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**Franklin Master Plan
Key Issues and Opportunities Report (Draft)**

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Part III. Key Issues & Opportunities Report

12. Key Issues and Opportunities

This document outlines the major challenges currently faced by the Town of Franklin. These key issues, along with potential opportunities, are instrumental in understanding and shaping the Town's Master Plan update. Additionally, they contribute to the formulation of the town's vision, goals, and strategies for the next ten to twenty years.

Economic Development

Issues

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

Downtown Franklin faces various challenges including parking and traffic issues, run down storefronts, limited accessibility by bike or foot, high commercial rents, and a lack of shops and casual dining options currently hinder the attraction and retention of businesses and visitors/customers. The town has already taken significant steps to support the revitalization of the downtown, and stakeholders identify a desire for continued planning, investment, and development in this area. By implementing recommendations from the *Franklin For All* Rezoning Project and MAPC Market Study, and continuing collaboration with groups like the Franklin Cultural Committee and Franklin Downtown Partnership, the town has the opportunity to make Downtown Franklin a vibrant, destination downtown.

LABOR FORCE/EMPLOYMENT BASE MISMATCH

Franklin's well-educated, highly skilled labor force largely depends on external/regional employment opportunities. While Franklin's employment base offers some high-wage employment, most local jobs exist in lower-wage industries that provide goods and services to Franklin's residents, but not many opportunities for residents to work locally. Stakeholders state an interest in seeing commercial investments to expand job opportunities in town.

SIGN BYLAW

Stakeholders find the sign bylaw difficult for businesses to understand. The MAPC Market Study noted the opportunity for Franklin to revise the sign bylaw to allow for more creative and varied signage in commercial and industrial areas to attract business and improve pedestrian wayfinding.

NEED FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

There is a pressing need for affordable housing in Franklin, a concern echoed by stakeholders. Addressing this issue is crucial to ensure housing accessibility for all residents and to support the town's economic development by providing a stable workforce.

Opportunities**DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION**

The downtown area presents significant development opportunities. There is strong resident support for additional planning, investment, and development in this area. By implementing recommendations from initiatives like the *Franklin For All* rezoning project and MAPC Market Study, the town can create a vibrant downtown. Measures such as establishing a facade improvement program and offering financial incentives for mixed-use development can stimulate economic activity and attract businesses and visitors.

PROPERTY REDEVELOPMENT AND FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT

Redeveloping vacant, deteriorated, or contaminated properties in downtown Franklin presents an opportunity to enhance the area's aesthetic and economic value. Implementing Façade Improvement Programs, supported by grants and loans, can attract businesses, and improve the overall appearance of the commercial district. *Franklin for All* recommended establishing a façade improvement program for small businesses and property owners in the Downtown.

Creating a program to provide loan or grant funding to small-businesses and property owners could provide an incentive for owners of existing buildings to make façade improvements like new signage, awnings, painting, lighting, and more. To fund this program, Franklin could use payments from the 40R Smart Growth District or from in-lieu fees generated through inclusionary zoning. A façade improvement program should be supplemented by design guidelines to ensure that upgrades match the desired aesthetic for Franklin Center. These can be the same design guidelines as those associated with the proposed 40R Smart Growth District, or they can exist as their own document.

Vacant storefronts in the downtown area can be attributed to high rental costs that make commercial spaces unaffordable, especially to small-business owners. Providing financial assistance to small-business owners could help incentivize desired commercial uses in Franklin Center. Filling these vacancies is important for downtown vibrancy and local economic development.

The Massachusetts Vacant Storefronts Program (MVSP) was created in 2018 to encourage new occupancy of vacant storefronts. Municipalities may apply to the Economic Assistance

Coordinating Council (EACC) for certification to designate a downtown area as a Certified Vacant Storefront District. After achieving such a designation, businesses or individuals can work with the municipal designee to apply to the EACC for refundable Economic Development Incentive Program tax credits of up to \$10,000 for leasing and occupying a vacant storefront in that district. Municipalities must provide a source of matching funds. Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding may be a good option for this local match.

MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT

Incorporating mixed-use development in downtown Franklin can attract more residents and businesses, fostering a lively community and supporting local commerce. Offering financial incentives to downtown businesses with well-integrated mixed-use development would keep people in the area, stimulate economic activity, and keep commerce local.

TOURISM AND EVENT ATTRACTIONS

Franklin can leverage its cultural resources, historic sites, and performing arts scene to attract visitors and stimulate economic activity. Investing in cultural districts and promoting events can enhance the town's appeal as a destination for residents and visitors.

TARGETED INDUSTRY RECRUITMENT

Franklin has the opportunity to attract key industries such as Life Sciences and Clean Energy, leveraging its existing strengths and competitive advantages to become a regional competitor.

PARTNERSHIP WITH DEAN COLLEGE

Collaborating with Dean College offers opportunities to meet the needs and interests of students while enhancing downtown Franklin's nightlife and entertainment offerings. Strengthening connections between local businesses and the student population can drive economic growth and vitality. Dean College has been an extremely important partner for the Town (for example, hosting monthly FDP meetings). Strengths identified were that Dean College brings in a younger, more diverse population to Franklin. College students find Franklin Center to be clean, safe, and its shops to be welcoming. The Harvest Festival is seen as a boon for Franklin and bringing in younger crowds. Dean College roundtable participants also feel that the Franklin meets their needs in grocery stores, pharmacies, and hairdressers. Local stores that are frequented by students include Little Shop of Olive Oils, Elizabeth's Bagels, and The Cake Bar. Participants stated that the town could and should utilize its green spaces for students, in particular the Town Common could be used for more outdoor events and food trucks. They also stated there is a disconnect between local businesses and the student population's needs, and that pizza shops seem to be the only types of restaurants that thrive in town. There is little knowledge about what the town has to offer the student population. Students generally frequented chains such as

Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, and pharmacies, and that there is a lack of entertainment in town outside of Dean College. Dean College roundtable participants generally stated that Franklin was weak in men's apparel, bookstores, independent coffee shops and clubs/bars. Dean College roundtable participants thought that Franklin Center lacked cultural attractions, gathering places, and outdoor and nightlife activities.

REDEVELOPMENT OF UNDERUTILIZED PROPERTIES

The town has opportunities to redevelop underutilized commercial and industrial properties and superfund and brownfields sites. For example, in 2023, Franklin was awarded \$500,000 by the EPA to support remediation of the former “Nu-Style Property”; a critical step towards eventual redevelopment of the site and continued investment of the Grove St. corridor.

CAPACITY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The town has the necessary infrastructure and resources to facilitate economic development, including capable town staff, dedicated committees, and completed economic development initiatives. Continued collaboration and strategic planning will further enhance Franklin's economic opportunities.

Housing

Issues

INTERMEDIATE HOUSING

Amid the ongoing housing crisis across the state, there is a significant shortage of affordable intermediate housing options, posing challenges for Franklin natives, prospective residents, and middle to lower-income families in securing housing within their budget. Intermediate housing caters to middle-income households who find themselves excluded from subsidized housing yet priced out of market-rate options. This housing type ensures affordability through government assistance, income restrictions, and comparable strategies, making it an attractive choice for potential buyers.

HOUSING INSECURITY

Individuals without a place of residence, or on the verge of losing their housing, are largely individuals with disabilities, mental health challenges, or facing financial constraints. While organizations like the Franklin Housing Authority and New England Center Homes for Veterans aim to prevent homelessness for vulnerable populations, they often lack sufficient resources and capacity. Securing the necessary support to house these individuals presents a significant obstacle.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Ensuring a community has a sufficient affordable housing stock is important to its well-being. Incorporating affordable housing units in Franklin caters to the needs of the lower-income population, enabling residents who wish to remain in the town to do so feasibly. Affordable housing choices also play a pivotal role in attracting and retaining a diverse workforce, vital for the town's sustained economic and social development. High housing costs often compel workers to endure long commutes or seek residence in more affordable communities, resulting in labor shortages and fewer small business opportunities. By expanding affordable housing opportunities, Franklin can bolster local businesses and industries while maintaining an inclusive community.

