

A blue-tinted photograph of a road intersection. In the foreground, there is a large, rectangular stone bench. To the left, a road sign on a pole reads "MONTAGUE RD" and "100". A red sign on a post is also visible. The background shows a road with a yellow center line, a grassy area, and several trees. The sky is overcast.

APPENDIX D
STEERING GROUP
SMALL GROUP SUMMARIES

TOWN OF LEVERETT
JUNE 2024

MATERIALS PROVIDED FOR SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

TOWN OF LEVERETT

OCTOBER 23, 2023

**Community Meeting #1
October 17, 2023
Handout of Data Sources**

This is a (growing) list of data sources that the Planning Board, Steering Group, consultant team – and now you! – have as resources during this process.

The most important data source is the Town of Leverett’s Comprehensive Planning Page. <https://leverett.ma.us/g/95/Comprehensive-Planning> and the accompanying timeline <https://leverett.ma.us/p/2105/Leverett-Comprehensive-Plan-project-timeline>.

Many of the reports below are available on the Town’s Files site (<https://leverett.ma.us/files>); the reports are in alphabetical order. Other links are provided with the document, where known.

TOPICS	REPORT NAME
BUDGETS	
Town Services and Facilities	Leverett Tax Rates 2003-2021
Economic Development	Leverett Town Budget History and Forecast
Housing	MA General Fund Expenditures 2020
Implementation	
HISTORY	
Natural and Cultural Resources	Photos of Town Hall Veterans and Paintings Leverett Reconnaissance Report (2009)
Natural and Cultural Resources	Where We Stand, A Report of Leverett’s Planning Process (1973)
Land Use	
MAPS	
Land Use	Three-phase Power Map
Services and Facilities	1966 Zoning Map
Historical Land Use	
Natural and Cultural Resources	1971 or 1975 Natural Resources Inventory 1987 Aquifer Protection District 1990 Stream and Lake Protection District 2002 Leverett Map (with stars) 2002 Leverett Map

	2003 Areas affected by Title 5
Land Use	2004 CDP: Land Use 2004 CDP: Protected Open Space
Land Use Economic Development	2004 CDP: Residential and Village Center Development Suitability
Land Use Open Space and Recreation Natural and Cultural resources	2004 CDP: Scenic Resources and Unique Environments 2009 Upper Elevation Site Plan Review Overlay Districts 2017 Priority Habitats and Estimated Habitats
Land Use	2008 Official Zoning Map Section 2340 Dimensional Schedule
PROPERTY ASSESSMENT DATA	
Town Services and Facilities Economic Development Housing Implementation	FY22 Property Assessment Detail Report FY22 Property Assessment Extract January 2021 Market Update Report Assessors Database 2011-2021 Historical Real Estate Valuations by Class
LEVERETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	
Town Services and Facilities	Erving School Union #28 Operational Efficiency Study Presentation to the School Committee September 18, 2023
Town Services and Facilities	Erving School Union #28 Operational Efficiency Study, September 2023
Town Services and Facilities	Leverett Elementary School Anti-Racism Commitment
Town Services and Facilities	Student Population and Funding Stability Report (2014)
Town Services and Facilities	Chapter 70 District Profile Regional School Agreement (dated November 11, 1997) Op-Ed re: Charter Schools (Grossman)
Town Services and Facilities	Report from Social Justice Committee
TOWN	
Housing Economic Development Implementation	AARP Livability Index https://livabilityindex.aarp.org/search/Leverett,%20Massachusetts,%20United%20States?print=true
Land Use	Subdivision Regulations

