

CITY COUNCIL  
**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON**  
MASSACHUSETTS

Councilors:

- President Gina-Louise Sciarra, At-Large
- William H. Dwight, At-Large
- Michael J. Quinlan, Jr., Ward 1
- Karen Foster, Ward 2
- Vice-President James Nash, Ward 3
- John Thorpe, Ward 4
- Alex Jarrett, Ward 5
- Marianne L. LaBarge, Ward 6
- Rachel Maiore, Ward 7

**Meeting Agenda**  
**On-line Video Conference**  
**Meeting Date: February 4, 2021**  
**Meeting Time: 7 p.m.**

The February 4, 2021 City Council meeting will be held via remote participation. The public can follow the council's deliberations by watching the meeting live on Comcast channel 15, live-streaming it on YouTube or joining the virtual meeting by phone or computer. For the active YouTube link, please see Northampton Open Media's website: <http://northamptonopenmedia.org/>

Live public comment will be available using telephone call-in or video conferencing technology beginning at 7 p.m.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR CALLING IN OR JOINING THE MEETING**

Join virtual meeting: <http://bit.ly/3pwBy9T>

For telephone call-in, call:

+ 253 215-8785 US

+ 301 715-8592 US

**MEETING ID: 949 6321 1268**

**PARTICIPANT ID#: #**

**PASSCODE: 088945**

**1. Announcement that Meeting is Being Held Via Remote Participation and Audio/Video Recorded**

This meeting is being held via remote participation and audio/video recorded.

## 2. Public Comment

## 3. Roll Call

## 4. Public Hearings

### A. **Announcement of Public Hearing on 20.173 National Grid Petition for Installation of Underground Conduit on Hockanum Road (Petition#16315676)**

Per M.G.L. Ch. 166, Section 22, the Northampton City Council will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 7:15 p.m.** on the petition of National Grid to install underground conduit and associated fixtures on Hockanum Road (Petition# 16315676). Instructions for accessing the hearing may be found on the February 18, 2021 City Council agenda to be posted on the city website ([www.northamptonma.gov](http://www.northamptonma.gov)) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon.

Documents:

[20.173 DPW Recommendation.pdf](#)

[20.173 National Grid Petition for Installation of Underground Conduit on Hockanum Road \(Petition No. 16315676\).pdf](#)

### B. **Announcement of Public Hearing on 21.188 Application for License to Store Flammables and Combustibles at 138 North King Street**

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 148, Section 13, Big Y Foods, Inc. has submitted an application for a License for Storage of Flammables and Combustibles for two (2) 20,000-gallon underground fuel storage tanks: one (1) 20,000-gallon gasoline and one (1) 20,000-gallon split tank (10K gasoline/10Kdiesel) within the existing Big Y Supermarket parking lot at 138 North King Street. The City Council will hold a public hearing by remote participation on **Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 7:05 p.m.** Instructions for accessing the hearing may be found on the February 18, 2021 City Council agenda to be posted on the city website ([www.northamptonma.gov](http://www.northamptonma.gov)) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon. The City Council meeting begins at 7 p.m.

Documents:

[21.188 Application for License to Store Flammables and Combustibles at 138 North King Street.pdf](#)

### C. **7:05 pm Public hearing on package of National Grid/Verizon Pole Petitions to install, relocate and/or remove a total of 37 utility poles on Damon Road and four (4) utility poles on Bridge Road in connection with the MassDOT Damon Road reconstruction project**

Per M.G.L. Ch. 166, Section 22, a public hearing will be held on **Thursday, February 4, 2021 @ 7:05 p.m.** on the following joint petitions of National Grid

and Verizon New England and sole petitions of National Grid to install, relocate or remove poles and wires upon, along, under or across one or more public ways:

20.174 National Grid Pole Petition for Bridge Road (Petition #23303524)

20.175 National Grid Pole Petition for Damon Road (Petition #23303524)

20.176 National Grid/Verizon Pole Petition for Damon Road (Petition #23303524)

20.177 National Grid/Verizon Pole Petition for Bridge Road (Petition #23303524)

Documents:

[20.174 DPW Recommendation for Poles on Bridge Road.pdf](#)

[20.175 DPW Recommendation for Poles on Damon Road.pdf](#)

[20.174 National Grid Pole Petition for Bridge Road.pdf](#)

[20.175 National Grid Pole Petition for Damon Road.pdf](#)

[20.176 National Grid-Verizon Pole Petition for Damon Road.pdf](#)

[20.177 National Grid-Verizon Pole Petition for Bridge Road.pdf](#)

## **5. Updates from Council President and Committee Chairs**

## **6. Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors**

## **7. Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor**

## **8. Resolutions**

### **A. 21.193 A Resolution Opposing Internet Data Caps and Committing to Achieving Just Internet Access and Affordability - 1st reading**