Opportunities

ZONING

Town officials in Franklin are actively considering zoning amendments to promote additional mixed-use development across commercial and residential districts. These developments, which typically feature a variety of housing options such as apartments, townhouses, and condominiums, cater to the diverse needs of individuals and families. By offering a range of housing types, Franklin can foster socioeconomic diversity and inclusivity within the community.

The *Franklin for All* initiative, led by a residential steering committee and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), is currently in the planning phase, exploring strategies to boost downtown residency and introduce inclusionary zoning with denser development areas. One strategy currently being considered for implementation for Franklin's zoning is a Chapter 40R Smart Growth Overlay District in the downtown area. This district would strike a balance between density, high-quality design, and the need for affordable housing, while also meeting the Section 3A housing requirements.¹

AGE-FRIENDLY HOUSING

The Town of Franklin and the Council on Aging actively support the concept of age- and ability-friendly preparedness to address the needs of its aging population. They advocate for housing solutions that enable residents to remain in Franklin even when changes in health or physical ability require additional assistance for standard living while maintaining independence. Town officials are presently engaged in efforts to expand the housing options for this population.

¹ For more information on Massachusetts' 3A housing requirements, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/section-3a-guidelines>

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Educating the public about the advantages of affordable housing along with the financial assistance, grants, and subsidies that support and promote it, can create a more inclusive community. Affordable housing and multifamily developments often face stigma due to misinformation. Through public education and awareness, Franklin can cultivate broader public understanding and support of these housing types.

Land Use

Issues

ZONING

Historically, land use policy in Franklin has been reactive to development, with restrictive dimensional regulations hindering desired multifamily and mixed-use development in the downtown area. Building height requirements and large minimum lot size, frontage, and setback requirements conflict with historic development patterns and limit overall vibrancy. Stakeholders, including the Franklin For All project, have noted that zoning regulations may be overly prohibitive, restricting desired development. The zoning bylaw in Franklin lacks a clear definition for mixed-use development, potentially causing confusion and inconsistency in development projects. Current zoning requirements make small infill developments challenging and restrict existing parcels from redevelopment. Developers identify high parking requirements as barriers to redevelopment projects.

BALANCING GROWTH AND SMALL-TOWN CHARACTER

Franklin faces the challenge of balancing needed growth and development with other goals like expanding protected open space, historic preservation, and retaining the town's small-town character (that stakeholders often see as at odds with growth). Land use planning and zoning will play a critical role in guiding future development that supports Franklin's vision for its future.

Opportunities

ZONING

Downtown Franklin represents an opportunity for the Town to be more proactive in its planning by readdressing dimensional requirements that currently restrict multifamily and mixed-use development in the core downtown area.

MIXED USE

Simplifying regulations and allowing mixed-use development by-right in appropriate districts, such as the Downtown Commercial, Commercial I, and Mixed Business Innovation Districts, would improve clarity and consistency in development projects. Additionally, considering mixed-use development by special permit in the Mixed Business Innovation (MBI) District could encourage innovative projects while maintaining a focus on commercial use. For example, in the MBI District, the Town could decide to require that more than half of the square footage is designated for commercial use.

DESIGNATING A LOCAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OVERLAY DISTRICT

Although Franklin has two local historic districts, the Town has not yet established a Historic Preservation Overlay District. Establishing this overlay district would give Franklin greater opportunities to preserve historic properties and create guidelines for renovation and redevelopment on historic properties.

Natural, Cultural, Historic Resources

Issues

WATER SUPPLY

Franklin depends on groundwater for its public water supply. Protecting and managing both the quality and quantity of this resource is critical for the town's sustainability.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The town faces challenges related to invasive species management, water quality, and flood control. Beaver populations and their dams contribute to flooding issues, while algae blooms in water bodies threaten wildlife and water quality and diminish the overall attractiveness of these areas to residents.

DEVELOPMENT LIMITATIONS

Most easily developable land has been utilized, but remaining lands contain environmental constraints, such as wetlands. The permitting process for residential subdivisions on Chapter 61B land highlights the challenge of balancing development with environmental preservation.

CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS

The town experiences limitations in staff, resources, and time, which can impede the effective management of environmental issues and the implementation of conservation initiatives.

Opportunities

NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION

Continuing education about natural resources and environmental conservation presents an opportunity to raise awareness and foster community involvement in protecting the town's resources.

