

From: [Denise Dembkoski](#)
Cc: [Valerie Oorthuys](#); [Charlie Hartford](#)
Subject: Comprehensive Plan Outreach
Date: Monday, March 18, 2024 12:38:15 PM
Attachments: [StowCP_PhaseIIEngagementFlyer-Final.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon All –

I am reaching out as you are currently, or have been, involved in Stow's government over the last few years and I'm asking you to participate in Stow's ongoing [Comprehensive Plan process](#). This plan is a comprehensive look at our community – where we are today, what we want the Town to achieve in 15-20 years, and how we're going to get there. This is an important moment to help shape Stow's future.

What is it? This plan crafts a broad vision for the town, identifies goals, and develops recommendations for addressing future needs of housing, infrastructure, businesses, schools, town services, and land use. It's a document that typically gets updated every 10 years or so-our current Plan is from 2010.

Why should I participate? It's important that this Plan is representative of the entire community's vision, not just one Department or the Comprehensive Plan Committee. The only way that happens is with your input. Do you represent a Department or Board and you might be looking for a grant request in the future? More and more, the State reviews grant applications for consistency with the Town's Comprehensive Plan. We want to help you out! Let us know what your needs are.

[Complete the survey](#). It'll only take 10 minutes and it's entirely anonymous. Then forward it to others you know – anyone who lives, works, or recreates in Stow.

If you represent a Board/Committee, in addition to the survey, they could also provide feedback in these other ways available through April '24:

1. Lead a "[Meeting in a Box](#)". This is a more in depth look at specific topics, meant to be completed by a small group (4-7 people). The Meeting in a Box is very adaptable, and you don't need to complete every section. If you represent a Board or Committee, please consider holding a Meeting in a Box at your next meeting. (Ask the Planning Dept. for tips! If you ask nicely, they may come to your meeting and facilitate it for you!)
2. Take a few moments to add comments to the [online crowdmap tool](#) to tell us more about a specific recommendation or concern you have about a site in Stow. This tool is also anonymous.

What kinds of responses are you looking for? The questions you'll be asked are very wide-reaching. Here's a sampling, from each of the above tools: Do you think our roads are well maintained? Are you concerned with the affordability of Stow, in terms of housing and taxes? What types of businesses would you like to see in Stow? What do you hope would be different in Stow in 10 years? How should the town prepare for flooding and droughts related to climate change? Where is something in Stow you would like to protect or preserve? Do we have enough playgrounds?

Lastly, it would be very helpful if you could distribute the attached flyer to others in your network, to help us get the word out.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Or you may reach out to Planning Director, Valerie Oorthuys or Charlie Hartford, Comprehensive Committee Chair, both are copied on this email.

Thank you!

Very truly yours,

Denise

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*** Please be advised, my work schedule is Monday thru Thursday. ***

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