Documents:

[21.193 A Resolution Opposing Internet Data Caps and Committing to Achieving Just Internet Access and Affordability.pdf](#)

## **9. Presentations**

## **10. Consent Agenda**

### **A. Minutes of January 7, 2021**

Documents:

[01-07-2021\\_City Council Minutes.pdf](#)

**B. 21.187 Appointments to Various Committees, all positive recommendations, City Services Committee - 2/1/2021**

**Arts Council**

**Dana Osterling**, 58 Paradise Road, Apt. 1, Northampton

Term: February 2021-June 2024

*To fill a vacancy*

**Thulani Davis**, 112 Franklin Street, Northampton

Term: February 2021-June 2024

*To fill a vacancy*

**Historical Commission**

**Dr. Jonathan Daube**, 15 Carolyn Street, Florence

Term: February 2021- June 2024

*To fill a vacancy*

**Rev. Harvey Hill**, 19 Ward Avenue, Northampton

Term: February 2021-June 2024

*To fill a vacancy*

Documents:

[21.187 Appointments to Various Committees.pdf](#)

**11. Recess for Committee on Finance (See Separate Agenda)**

**12. Financial Orders (on 1st reading pending Finance review)**

Rule 2.6 requires the Finance Committee to consider certain financial matters.

**A. 21.191 An Order to Acquire Land on Nash Hill Road in Williamsburg for Water Supply Protection - 1st reading**

Documents:

[21.191 An Order to Acquire Land on Nash Hill Road in Williamsburg for Water Supply Protection.pdf](#)

[21.191 Plan of Proposed Acquisition on Nash Hill Road.pdf](#)

[21.191 Survey of Nash Hill Road.pdf](#)

[21.191 Watershed Zones.pdf](#)

**B. 21.192 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to City Clerk for Elections and DPW for Asphalt - 1st reading**

Documents:

[21.192 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to City Clerk for Elections and DPW for Asphalt.pdf](#)

**13. Financial Orders (on 2nd reading)**

**14. Orders**

**A. 21.190 An Order Endorsing the Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan - 1st reading**

Documents:

[21.190 An Order Endorsing the Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan.pdf](#)  
[Northampton Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan.pdf](#)

**15. Ordinances (Not yet Referred)**

Rule 5.2.3 provides that no ordinance shall be voted on by the City Council until it has been considered by the Committee on Legislative Matters.

**A. 21.189 An Ordinance to Create an Incentive for Smaller Houses by Allowing Two Half-Scale Units to Count as a Single-Family for Density Purposes**

**Process Note:** M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5 requires the City Council to submit zoning ordinances to the Planning Board for review within 14 days of receipt and for the Planning Board and City Council or a committee designated for that purpose to hold public hearings thereon, together or separately, prior to adoption.

Documents:

[21.189 An Ordinance to Create Incentive for Smaller Houses by Allowing Two Half-Scale Units to Count as a Single-Family for Density Purposes.pdf](#)

**16. Ordinances**

**17. Information Requests (Charter Provision 2-7) and Committee Study Requests**

**18. New Business**

## 19. Adjourn

*Contact: G-L Sciarra, Council President*  
glsciarra@northamptonma.gov  
(413) 570-3133



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
125 Locust Street  
Northampton, MA 01060

413-587-1570  
Fax 413-587-1576

Donna LaScaleia  
Director

## Memorandum

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To: Donna LaScaleia, Director, Department of Public Works *Approved 1-28-21 ML*  
From: Greg Newman, Senior Engineer, Department of Public Works  
Date: January 27, 2021  
Re: 20.173 National Grid Petition (#16315676) - Underground Wire & Conduit in Hockanum Road

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National Grid is proposing to install two 4-inch diameter conduits and two handholes in Hockanum Road as part of MassDOT project No. 606552. This work is in the section of the road that passes under Route 91. The following reference plan is provided, "*Northampton I-91 Over US 5, B&M Railroad and Hockanum Road; Sheet 26 of 302; Construction Plan - Hockanum Road, Sheet 1 of 1*". The work for this petition is identified on the plan as "*Proposed Utility Relocation (Electric) (By Others)*". The petition also includes the following details:

- Detail A – showing two 4-inch diameter conduits encased in concrete and installed in a trench approximately 1.5 feet wide by about 3.7 feet deep (from the road surface).
- Detail of handholes located in the paved way; one on the west side of the underpass and one on the east side of the underpass.

The proposed work extends from Pole 16 (on south side of Hockanum Road west of Route 91) to Pole 20 (on the south side of Hockanum Road east of Route 91). The total length of trenching on road and off-road will be about 400 feet.