ACCESSIBILITY

Improving accessibility to open space areas and preserving them for recreational and educational purposes can enhance community well-being and environmental stewardship.

INDIGENOUS HISTORY INTEGRATION

Increasing knowledge of indigenous history and incorporating it into open space areas promotes cultural enrichment and fosters a deeper connection to the land and its heritage.

SCHMIDT'S FARM

Developing amenities such as bike trails and sitting areas at Schmidt's Farm can attract residents to enjoy open spaces while promoting sustainable recreational activities.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Exploring more ethical ways to manage wildlife populations, such as beavers and deer, presents an opportunity to address environmental challenges while respecting animal welfare. In 2022, there were eighteen incidents related to beavers, often requiring lethal removal or dam breaching in various locations across Franklin.²

NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

Protecting valuable natural resources such as forests, wetlands, and water bodies provides numerous benefits, including climate resiliency, habitat preservation, and water quality improvement.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES PRESERVATION

Franklin has numerous historic sites and landmarks that contribute to its cultural identity. Opportunities exist to preserve and maintain these sites, through partnerships with the Cultural District Committee and Cultural Commission. Additionally, supporting art festivals, cultural celebrations, and performances could help showcase the diversity and vibrancy of Franklin's art community and cultural resources.

² Alan Earls, "Con Com Wrestles with Beavers" *Franklin Observer*. February 2, 2023, <https://franklinobserver.town.news/g/franklin-town-ma/n/142777/con-com-wrestles-beavers>.

WATER BODIES PROTECTION

Prioritizing protection efforts for water bodies including the Charles River, Mine Brook, and Uncas Pond, which serve as drinking water sources and support endangered species, is crucial for long-term environmental sustainability.

By addressing these issues and capitalizing on the opportunities, the town of Franklin can work towards a more sustainable and resilient future while preserving its natural heritage for future generations.

Open Space & Recreation

Issues

BALANCING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In areas of significance to Franklin's ecosystem, there is a need to balance public access to open space and recreational facilities and safeguarding the natural environment. Striking this balance is important to preserve the ecological integrity of the area while maintaining Franklin's overall appeal. Recent surveys distributed by the Franklin Planning Board and Conservation Commission indicate that many responses find that the primary challenges of managing Franklin are balancing the town's growth with preserving town facilities and amenities.³ Most of Franklin's open space is protected in perpetuity, though several parcels have limited or no protection. Parcels under consideration for acquisition by the Town embody the vision of creating an expansive green belt similar to Boston's Emerald Necklace, prioritizing habitat preservation and open space connectivity.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

The town's recreational facilities are well-used and well-maintained, striving to be accessible to all. Many of these facilities operate near full capacity daily, indicating an ongoing need to expand indoor and outdoor spaces to accommodate more participants. Expanding opportunities for people to access popular activities like pickleball and soccer would help meet the current demand. Along with increased demand for recreational use, the amount of parking, particularly around Maple Hill and Dacey Community Fields, should be considered.

³ Town of Franklin, *Open Space and Recreation Plan and Master Plan Survey*. 2023.

Opportunities

ENHANCED RECREATION AND INCLUSIVITY

Increasing the number of accessible trails presents an opportunity to promote recreational activities for a broader range of community members, including those with mobility challenges. This contributes to a more inclusive and diverse recreational environment. Through outreach and communication, Franklin continues to promote open space and recreational facilities throughout town. Franklin is in the process of adding signage at various open spaces and recreation areas to facilitate easy navigation. Additionally, signage can educate visitors on a variety of local environmental, cultural, and recreational information.

INCREASE IN PUBLIC OUTREACH

With over 700 people in the community participating in the 2023 Master Plan and Open Space surveys, there is a consensus for increasing public awareness of open space and recreation amenities and facilities. Data gathered from the 2023 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) shows common improvements the public wants to incorporate moving forward including trail maintenance, trail and boundary markers, habitat improvement, invasive species management, tree protection, and aquatic connectivity.⁴

The Open Space and Recreation, Natural, Cultural, and Historic Resources Subcommittee (OSRP NCHR) members have successfully utilized Instagram, Facebook, and the Farmer's Market as effective platforms for communication and public engagement.⁵ This initiative has enabled the expansion of communication channels through social media leverage and the dissemination of information at community events, thereby educating residents across all age groups.

