

1. How does this initiative relate to our Master Plan?

Overview and Excerpts from the 2015 Master Plan Vision Statement:

The residents of Washington, a mix of year-round and seasonal homeowners, share one overarching goal: to safeguard our Town, which is rich in natural resources, historic landmarks and sense of community.

Guiding principals relating to the Town Center from the Master Plan Vision Statement:

- *treasure our unique historic heritage*
- *preserve our unique village centers*
- *maintain community pride of place;*
- *conserve our iconic historic structures*
- *expand community use of these structures*
- *repurpose these structures as needed with community support;*
- *cultivate opportunities for economic development that will not hinder our community's rural character*

2. What is this initiative attempting to accomplish, in broad conceptual terms?

- Preserving the historic sites and character of our Town Center
- Enhancing public/visitor safety and desirability of our Town Center
- Cultivating economic growth that will encourage a healthy local economy
- Ensuring a sense of community pride in our Town Center
- Increasing public awareness of Town Center historic sites

3. How should community interest/input be obtained – who/what outreach is needed?

a. Who?

- Historical Society
- Business owners in the Town Center
- Property owners in the Town Center vicinity
- Washington Congregational Church
- Library Trustees and Staff
- Town Hall and Police employees
- DPW director
- Washington Area Artisans
- Entire Washington community

b. What/how?

- Planning Board subcommittee initiative
- Small workshops or meetings with focus groups of participants

- Announcement at March 2018 Town Meeting of this PB initiative
- Town wide brainstorming workshop

4. Are there specific Town Center issues that have been brought to the Planning Board's attention prior to this initiative?

- Erosion of Main Street shoulder making pedestrian traffic difficult
- Clutter/trash and lack of upkeep on some properties
- Traffic sign clutter/over population of signs
- Inconvenient access to public parking in the rear of the Meetinghouse
- Neglect of the historical Town Pound
- Challenges of applying the LUO to the commercial village area
- Lack of crosswalk from parking area across Main Street to Shed Free Library

5. What are the planning resources and funding resources that should be investigated?

- Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Council
- UNH Cooperative Extension: **First Impressions Program**
- NH Preservation Alliance
- NH Land and Community Heritage Program (LCHIP)
- NH Office of Strategic Initiatives Planning Division (formerly NHOEP)
- Moose Plate Grants
- NH Charitable Foundation and its Regional Divisions
- The New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA)
- NH Department Of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration - CSS (Context Sensitive Solutions)
- Save America's Treasures
- USDA Rural Development
- Public Service of New Hampshire
- Heart & Soul Community Planning Grants

6. What is the appropriate timing for this initiative?