



The Town of Westfield Master Plan Reexamination Report
Community & Public Participation Summary for the April 30th Westfield Community Workshop



The Town of Westfield Master Plan
Reexamination Report
Seniors - Public Participation Summary for the
April 30th Community Workshop

Prepared By:



architects + engineers
practical approach. creative results.

Workshop Date:
April 30, 2019

Prepared Date:
May 7, 2019



Community & Public Participation

Purpose

This Master Plan Reexamination Report cannot be written, nor recommendations made without input from the people who live, work, and visit Westfield. Without valuable public input, this document will not accurately represent the wants and needs of Westfield residents. The Master Plan Reexam Team (H2M *(lead)* and TimHaahs) is working hard to obtain ideas, opinions, feedback, and concerns from the public throughout the year long Master Plan Reexamination process using “high touch” to “high tech” approaches, ranging from traditional workshops to online engagement. This collaborative approach provides community insight on the future of Westfield.

Community Workshops

A Master Plan Reexamination Steering Committee comprised of Westfield community leaders is helping to guide the Master Plan Reexam process. The Town of Westfield and the Master Plan Reexam Team & Steering Committee planned six community workshops, four to occur in the beginning of the process to gather information and two additional meetings at the end to provide a “feedback loop” for residents. The first four workshops all took place from 7pm to 9pm in the evening. Due to the scheduling of the meetings in the evening, members of the Steering Committee felt that an additional workshop should be added, to take place during daytime hours. This fifth workshop was organized for seniors and occurred on April 30th, running from 1-3:30pm and was held at the Presbyterian Church of Westfield.

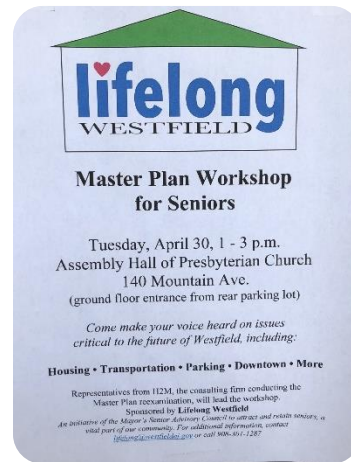
The Master Plan Team and Town of Westfield will continue outreach efforts at the Spring Fling on Sunday May 5th.

In the fall, the Master Plan Team will hold town-wide public meetings to discuss the draft of the plan and gain feedback on the Master Plan Reexamination Report’s draft goals, objectives and recommendations.

The workshop began with an introduction from Jeff Janota of H2M Associates, the consultant preparing the Master Plan Reexamination Report and head organizer of the event.

Upon sign-in, participants were given a Master Plan Reexamination Report flyer. Mr. Janota facilitated conversation amongst the attendees.

A summary of issues resulting from the April 30th workshop is listed on the following pages. **Bolded** items indicate popular or repeated sentiments.





Land Use & Economic Development

- **Need entertainment & experiential retail**
- **Need different building typology (more condos and townhomes)**
 - Allow options for people stay in town
 - More senior housing
- **Address tear downs that are creating overcrowding**
- Too many cookie cutter homes, need additional styles
- **Need “sense” of place**
- New homes should provide functional front porches, allows interaction between public and private realm
- Improve the quality of vender sales at the spring and fall fairs.
- Rental prices too high for businesses and residents
- Need Design Guidelines -Pastel colors on Elm Street not appropriate
- Green infrastructure and sustainability needs to be incorporated into master plan

Transportation

- Address condition of sidewalks/enforcement of problems
- Continuation of sidewalks
- **Street tree standards**
- Builders damaging the roads should be required to fix them
- Lack of sidewalks and tree maintenance causes hazardous conditions

Parking

- Need handicap spots in downtown, not just in parking lots
- Need additional 5-10-minute parking availability in front of stores
- Understand the benefits of a parking garage
- **Need more downtown parking**
- Make the South Side Train parking lot into a 2-3 story garage
- Electric charging stations needed

Community Facilities

- Add solar panels to the roofs of municipal buildings
- **Need community center & senior center**
- Need senior programs to help seniors moving
- Ice rink was a great idea – needs to be an annual item



Open Space/Sustainability

- Tree preservation & plan ordinance (preserve large trees)
- Trees on Main Street/Community Area need to be replanted
- Improve picnic area in Tamaques Park
- Tree planting program should be developed. Plant trees on sides of street where no utility lines exist
- Safety concerns for chemicals used in parks
- Free-tree program for property owners
- Look for other ways to make Westfield a leader in the climate change problem
- Remove the ordinance that bans solar panels from facing the street
- Park system is great, we should keep it and improve as needed

New Ordinance Summary:

- Public Arts Commission (Developers to contribute to public arts fund)
- Road Ordinance
- Tree Ordinance (Improved Streetscapes)