticky Notes on Maps**

##### **H2O Supply:**

- State Forest peak centennial green dots should be protected to absorb rainfall to protect our water supply
- I'd like to put a dot on the whole town to protect the water supply – that should be priority. Not sure acquisition of individual properties will make a difference to water quality without a comprehensive strategy all across town on pesticides, fertilizers and stormwater
- Instead of writing all over the [ineligible] If colleges and country club change or sell land – these areas need to be protected with regard to impact on water quality and quantity
- WRP – Wetlands to be protected

##### **Flood Hazard:**

- Rain gardens, smart storm water solutions
- Watertown stormwater rules – stormwater can't leave prokaty [inelligible]

##### **Trees/Forests:**

- No development in North 40
- Use Upham property for future park
- Save the North 40 - Wildlife bird
- No development in the North 40.
- Plant more trees everywhere and keep them protected
- No more development for ugly condo buildings. Keep the green space.
- No development in State Forest near Centennial
- No development at 125 Oakland
- No development – Worth 46
- No development – Morses Pond
- No development – Builder Brook
- MOPO woods and trail system should be preserved for passive recreation

- No pickleball
- Protect the MOPO/Woodlands Forests
- Consider development of North 40 along Weston Road
- Please prioritize tree protection all across town especially in case of demolitions. There seems to be a war on tree in town
- Include housing as well as conservation at N40
- Protect the No 40
- Invasive species (bittersweet) destroying tree cover we have
- Close clear-cutting prior to development loophole
- Preserve North 40 forest for:
  - Climate
  - Lakes
  - Passive recreation
  - Habitat

Contiguous:

- Land between aqueduct, MacKinnon Park, and Kendall St
- Save all North 40
- No Pickleball on Morses Pond or N40
- No Pickleball at North 40 or MOPO parking lot or woods (Wildlife corridor)
- Protect land that is contiguous to protected land
  - Increase/maintain tree canopy, water protection, etc
- No Development on the North 40
- Protect all the green, open spaces from housing development

Recreation:

- Save the North 40
- No pickleball courts by Morses Pond
- Preserve the North 40 and MOPO woods and Parking area for passive recreation (no pickleball)
- Connect Wellesley trail to Natick along Washington Rd
- Consider Upham School vacant for foreseeable purpose – for active recreation use in gym (Pickleball)
  - If schools will not use Upham buildings again, tear them down to improve playing field
- Protect the trail system

- School should consider donation of Upham
- We have to be prepared for change of use of sale of property at the colleges and the country clubs, and the sisters of charity. Think about the impact on our water quality and quantity and also the opportunity to plant a forest and think about opportunity for arts and culture facilities in a beautiful site. Mostly protect natural resources.

Unique:

- The town of Wellesley needs to do better. The towns need to protect and expand greenspaces and wildlife habitats and stop overdeveloping the area.
- Stop tearing down the tree canopy in fewer of ugly condos apartments, the greenspace is why we moved here.
- Save the North 40 – wildlife corridor/tree canopy
- No pickleball courts and parking lots in Morses Pond – will disturb the wildlife
- Preserve 4<sup>th</sup> grade geological field trip sites
- Preserve the No40 + the MOPO Woodlands /forest areas for continued passive recreation use
- Town needs to protect more open spaces
- Protect Pond Rd as a scenic Byway
- It has been decades since Wellesley has [ineligible] permanent protection on open spaces
- North 40 Gardens: Loved by so many, even non-gardeners. Used like a park by all types of residents, families, high school athletes, seniors, dog-watchers, etc. Find it very historic
- Protect in its entirety healthy forests
- Healthy forests are better at absorbing CO2 than individual trees

[Didn't Capture Name in Picture]:

- Passive recreation only at North 40 + MOPO woods + parking lot to avoid adverse impacts on wildlife (no pickleball)
- Protect all the North 40
- No Pickleball courts by Morse Ponds parking lot
- All of Wellesley should be considered wildlife habitat
- Do not develop the North 40
- Keep the Duck Pond by the Town Hall across from the Library

- Town forests, big or small are wildlife habitats, protect them
- We need to be thinking about the colleges and country clubs and other privately owned parcels that have a lot of trees and open space and habitat and water protection
- All of Wellesley should be considered habitat – promote homegrown national park program to recruit people to designate their yards as habitat friendly
- Babson is critical habitat for this side of Town – Please negotiate protections
- Protect all areas along the Charles River
- Community Garden protected?

## H20 Quality:

- The whole town is critical to water quality, and we are soiling our own “nest” with pesticides + fertilizers on lawns, golf courses + other open spaces.

## Overview:

- No development on the North 40
- No pickleball courts on Morses Pond
- All of the remaining green space that hasn't already been demolished by condo buildings needs to be preserved + protected.
- Plant more trees everywhere:
- Preserve the green spaces that house the wildlife and animals.
- The town of Wellesley needs to do better. Wellesley is becoming overdeveloped and urbanized.
- No Pickleball near MOPO or other passive recreation
- Protect the North 40 as a forest
- Save Upham property from development
- Mass Bay parking lot share w/hsg + conversation
- Save the North 40, no development
- Share North 40 W housing
- Protect contiguous protected land and wildlife corridor
- Protect the unprotected infrastructure land, much of which include trails
- Do not develop North 40
- No development on state forested land @MassBay. No development on Mass Bay land. No development on 125 Oakland

- Do not develop state forest @MassBay, Wellesley CC, North 40, Boulder Brook
- Protect State and Mass Bay land – largest green space in Town
- North 40 should be protected.
- Clean our water. Holds our carbon soothes our souls
- Strategic purchase of pocket parks + fields to support neighborhoods
- Protect the Charles River area
- Never take away the duck pond across the Main Library by Town Hall
- Protect Emerald Necklace
- Forests cover
- Water protection
- Recreation
- Lake Labah open space
- Wildlife
- Sisters: Share with housing
- North 40: Share with housing
- [Ineligible]: Share with housing'
- Mass Bay[ineligible]: Share with housing.