FUTURE PLANNING

Town officials created a 7-year action plan as part of the 2023 OSRP to guide the town in prioritizing needs and resources. It utilizes public feedback and participation obtained over the past decade to achieve the goals and objectives for future open space and recreation advancement and outreach. This plan aims to enhance public awareness and conserve open space resources. The progression and goals of the action plan serve as the foundation for most OSRP NCHR meetings.

⁴ Town of Franklin. *Open Space & Recreation Plan, 2016-2023 Update*, 47.

⁵ Meghann Hagen (OSRP NCHR Chair, Town of Franklin, MA), Public Meeting, August 8, 2023.

LOCAL POLICIES AND PRACTICES

The Town hopes to move towards preserving the character of Franklin with a balanced mix of development and open space. Policies such as the Community Preservation Act (CPA), allow for two percent of resident taxes to be put towards local preservation of open space, historic sites, and affordable housing. Town officials are considering increasing the levy to three percent and have received favorable public feedback for this change.⁶ The CPA includes Chapter 61 land for conservation, recreational, and agricultural use. A recent example of CPA utilization is the Town successfully acquiring Schmidt Farm in 2022, a valuable piece of land spanning over 100 acres. To preserve the legacy of agriculture, the Town secured these rolling fields and forested areas through a 20-year borrowing plan using CPA funds.⁷ The Agricultural Commission envisions promoting sustainable practices in Franklin and aims to utilize this newly acquired parcel for education and conservation.

Public Services & Community Facilities

Issues

OUT-OF-TOWN PARAMEDIC TRIPS

The high number of paramedic trips to out-of-town hospitals significantly impacts the local level-of-service in Franklin. As ambulances are diverted to facilities outside the immediate vicinity, response times to emergencies within town are compromised. This strain on resources extends the duration it takes for emergency personnel to reach individuals in need and reduces the number of ambulances for local emergencies. Addressing this issue requires a comprehensive approach, including potential strategies such as improving coordination among healthcare providers and emergency services to ensure timely and efficient emergency response within the community.

NORTHERN FRANKLIN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIMES

The prolonged response times required to reach the northern end of town from the existing Franklin Fire Stations highlight a critical infrastructure gap in emergency services. The distance between the northern neighborhoods and the nearest fire station at 40 West Central Street, residents face heightened vulnerabilities during emergencies. Emergency response times in

⁶ Melanie Hamblen (OSRPNCHR Committee Member, Town of Franklin, MA), Public Meeting, August 8, 2023.

⁷ Alan Earls, "Schmidt Farm Deal Moves Ahead" *Franklin Observer*, October 6, 2022,

<https://franklinobserver.town.news/g/franklin-town-ma/n/125661/schmidt-farm-deal-moves-ahead>.

Franklin could be significantly reduced by an additional fire and emergency response station, ensuring swift interventions during fires, medical emergencies, and other crises.

LACK OF IN-TOWN EMERGENCY TRAINING FACILITIES

Establishing an in-town fire training center presents a pragmatic solution aimed at curbing travel costs and minimizing the time spent on training for current firefighters. By bringing training facilities closer to home, firefighters can allocate more time to skill development and operational readiness rather than enduring lengthy commutes to distant training centers. Moreover, an in-town training center fosters a conducive environment for frequent and accessible training sessions, enabling firefighters to hone their expertise more effectively and efficiently. This localized approach not only streamlines logistical challenges but also enhances the overall preparedness and proficiency of the firefighting force, thereby fortifying the community's resilience against potential emergencies.

TOWN HALL CAPACITY

The current Town municipal offices are growing along with municipal responsibilities, meaning departments like Information Technology and Health are lacking in space. The Town may soon need to consider how to expand or extend Town offices to accommodate new staff.

MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING FOR PARAMEDICS

By prioritizing mental health training and resources, paramedic organizations can safeguard the mental well-being of their personnel and enhance the quality of care provided to patients. Offering training on how to encounter mental health scenarios will also safeguard and improve services provided by Franklin paramedics to the public.