A site visit and plan review indicate the following:

- The locations of the two proposed handholes do not conflict with City utilities. Be aware that there is a 4-inch cast iron (CI) watermain located on south side of Hockanum Road.
- The proposed conduit trench will cross this CI waterline at two locations west and east of the underpass.
- The proposed conduit trench will also cross a 24-inch reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) drain located east of the underpass and west of Nook Road.

In order to ensure protection of existing City utilities and uninterrupted service to residents, the Department of Public Works (DPW) issues the following requirements:

1. Test pits are required at the proposed utility crossings prior to installing conduits and handholes. The Contractor shall excavate test pits at the two proposed locations where the conduit trench will cross the CI waterline and at the one location where the conduit trench will cross the existing RCP drain.
2. The Contractor shall coordinate with the DPW so that a DPW Engineer will be present when these test pits are excavated. 24 hours notice is required, and the DPW shall be notified at 413-587-1570.
3. The Contractor shall carefully execute the test pits to protect the existing utilities and shall confirm the location, depth and condition of the exposed utilities. This information should be provided in writing, with supporting photographs, to the DPW, attn. Donna LaScaleia.
4. Where the proposed conduit trench will be less than six inches above the top of the waterline and/or drain line, the Contractor shall propose modifications to the proposed conduit trench in writing to the DPW, attn. Donna LaScaleia.
5. Work shall not proceed until the DPW Engineer has reviewed the test pits and any proposed modifications to conduit trench AND has determined the proposed work will provide adequate separation from and protection of existing utilities.

**National Grid must obtain an “Excavation/Trench Permit” issued by the City of Northampton prior to test pit excavation.**



November 30, 2020

City Council  
Town of Northampton

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find a petition of NATIONAL GRID covering the installation of underground facilities.

If you have any questions regarding this permit, please contact:

**Brandon Bravetti 508-298-1513**

If this petition meets with your approval, please return an executed copy to:

National Grid: Lisa Ayres; 1101 Turnpike Street; North Andover, MA 01845  
(978)725-1418

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Very truly yours,

*Jim Kehrer/lla*

Jim Kehrer  
Name: Distribution Design Supervisor  
Supervisor, Distribution Design

Enclosures

Questions contact – Brandon Bravetti 508-298-1513

Petition of the Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID  
OF NORTH ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS  
For Electric Conduit Location:

To the City Council of Northampton

Respectfully represents the Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID of North Andover, Massachusetts, that it desires to construct a line of underground electric conduits, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, under and across the public way or ways hereinafter named.

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted permission to excavate the public highways and to run and maintain underground electric conduits, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary for the transmission of electricity, said underground conduits to be located substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked – Hockanum Rd. - Northampton, Massachusetts.

The following are the streets and highways referred to: **16315676**

Hockanum Rd. - Beginning at a point approximately 526 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Hockanum Rd. and Hunts Rd. and continuing approximately 351 feet in a northwest direction; National Grid to install 2-4" Conduit from P16 to new heavy duty handhole #1, install 2-4" conduit from Heavy duty Handhole #1 to Heavy duty handhole #2, and install 2-4" conduit from Heavy duty Handhole #2 to P20.

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Location approximately as shown on plan attached.

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a  
NATIONAL GRID *Jim Kehrer/lla*

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Engineering Department

Dated: November 30

, 2020

ORDERED:

Notice having been given and public hearing held, as provided by law, that the Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID be and it is hereby granted permission to excavate the public highways and to run and maintain underground electric conduits, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as said company may deem necessary, in the public way or ways hereinafter referred to, and to make the necessary house connections along said extensions, as requested in petition with said company dated the 30th day of November 2020.

Said underground electric conduits shall be located substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked -Hockanum Rd. - Northampton, Massachusetts 16315676

The following are the public ways or part of ways along which the underground electric conduits above referred to may be laid:

Hockanum Rd. - Beginning at a point approximately 526 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Hockanum Rd. and Hunts Rd. and continuing approximately 351 feet in a northwest direction; National Grid to install 2-4" Conduit from P16 to new heavy duty handhole #1, install 2-4" conduit from Heavy duty Handhole #1 to Heavy duty handhole #2, and install 2-4" conduit from Heavy duty Handhole #2 to P20.

I hereby certify that the foregoing order was adopted at a meeting of the .....  
.....  
....., held on the ..... day of ....., 20 .....

....., ..... 20 .....

Received and entered in the records of location orders of the City/Town of  
Book ..... Page .....

Attest:  
.....