Town Services and Facilities, Natural Resources, Open Spaces	2020 Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan
Land Use	Hydrogeologic Investigation of Leverett, Massachusetts 2008, Department of Geosciences, Hydrogeology Group, UMass Amherst
Energy	Community Solar Action Plan for the Town of Leverett and Community Solar Survey Results Summary for the Town of Leverett, July 2023, UMass Clean Energy Extension
PLANNING BOARD LINKS	
Town Services and Facilities	Town Budgets https://leverett.ma.us/f/0/6/ All Town budgets from FY2006 through FY2021. https://leverett.ma.us/n/12105/Draft-Budget-for-Budget-Hearing The annotated draft budget for FY2023. Town of Leverett Town Code (2011) https://leverett.ma.us/f/0/3/ The current Town Code, last updated in April 2011. Town of Leverett Financial Policies (2016) https://leverett.ma.us/files/LeverettFinancialPolicies.pdf
Land Use	Zoning Board of Appeals https://leverett.ma.us/g/67/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals
Housing	Affordable Housing Trust https://leverett.ma.us/g/70/Affordable-Housing-Trust
Town Services and Facilities	Board of Health https://leverett.ma.us/f/0/29/
Town Services and Facilities Economic Development Housing	Sustainable Economy Committee https://leverett.ma.us/p/2098/FY21-Year-end-Report https://leverett.ma.us/p/2093/Summer-2020-Townwide-Survey
Town Services and Facilities Open Space and Recreations Housing Natural and Cultural Resources	Community Preservation Committee https://leverett.ma.us/files/2022_CPC_Annual_Plan_and_Report.pdf 2022 <i>Community Preservation Report and Plan</i> https://leverett.ma.us/files/Historical_Assessts.pdf or https://www.leverett.ma.us/files/Leverett_HAS_Final_Report_-_corrected_version_1.pdf https://leverett.ma.us/g/39/Community-Preservation

Town Services and Facilities Open Space and Recreations/ Natural and Cultural Resources	Conservation Commission https://leverett.ma.us/g/40/Conservation-Commission
Town Services and Facilities/Housing Economic Development Natural/Cultural Resources	Energy Committee https://leverett.ma.us/g/45/Energy-Committee
Town Services and Facilities	School Files https://leverett.ma.us/f/0/77/
Town Services and Facilities Land Use	Checklist for Building in Leverett https://leverett.ma.us/q/29/Building-in-Leverett-Checklist
Town Services and Facilities	Discussion of Police Regionalization https://leverett.ma.us/n/11087/Shared-Police-Services-Meeting
Land Use Natural and Cultural Resources Open Space and Recreation	LIDAR Maps https://leverett.ma.us/f/0/65/ Trail Maps https://leverett.ma.us/f/0/67/ Open Space and Recreation Plan (2019) https://leverett.ma.us/f/0/69/ Full text of <u>Where We Stand</u> (<i>Where We Stand, A Report of Leverett's Planning Process</i> , 1973) https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CZIC-ht168-l4-l48-1973/html/CZIC-ht168-l4-l48-1973.htm
Natural and Cultural Resources	Oral histories https://leverett.ma.us/f/0/90/
<u>BOOKS</u>	
Natural and Cultural Resources	<i>10 to 1: Interviews with Leverett Scholars Who Attended One Room Schoolhouses</i> , Leverett Historical Commission, 2020 <i>Leverett: Massachusetts Historical Center</i> , Leverett Historical Commission <i>Yankee Moderns</i> , Michael Hoberman (2000) <i>A History of Leverett, Massachusetts with a Genealogy of Its Early Inhabitants</i> , Ruth Ellen (Nickerson) Field

Leverett Small Groups: Notes Template

Date of Meeting:	
Location of Meeting:	
Steering Group members:	
Host:	

This template should be accompanied by the 8 ½ x 11 map. Please use the map for comments about places.

This template should be used for all other notes. **Please do not create a transcript!** Comments should not be attributed to individual people.

Attendees (Names)

Agenda

- Introductions: Ask people to introduce themselves.
- Ice-breaking Questions: See suggestions below.
- Prompts: See suggestions below.
- Next Steps: Encourage people to take the questionnaire and attend the December 6 meeting!

Ice-breaking Questions

- How long have you lived in Leverett?
 - If you lived elsewhere, where did you move from?
 - If you lived elsewhere, what attracted you to Leverett?
 - What do you call the part of town you live in?
-

Summary of Responses

Prompts

- What are some resources or things you think are assets in Leverett?
- How can we work together to improve Leverett?
- What do you see as the greatest challenges Leverett faces in the future?
- What do you think Leverett needs?
- Which of the topics (listed in alphabetical order) to the right is most important to you? Which topics do you think are most important for the Town?
- What do these topics mean to you?
- Are there topics that you think should be covered that are not listed?