Opportunities

SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES

As post-COVID funds for technology come to a close, the Town will need to pursue new grants, partnerships, and other funding avenues to enable municipal departments and schools to embrace innovative solutions that promote environmental and economic resilience.

NEW POLICE STATION

The Town has the opportunity to improve local safety and emergency response by continuing to develop and design a new Police Station.

DAVIS THAYER SCHOOL

With the closure of the Davis Thayer building, a committee was created to determine how to reuse the space outside of an academic setting. This empty town-owned building provides an opportunity for adaptive reuse for the benefit of Franklin residents.

SCHOOL COLLABORATION

Members of the Franklin Public School system faculty expressed the desire to extend and expand programming and cooperation during stakeholder interviews. The school system and campuses provide an opportunity for town-wide coordination to improve education and engage students, faculty, staff, and families.

Transportation Issues

SAFETY

Several locations have been identified by stakeholders as dangerous including the Cottage Street at Union Street intersection, the East Central Street intersection at King Street and Chestnut Street, West Central Street intersection at Union Street, Washington Street intersection at Grove Street, Main Street intersection, and three-way stop by Dean College. Other dangerous locations include the five fatal crash locations identified in the Inventory and Assessment Report, and the one HSIP cluster located at West Central Street at Panther Way.

The lack of left turn lanes at the intersection of West Central Street at Union Street also provides a dangerous location for cars trying to maneuver through the intersection.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Traffic congestion during peak hours on Route 140 is exacerbated by a series of signalized intersections, presenting a challenge for commuters and travelers alike. As vehicles navigate through these intersections, the cumulative effect of traffic signals often leads to prolonged delays and gridlock, impeding the flow of traffic and causing frustration among motorists. The frequency of stops at these intersections not only disrupts the smooth progression of vehicles but also increases fuel consumption and emissions, contributing to environmental concerns.

Congestion also occurs during peak hours around school zones. Exacerbated by increased traffic volume, school buses, parent drop-offs, and pedestrian activity, increased traffic leads to delays and traffic bottlenecks near school zones and surrounding areas.

GROVE STREET

Grove Street is often used as a bypass for commercial vehicles, interrupting the regular flow of traffic and increasing the need for safety measures.

Opportunities

SIDEWALK CONNECTIVITY

The Town has an opportunity to improve sidewalk connectivity, especially around schools, and can seek infrastructure improvement grant funding through the Safe Routes to School program. Increasing sidewalk connectivity would improve the safety and accessibility of pedestrian travel in Franklin.

Franklin can also identify areas for new sidewalks, trails, and paths (e.g. Elm Street and Partridge Street) in coordination with the Town's Complete Streets Prioritization Plan and support the extension of the SNETT to Downtown Franklin.

Grove Street also provides the opportunity to complete a shared-use path and serve as an example to look for additional opportunities to develop pedestrian and biking facilities and connections.

SENIOR TRANSPORT

Expand opportunities and connections for senior transportation to increase access to local services and programming. Consider regional expansion to improve connectivity to medical and social services.

Sustainability

Issues

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING NEEDS

Develop better programming for public education for water issues and climate change to engage residents and provide opportunities for involvement at a local level.

LACK OF WIND ENERGY REGULATIONS

Develop wind energy regulations for the Town's Zoning Code to inform where wind energy structures can be built in town.

IMPROVEMENT OF SEPTIC PROGRAMMING

Continue to track the maintenance and monitoring of septic systems to ensure all systems are operating appropriately and without risk of contamination to local water sources.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Implement additional stormwater management and MS4 practices to be eligible for more funding opportunities and protect the Town’s water supply.

Opportunities

INCORPORATE CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS

Work towards implementing actions identified in the joint Bellingham and Franklin Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) and the Town’s 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Work towards implementing the Town’s Green Community Designation goals and find additional funding for sustainable programming, education, and infrastructure development to keep the designation up-to-date.

AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIPS

Work with local farmers to develop a connection between local food production and the Town and increase the opportunities for the public to get involved in local food culture and production. Work with local farmers and experts to incorporate permaculture techniques into Town’s design standards.