..... hereby certify that on .....20....., at ..... o'clock, ....M  
at ....., a public hearing was held on the petition of  
Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID for permission to construct the  
underground electric conduits described in the order herewith recorded, and that I mailed at least  
seven days before said hearing a written notice of the time and place of said hearing to each of the  
owners of real estate (as determined by the last preceding assessment for taxation) along the ways  
or parts of ways upon which the Company is permitted to construct the underground electric  
conduits under said order. And that thereupon said order was duly adopted.

.....  
.....  
.....

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1 CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE AS-BUILT INFORMATION 10 DAYS AFTER COMPLETION OF CONDUIT INSTALLATION WORK.

2 THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND STRUCTURES SHOWN HEREIN ARE DEPICTED ACCORDING TO THE BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION. THEY ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO BE CORRECT OR COMPLETE. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR TO CONFIRM ALL CONDITIONS IN THE FIELD AND MAKE ADJUSTMENTS AS REQUIRED TO ACCOMMODATE THE WORK BY GETTING APPROVAL FROM NATIONAL GRID CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT FIRST. IT IS ASSUMED ALL PREMISES HAVE WATER, GAS, TEL, CLEC SEWER, ETC LATERAL CROSSINGS WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE BASE BID.

3 ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DESIGN OF THESE CONSTRUCTION PLANS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO TRC DISTRIBUTION ENGINEER BRANDON BRAVE (T) AT 508-298-1513 OR ALEX GROSHEV AT 508-298-1527.

4 DO NOT DEVIATE FROM THESE PLANS WITHOUT FIRST CONTACTING NATIONAL GRID CIVIL CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR.

\* PETER GIORGI 781-697-7696

5 ALL UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE INSPECTED AND APPROVED BY NATIONAL GRID PERSONAL PRIOR TO CONCRETE ENCASUREMENT AND BACKFILL. CONTRACTOR SHALL MANHOLE, PROVE, AND INSTALL MILE TAPE IN ALL CONDUITS PER NATIONAL GRID CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS UNDER SUPERVISION OF NATIONAL GRID CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR.

6 CONTRACTOR TO ARRANGE TO HAVE ALL FOREIGN UTILITIES VERIFY THEIR LOCATIONS IN THE FIELD PRIOR TO START OF EXCAVATION WORK BY CONTACTING DIG SAFE AT "811" 1-888-DIG-SAFE. NOT ALL UTILITY SERVICES TO PROPERTIES ARE SHOWN ON THESE PLANS. REFER TO NOTE 2 ABOVE.

7 PROTECT ALL MUNICIPAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL SURVEY CONTROL MONUMENTS AND BENCH MARKS. CONTRACTOR TO CONTACT RESPECTIVE MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENTS FOR TYPES AND LOCATIONS BEFORE STARTING WORK AS REQUIRED.

8 PROTECT ALL PLANTS AND TREES AND THEIR ROOT SYSTEMS FROM MECHANICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE DURING EXCAVATION. BACKFILL ROOT AREAS WITH SOIL HAVING TEXTURE AND FERTILITY TO SUSTAIN PLANT LIFE. CONTRACTOR TO REMOVE ALL ROOTS OF DEAD TREE STUMPS FROM TRENCH PRIOR TO PLACING CONDUIT. CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF NECESSARY EROSION CONTROL (SILT SACKS, MAT BALES, CHECK DAMS, ETC.) APPROVED BY THE STATE, CITY/TOWN, AND QUINCY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AS REQUIRED FOR THE DURATION OF THE PROJECT.

9 THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM CLEARANCES SHALL BE MAINTAINED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED:

UTILITY	CROSSING	PARALLEL
GAS MAIN	12"	12"
GAS SERVICE	12"	12"
WATER MAIN	12"	12"
WATER SERVICE	12"	12"
TELEPHONE/COMMUNICATION FACILITIES	12"	12"
STORM & SANITARY SEWERS	12"	12"
RAIL ROAD CROSSINGS	50"	50"

PLEASE NOTE, ANY DEVIATIONS FROM THESE MINIMUM CLEARANCES MUST BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY NATIONAL GRID & TRC.

UTILITY SERVICES AND LATERALS TO BUILDINGS ARE NOT SHOWN ON THESE PLANS. CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY THEIR LOCATIONS IN THE FIELD AND SUPPORT, PROTECT, MAINTAIN, AND WORK AROUND THEM AS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE PROPOSED WORK.

10 ALL CONTRACTORS SHALL COMPLY WITH MINIMUM WORKING CLEARANCES FROM ALL ENERGIZED OVERHEAD EQUIPMENT AND CONDUCTORS PER OSHA REGULATIONS 1910.333. IF MINIMUM WORKING CLEARANCES CAN NOT BE MET, CONTRACTOR MUST CONTACT NATIONAL GRID TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVE MEASURES. THESE MEASURES MAY INCUR ADDITIONAL COSTS.

