

Town of Longmeadow
Long Range Plan Steering Committee Charge

The Town of Longmeadow has committed to updating our Long Range Plan (LRP) during State Fiscal Years 2023 through 2024. Long Range Plans guide how a community grows over a decade or more, and set priorities for municipal budgeting and decision-making in the areas of land use, economic development, housing, transportation, public health, education, and other quality of life issues, with a focus climate resilience and social equity.

The Town's current LRP was undertaken in 2004, and since that time, the document has become generally outdated as a community vision statement. In the decades since the first version of the LRP was adopted, the Town's population has increasingly aged and diversified; the Town has faced increased challenges related to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events; and the Select Board has recognized systemic racism as a public health crisis. The 2004 LRP is silent concerning resilience to climate change and extreme weather and the need to ensure equitable levels of service to all residents.

Vision:

The purpose of the LRP update is to assess and revise "business as usual" in Longmeadow to articulate a more resilient and equitable future for our residents and neighbors, our ecosystems, and the infrastructural systems upon which we all rely, and to understand where we have unintentionally been encouraging or allowing outdated municipal policies and land use regulations to exacerbate climate impacts and social and public health inequities. The Town envisions this LRP update as a process that leverages existing initiatives and studies, while sourcing new and innovate ideas for growth through extensive engagement with the Town's diverse community. Moreover, the resulting document must provide an actionable implementation framework, which includes policies and practices for creating a healthier community, maintaining a healthy, climate-resilient environment, providing housing to a range of incomes, increasing opportunities for use of open space, improving multi-modal transportation access, and offering quality educational opportunities.

Charge:

The LRP Steering Committee advises on the development of the LRP document. The Committee also fosters openness and inclusion in the long range planning process through dialog and communication with the LRP consulting team and with various stakeholders in the Longmeadow community. The LRP must be in conformance with the requirements as set forth in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41 Section 81D.

Membership:

The LRP Steering Committee shall be comprised of designated Longmeadow Board and Committee members and several at-large community members. The Committee will be guided and led by the Planning Board, the LRP consultant, and the Office of Planning and Community Development.

The LRP Steering Committee shall be convened and charged by the Planning Board. Membership will be in existence for approximately 18 to 20 months in order to direct the preparation of the LRP. Members will be appointed for term of the update process.

The Committee shall consist of up to 20 members reflecting the following composition:

- Up to 14 individuals representing various Town boards and commissions, to be self-appointed by those boards and committees:
 - Up to two members of the Planning Board
 - One member of the Select Board
 - One member of each of the following municipal boards and committees:
 - Council on Aging
 - School Committee
 - Board of Health
 - Conservation Commission
 - Housing Authority
 - Finance Committee
 - Energy and Sustainability Committee
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee (when appointed—anticipated November 2022)
 - Tree Committee
 - Historical Commission
 - Park and Recreation Commission
- Up to 6 at-large members, to be appointed at the discretion of the Town Manager and the Director of Planning and Community Development:
 - Two residents aged 64 years or older who are not otherwise serving on any municipal board or committee
 - Two youth members from Longmeadow High School
 - Two general residents who are not otherwise serving on any municipal board or committee

Meetings:

In addition to regular meetings, Committee members will be asked to serve on sub-committees which will schedule their own meetings. The LRP Steering Committee and its subcommittees shall establish regular meetings and shall abide by the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law and Town General Bylaws. Meetings will be open to the public and posted with the Town Clerk and in designated spaces and on the Town website.

The Committee members must attend community-wide LRP-related meetings.

Adopted by the Longmeadow Planning Board on October 5, 2022