



## **Town of Needham, Massachusetts Media Release**

Office of the Town Manager  
Town Hall, 1471 Highland Ave, Needham, MA 02492

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, January 13, 2022

### **CONTACT**

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## **Public invited to Participate in Public Education and Listening Forum Hosted by Needham Housing Plan Working Group**

*Community Invited to Share Input as Housing Plan Working Group Prepares  
Needham's Next Housing Plan*

NEEDHAM – Thursday, January 13, 2022 – The [Needham Housing Plan Working Group](#), created late last year by the Planning Board, will host a Public Education and Listening Forum Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup> to share information and solicit input from the community as the Working Group develops Needham's next Housing Plan.

The forum will be held at 7 pm via [Zoom](#) and will begin with a brief overview of the basics of affordable housing as well as the history of zoning in Needham. Members of the public will be given an opportunity to share their views on the most pressing housing needs in Needham and ideas about how to best address those needs.

Individuals who wish to offer comments but cannot make the forum can send an email to [planning@needhamma.gov](mailto:planning@needhamma.gov) with the subject line "Housing Plan Working Group."

The Working Group is hosting this forum in advance of conducting a Housing Needs Assessment, which will be presented to the public at a Housing Workshop in March. Following that workshop, the Working Group will develop a plan to strategically address identified priority housing needs in Needham.

The [last Affordable Housing Plan](#) for Needham was released in 2007. Since then, the makeup of the community has changed significantly, with an expanding population and an accompanying increase in housing costs. Despite intensifying market pressures, Needham has made considerable progress in promoting greater housing diversity over the years with 1,410 state-approved affordable units included on the Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI), representing 12.76 percent of its housing stock and surpassing the state's 10 percent affordability goal. However, numerous unmet housing needs remain. The Working Group will develop a plan to meet those needs and will present the plan to the community later this year.

For more information on the Housing Plan Working Group and housing in Needham, visit the Working Group's [web page](#).

**Members of the Working Group**

|                 |                                  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Natasha Espada  | Planning Board, Co-Chair         |
| Jeanne McKnight | Planning Board, Co-Chair         |
| Ed Cosgrove     | Board of Health                  |
| Laura Dorfman   | Community Preservation Committee |
| Carol Fachetti  | Finance Committee                |
| Helen Gregory   | Council On Aging                 |
| Dan Matthews    | Select Board                     |
| Oscar Mertz     | Citizen At Large                 |
| Marcus Nelson   | Select Board                     |
| Mike O'Brien    | School Committee                 |
| Ed Scheideler   | Housing Authority                |
| Rhonda Spector  | Citizen At Large                 |

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