11 CONDUIT TO BE PLACED AT MINIMUM 30" BELOW ELEVATION OF NEAREST PORTION OF ROAD PAVEMENT UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. MANHOLE ROOF TO HAVE A MINIMUM 18" OF COVER FROM FINISH GRADE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

12 ALL WORK SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE, AND MUNICIPAL CODES, AS WELL AS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC SAFETY CODE, OSHA REGULATIONS AND NATIONAL GRID CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS/REQUIREMENTS.

13 AREAS WHERE EXCAVATION IS IN ROCK LEDGE, PROVIDE A SIX (6) INCH MINIMUM SELECT FILL CUSHION AROUND CONDUITS AND TWELVE (12) INCH CUSHION AROUND MANHOLE.

14 CONTRACTOR SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL REGULATIONS REGARDING REMOVAL AND/OR DISPOSAL OF ANY AND ALL EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS.

15 CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN A FULL SIZE SET OF SCALED DRAWINGS (100% OF ALL PRINTS) ON SITE AT ALL TIMES DURING THE WORK.

16 CONTRACTOR TO RECORD AND DOCUMENT A SINGLE, MULTI-PAGE PDF PHOTOLOG OF THE ENTIRE WORK AREA. CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE NATIONAL GRID PROJECT MANAGER A COPY OF THE PRE-CONSTRUCTION PHOTOLOG ALONG WITH A POST-CONSTRUCTION PHOTOLOG OF THE ENTIRE WORK AREA UPON COMPLETION OF ALL CIVIL WORK IN THE FIELD.

17 REFER TO ALL NATIONAL GRID CIVIL CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INCLUDED IN THE BID DOCUMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING MANHOLE AND DUCT BANK INSTALLATION.

PLEASE NOTE, THE 12" MINIMUM CLEARANCES FROM OTHER UTILITIES SHALL BE MAINTAINED WHEREVER POSSIBLE. IF THE 12" MINIMUM CLEARANCE CANNOT BE ACHIEVED IN THE FIELD, CONTRACTOR TO USE ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE MEANS TO PROTECT THE OTHER UTILITIES AND/OR OBTAIN APPROVAL FROM THE UTILITY OWNER FOR LESS THAN MINIMUM CLEARANCE.

**DISTRIBUTION DRAWING INDEX**

REFER TO DRAWINGS:

CIVIL & PROFILE DRAWINGS	PROPOSED MANHOLE DRAWINGS	DETAIL DRAWINGS
PP-1	PP-1	DET-1

**ABBREVIATIONS**

NOTE: NOT ALL ABBREVIATIONS LISTED BELOW ARE USED FOR THIS PROJECT.

# NUMBER  
 @ AND  
 @ AT  
 @ GREATER THAN  
 @ LESS THAN  
 @ DIAMETER  
 @ AMPERE  
 @/ABAND  
 @/ABAND  
 @/AIR CONDITIO  
 @/ALTERNATING CURRENT  
 @/APPROXIMATE  
 @/BOTTON OF  
 @/BUSHINGS  
 @/BLDG  
 @/BLDG  
 @/BENCH VERTICAL CURVE ELEVATION  
 @/BENCH VERTICAL CURVE STATION  
 @/CENTER TO CENTER  
 @/CATCH BASIN  
 @/CAST IRON  
 @/CENTRALISE  
 @/CLR  
 @/CMP  
 @/CORRUGATED METAL PIPE ARCH  
 @/CMT  
 @/COMPACT CABLE  
 @/COMUNICATIONS  
 @/CONCRETE  
 @/CONTRL POINT  
 @/CS  
 @/COPPER  
 @/CW  
 @/D  
 @/DC  
 @/DUCTILE IRON  
 @/DIA  
 @/DRAIN MANHOLE  
 @/DNG  
 @/DNG  
 @/E  
 @/EAST  
 @/EL  
 @/ELEVATION  
 @/ELEC  
 @/ELEV  
 @/EMH  
 @/EDP  
 @/EXISTING UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC  
 @/EXISTING UNDERGROUND TELEPHONE  
 @/EVC  
 @/EVC  
 @/EVC  
 @/ER  
 @/EX. EAST  
 @/FFE  
 @/FM  
 @/FO  
 @/GALV  
 @/GEN  
 @/GRANITE  
 @/HDD  
 @/HDPE  
 @/HM  
 @/HORZ

