

COMMUNITY FORUM



WALES MASTER PLAN

*Come and share
your vision for
Wales!*

**WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 13, 2019
6:30-8:30 PM**

**Wales Elementary School
41 Main Street
Wales, MA 01081**



GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



WALES MASTER PLAN

Prepared by the
Joint Committee of
the Wales Select and
Planning Boards

With assistance from
the Pioneer Valley
Planning Commission

LAND USE

- **Maintain Wales' Rural Appearance and Small-Town Feel**
 - Discuss strengthening the Town's Site Plan Review Bylaw and Process
 - Promoting Home Occupations and Cottage Industries
 - Discuss Protection of Wales' Scenic Vistas
- **Enhance the Town Center as a Livable, Workable, and Walkable Community Center**
 - Discuss promoting Mixed Use Village Center Development
- **Protect, Enhance and Strengthen Agricultural Lands**
 - Discuss reviewing subdivision plans for farmland impacts
 - Explore and engage a Town Agricultural Commission and Pass Right-to-Farm Bylaw

MOBILITY

- **Develop a Safe and Reliable Road Maintenance Program for Town-Owned Roads**
 - Adopt a Pavement Management System
 - Develop, implement and maintain a Capital Budget Plan
- **Improve Safety and Infrastructure for Pedestrians and People on Bicycles and Wheelchairs**
 - Develop a plan for a connected network of bicycle routes, sidewalks and trails
 - Continue efforts to adopt a Complete Streets Policy and Complete Streets Prioritization Plan
 - Participate in the Safe Routes to School Program
 - Work with MassDOT to incorporate safer conditions for bicycles
- **Pursue Opportunities for On-Demand Transit Service or Expanded Van Service for Older Adults and People with Disabilities**
 - Work with PVPC and the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority and Worcester Regional Transit Authority

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Encourage a Local Economy That Supports Local Jobs and Results in More Goods and Services to Residents**
 - Participate with the Quaboag Valley CDC
 - Clarify and review existing land use and development regulations

HOUSING

- **Balance and Maintain a Housing Stock that also Protects the Town's Natural, Historic and Scenic Resources**
 - Continue to seek funding opportunities for the rehabilitation of individual homes and their septic and water supplies
 - Encourage the development of additional housing to support senior living to bring the town over the Chapter 40B ten percent threshold
 - Clarify permitting process for residential development

OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- **Maintain the Small-Town Character of Wales as the Town Continues to Develop through Stewardship of Natural Resources, Open Space, Forests, Working Farms and Lakes**
 - Develop an Open Space and Recreation Plan
 - Prepare and implement a comprehensive strategy for protecting surface water and groundwater and the watersheds that feed them
 - Pursue permanent protection for land where Wales Elementary School is situated
 - Consider adopting environmental performance standards
 - Review subdivision regulations
 - Evaluate the potential for a performance-based stormwater management by-law
 - Require adequate vegetated buffers next to wetlands, streams and rivers to filter storm-water runoff

CULTURAL/HISTORIC RESOURCES

- **Promote Wales' History and Preserve Its Unique Historic Resources**
 - Transition the Historical Society to Town-appointed Historical Commission to plan for, fund and promote preservation efforts in the future
 - Update Wales' Historic Resource inventory
 - Restore Old Town Hall

PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

- **To Continue to Provide Excellent Town Services and Community Facilities**
 - Plan for and implement building maintenance and improvements
 - Feasibility study for new accessible municipal building to consolidate uses
 - Continue to study the feasibility for the regionalization of some municipal services
 - Support services for veterans, seniors and disadvantaged residents
- **Develop a Resiliency Plan to Protect Properties and Fragile Resources from the Effects of Severe Storms and Natural Disasters**
 - Evaluate and consider participation in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Planning program
 - Plan for climate change and future hazards