Planning Topics

- Climate Adaptation and Sustainability
- Economic Development
- Energy
- Historical and Cultural Resources
- Housing
- Land Use
- Mobility (cars, pedestrians, and bicycles) and Transportation
- Natural Resources
- Open Space
- Recreation
- Regionalization
- Social and Economic Equity
- Town Services and Facilities

Summary of Responses

Summary of Responses (continued)

LEVERETT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2023-2024

To take the first questionnaire, please scan the QR code with your phone or go to the following url:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LeverettSurvey>



**NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:
DECEMBER 6, 2023**

Leverett Comprehensive Plan: Small Group Discussions

Date of Meeting: _____ Location of Meeting: _____

Leverett Comprehensive Plan: Community Event: Volunteer Sign-Up

Date of Event: _____ Location of Event: _____

Name	Email/Phone	I would like to ...
		<input type="checkbox"/> Host a small group meeting. <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer. <input type="checkbox"/> Receive information about the process.
		<input type="checkbox"/> Host a small group meeting. <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer. <input type="checkbox"/> Receive information about the process.
		<input type="checkbox"/> Host a small group meeting. <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer. <input type="checkbox"/> Receive information about the process.
		<input type="checkbox"/> Host a small group meeting. <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer. <input type="checkbox"/> Receive information about the process.
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		<input type="checkbox"/> Host a small group meeting. <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer. <input type="checkbox"/> Receive information about the process.

Leverett Comprehensive Plan: Community Event: Volunteer Sign-Up

Date of Event: _____ Location of Event: _____

LES OPEN HOUSE

TOWN OF LEVERETT

OCTOBER 24, 2023

This Small Group Meeting did not provide any notes to the Consultant.

HARVEST FEST

TOWN OF LEVERETT

NOVEMBER 5, 2023

This Small Group Meeting did not provide any notes to the Consultant.

TEAWADDLE HILL

TOWN OF LEVERETT

NOVEMBER 5, 2023

November 5, 2023 Leverett Teawaddle Listening Group Summary

1. Open Spaces and Trails: These trails are extremely important to Leverett's community. Conservation of open spaces, maintaining views, including undeveloped mountain views are critical priorities.

Can we use development of trail system for people to traverse the town, i.e. from the school or Library to the pond and toward Teawaddle via 4H?

2. Clean and Plentiful Water : Maintenance of clean and plentiful water is a high priority. We need to understand PFAS in town- is it a problem? Do we have enough water to support increased households with climate changes in our future? Wells have gone dry in the past. Amherst almost ran out of water a few years back.
3. Community Solar: What can we do as a town to produce resilient community solar? Amherst, Pelham and Northampton are getting together to do this. Can we? Microgrids for the town?
4. Affordable Housing: We need a way for seniors to be able to stay in their homes. Can we give them more tax help? We need affordable housing for sale or rent consistent with our town character. Should there be tiny houses, small to medium cluster of co-housing, more in law apartments?

Other ways to increase affordability is to lower other costs in town: Can we share expertise, lawn mowing equipment, tools, have free or cheap van service snow blowers and other tools? Can we expand existing programs of giving down payments to income eligible families?

5. Leverett School: It gives value to the town as people want to move here for the school, and we care for our children. Big priority.
6. Communication by/ in Town: Can we put up bulletin boards relating to community events etc.. on trails or in neighborhoods? There should be more pro active communication from town on goings on and events. Not everyone uses internet so mailed newsletters would be nice to those who request.
7. Gathering spaces: We need to have more gathering spaces for community events and informal gatherings. LCA pub/café, dump is important. Library and school are great assets in this regard.
8. Seniors: We need to support seniors more with helping those on fixed incomes pay taxes, to helping them with transportation (Leverett van for transportation?) to increased senior activities including physical activity classes, discussion, lunch groups cultural activities and just hang out groups. Can we pair school kids with seniors for exchange of tech support for everything seniors can offer ?

VETERANS GROUP

TOWN OF LEVERETT

NOVEMBER 14, 2023

Everett Small Groups: Notes Template

Date of Meeting:	11/14/23
Location of Meeting:	COOP. VETS.
Steering Group members:	GARY GRUBER.
Host:	

This template should be accompanied by the 8 ½ x 11 map. Please use the map for comments about places.

This template should be used for all other notes. Please do not create a transcript! Comments should not be attributed to individual people.

Attendees (Names)

John Moruzzi.	
Bond McKinnon	

Agenda

- Introductions: Ask people to introduce themselves.
- Ice-breaking Questions: See suggestions below.
- Prompts: See suggestions below.
- Next Steps: Encourage people to take the questionnaire and attend the December 6 meeting!