HW HIGH VOLTAGE  
 HW HW  
 KY KEYNOTE  
 KY KEYNOTE-AMPERE  
 L LENGTH  
 LF LINEAR FOOT  
 LV LOW VOLTAGE  
 M METER  
 MAX MAXIMUM  
 MH MANHOLE  
 MH MANHOLE  
 MISC MISCELLANEOUS  
 MJ MECHANICAL JOINT  
 MW MONITORING WELL  
 N NORTH  
 N/O NOW OR FORMERLY  
 N/C NATIONAL ELECTRICAL VERTICAL DATA  
 NIOSH NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH  
 PC POINT OF CURVATURE  
 PCB POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYL  
 PE POLYETHYLENE  
 PFC PAPER IN LEAD COVERED CABLE  
 PIV POINT INDICATOR VALVE  
 PROP PROPOSED  
 PT POINT, POINT OF TANGENCY  
 PVC POLYVINYL CHLORIDE  
 PVI POINT OF VERTICAL INTERSECTION  
 R RADIUS  
 RCP REINFORCED CONCRETE PIPE  
 REQD REQUIRED  
 RET RETAINING  
 RR RAIL ROAD  
 S SLOPE  
 SCADA SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION  
 SCH SCH-40  
 SCH SCH-60  
 SF SQUARE FEET  
 SH SANITARY MANHOLE  
 SQ SQUARE  
 SS STAINLESS STEEL  
 STA STATION  
 STL STEEL  
 STORM STORMWATER  
 TAB TOP AND BOTTOM  
 T/F TOP OF  
 TEL TELEPHONE  
 TV TELEVISION  
 TYP TYPICAL  
 UE UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC  
 UE UNDERGROUND  
 UNL UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE  
 V VOLT  
 VR VOLT-AMPERE REACTIVE  
 VC VERTICAL CURVE  
 VCP VERTICAL CLAY PIPE  
 VERT VERTICAL  
 VV VALVE BOX  
 W WATER  
 W/ WITH

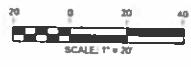
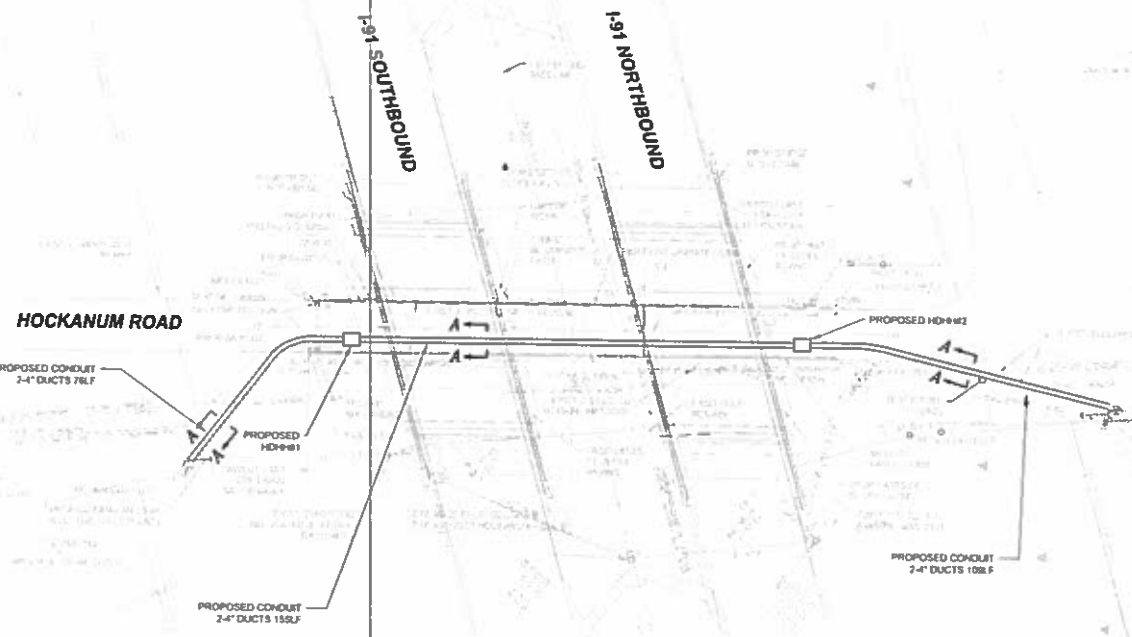
**LEGEND**

CATCH BASIN CLUMP INLET  
 CATCH BASIN  
 DRAIN LINE/MANHOLE  
 SEWER LINE/MANHOLE  
 COMBINED SEWER/DRAIN-MANHOLE  
 ELECTRIC LINE/MANHOLE  
 ELECTRIC LINE  
 LIGHT POLE  
 GAS LINE/GATE  
 RETIRED GAS LINE  
 HYDRANT  
 WATER LINE(LOW PRESSURE)/GATE  
 WATER LINE(HIGH PRESSURE)/GATE  
 ABANDONED WATER LINE  
 TELEPHONE LINE/MANHOLE  
 TELEPHONE LINE  
 CONCRETE CURB  
 BURNISHED CONCRETE CURB  
 VERTICAL GRANITE CURB  
 CHAIN LINK FENCE  
 WOOD STOCKADE FENCE  
 HAZARDOUS  
 METAL RAILING FENCE  
 EDGE OF GRAVEL  
 APPROXIMATE STREET LINE  
 WORCESTER HIGHWAY BOUNDARY  
 STONE BOUNDARY HOLE  
 DRILL HOLE  
 IRON PIPE/POH  
 FLOOD  
 BUILDING  
 PARCEL ADDRESS  
 WORKMAN/TRAVERSE POINT  
 W/ APPROXIMATE STATE PLANE COORDINATE  
 BITUMINOUS CONCRETE BY RECORD  
 BOLLARD  
 BRICK RETAINING BALL  
 CONCRETE BLOCK RETAINING BALL  
 CONCRETE RETAINING BALL  
 CONCRETE STAIRS  
 COBBLESTONE EDGING  
 HEAVY DUTY MANHOLE

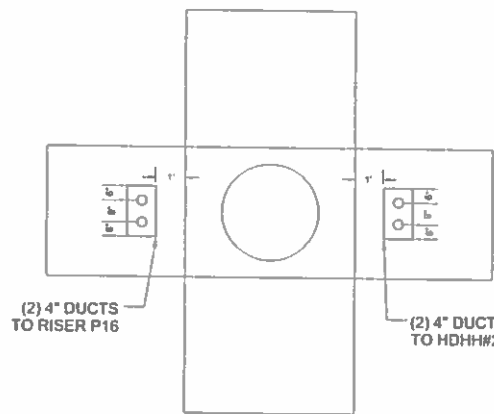
(NAD 83)  
 N 2916720 E P  
 E 566817 S 66

BY EDHC

		124 Grove St Foxham, MA 02036		PROJECT NO 214538			
REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	DES	CHK	APP	HOCKANUM RD NORTHAMPTON, MA LAYOUT PLAN	
						Scale: 1" = 40'	G-1
						WR#16315676	0



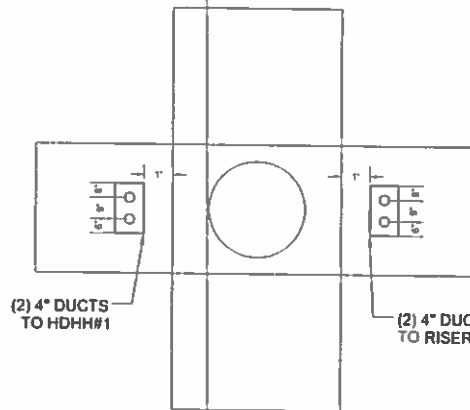
		114 Grove St Franklin, MA 02038		PROJECT NO 214538																																		
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>REV</th> <th>DESCRIPTION</th> <th>DATE</th> <th>DES</th> <th>CHK</th> <th>APP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>		REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	DES	CHK	APP																									HOCKANUM RD NORTHAMPTON, MA LAYOUT PLAN					PP-1 WR#16315676	
REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	DES	CHK	APP																																	
11/20/20 10:40:00 AM						0																																