Ice-breaking Questions

- How long have you lived in Leverett?
- If you lived elsewhere, where did you move from?
- If you lived elsewhere, what attracted you to Leverett?
- What do you call the part of town you live in?

Summary of Responses

John has lived in Leverett for almost 50 yrs.
Wife's family has multiple generation roots in
Leverett.

Boyd has been in Lew. since '82

John. 2 complaints - Town has done nothing
for vets
- Need for more for
seniors.

Affordability issue for all on fixed income
- 2 tier tax rate?

Other things talked about -

Need for more volunteers -

ie - fire dept. - hard to recruit
(Tom is former Fire Chief) -

- Regionalization of fire dept. -
difficult because town's
unwilling to give up "independence"

SHUTESBURY GROUP

TOWN OF LEVERETT

DECEMBER 10, 2023

December , 2023 Leverett Shutesbury Listening Group Summary

12 attendees : Nicole Vaijda and Jenny Daniell co-facilitated

Most important issues

1. Open Spaces and Trails: We need more trails we need also to Conserve open spaces, maintain views, including undeveloped mountain views are critical priorities.
2. Clean and Plentiful Water : Maintenance of clean and plentiful water is a high priority. People are worried about PFAS in town- is it a problem? We need to work on climate disaster mitigation and planning. We need to know how much water we have in Leverett. A Hydrological study needed Do we have enough water to support increased in population or population we have? Wells have gone dry in the past
3. Community Solar: With storms, and crazy weather, what can we do as a town to produce community solar. Microgrids are a great option ffor the town
4. Affordable Housing: We need a way for seniors to be able to stay in their homes. Can we give them more tax help? We need affordable housing for sale or rent consistent with our town character. Should there be tiny houses, small to medium cluster of co-housing, more in law apartments?
5. Gathering spaces: We need to have more outdoor gathering spaces for community events and informal gatherings. LCA pub/café, dump is important. Library and school are great assets in this regard.
6. Seniors and low income people : We need to support low income people and also seniors with costs by helping yhem out with tasks and perhaps an increase fund to help pay their real estate taxes. to increased senior activities including physical activity classes, discussion, lunch groups cultural activities and just hang out groups.

COUNCIL ON AGING

TOWN OF LEVERETT

JANUARY 19, 2024

From: [Jenny Daniell](#)
To: [Andrew Vlock](#); [Arlyn Diamond](#); [Kimberly VanWagner](#); [Nicole Vajda](#); [david henion](#); [isaiah robison](#); [Bob Weitzman](#); [Maureen Ippolito](#); [James Field](#); [Tim Shores](#); [Tom Ewing](#); [Gary Gruber](#); [Highway](#); [Tim Shores](#); [Emily Innes](#)
Subject: Notes from Leverett Council on Aging Listening group [Filed 14 Apr 2024 11:13]
Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 3:52:12 PM

7 People attended: Sue Nagy, Linda Hoer, Tom Wolff, Judi fonsch, Jaya Plavin and 2 more who did not sign in
Gary Gruber and Jenny Daniell facilitated for the 45 minutes allotted to us

Q; What is most important for elders in any plans for Leverett's future?

1. Housing is of great importance

We are thinking of different ways that elderly housing needs could be met- keeping Leverett's character in mind. We think about small co-housing communities, we think about utilizing existing housing , i.e. elders who would like to share their homes or revamp them into multi-units. We need to think about whether our water and septic can sustain multi-family units. We really care about environmental issues.

2. Community Gathering Places and Services are of great importance

Can we use part of the school for senior activities? Are there other places?

"Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what any people will submit to, and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them; and these will continue till they are resisted with either words or blows, or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress."

Frederick Douglass, 1857

UNKNOWN EVENT

TOWN OF LEVERETT

2023 - 2024

LEVERETT

WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE FUTURE

I would love a cafe / restaurant in Haverhill, to open for dinner! a place to gather & see friends & neighbours.

↑ love the idea of a cafe!

more social things in Leverett

even more farms

We love the community events and opportunity to come out with our baby for new experiences ♥

yes! ←

affordable houses for families.

more food options for gluten free dairy free Vegan and vegetarian people.

Halal Food

More community events + spaces year-round

pop-up food events

Regionalization of (fix even more services, town even taxes combined)