(2) 4" DUCTS TO RISER P16

(2) 4" DUCTS TO HDHH#2

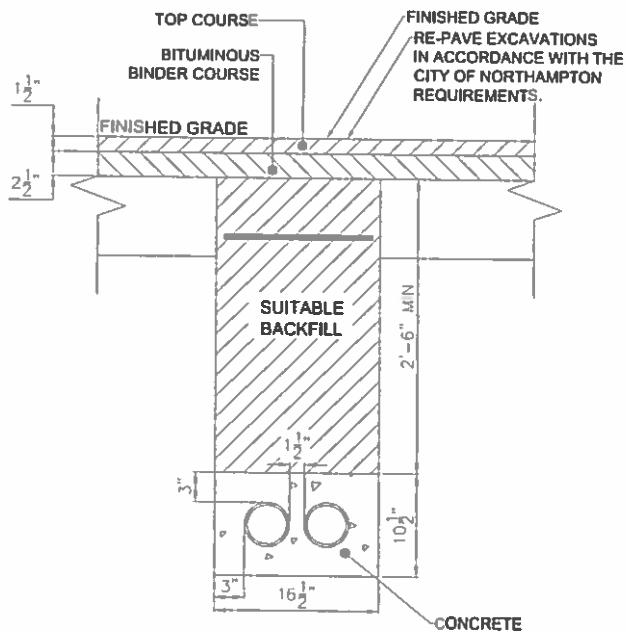
HDHH#1 DETAIL



(2) 4" DUCTS TO HDHH#1

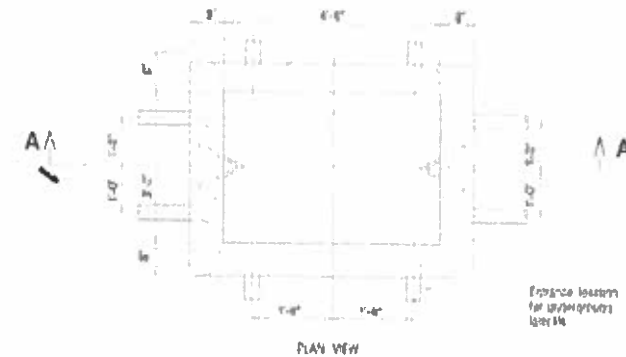
(2) 4" DUCTS TO RISER P20

HDHH#2 DETAIL



DETAIL A  
2-4" DUCTS  
SCALE: N.T.S

CONCRETE



PLAN VIEW

Manhole Frame - UMHF  
Riser - UMRH  
Cover - UMMC

One course of brick or 2" precast (SPIALCO) and gravel (18" to 1")

cutting grate

Walls to be concrete or brick (Note 2)

H min = 2'-6"  
H max = 4'-0"

1" of back - play the 2" specified in the cast design

fining rock (3" max size)

SECTION A-A

Notes:

1. Chimney height is kept to a minimum to facilitate placing completed splices in handhole from above grade.
2. Concrete minimum strength - See Section 31.4.30.
3. Roof opening 3' 2" inches x 3' 2".

HANDHOLE DETAIL

		124 Grove St Franklin, MA 02038		PROJECT NO 214538				
REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	DES	CHK	APP	HOCKANUM RD NORTHAMPTON, MA LAYOUT PLAN		
						DET-1		
						WR#16315676		
							0	



CAROLYN A. PARKER  
CONSULTING

January 28, 2021

**City Hall  
City Council  
210 Main Street – Room 16  
Northampton, MA 01060**

Attn: Ms. Laura Krutzler  
Admin Assistant to City Council

**Big Y – Gas station**  
138 North King Street  
Northampton, MA  
Delivery: Regular mail

Dear Ms. Krutzler,

Enclosed please find an Application for License, signed by the owner and the local fire department, and (1) one copy of the proposed Big Y gas station to be located at 138 North King Street, Northampton, MA within the existing Big Y supermarket parking lot. The owner of the property, Big Y Foods, Inc. wishes to be heard by the City Council for a new License to store underground fuel at the proposed gas station. They will install (2) 20,000-gallon fuel storage tanks: (1) 20,000-gallon gasoline and (1) 20,000-gallon split tank: (10K gasoline/10K diesel). I will be drafting a self-serve fire suppression for the site allowing customers to pump their own fuel.

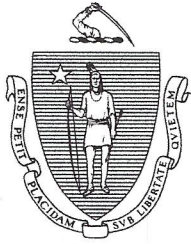
I have obtained a copy of the list of abutters and I will send out the notifications via Certified Mail once I receive the hearing notice. I believe the next available hearing we can be heard at will be February 18, 2021 and I will be in attendance at the Zoom hearing. If you have any questions or need additional information please call me at (774) 239-2781, thank you in advance for your time in helping to expedite this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Carolyn A. Parker

Cc: Big Y Foods, Inc.  
Alfred Benesch & Company  
File

**SPECIALIZING IN THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY**  
*Project Management, Permit Expediting, Drafting & Fire Suppression Plans*



FP-002A  
(Rev. 1.1.2015)

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
City/Town of Northampton

**Application For License**

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 148 §13

New License     Amended License

GIS Coordinates	
_____	LAT.
_____	LONG.
_____	License Number

Application is hereby made in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 148 of the General Laws of Massachusetts for a license to store flammables, combustibles or explosives on land in buildings or structures herein described.

Location of Land: 138 NORTH KING STREET  
Number, Street and Assessor's Map and Parcel ID

Attach a plot plan of the property indicating the location of property lines and all buildings or structures.

Owner of Land: BIG Y TRUST

Address of Land Owner: 2145 ROOSEVELT AVE, SPRINGFIELD, MA

Use and Occupancy of Buildings and Structures: GAS STATION W/ KIOSK <sup>01102</sup>

If this is an application for amendment of an existing license, indicate date of original license and any subsequent amendments  
NO

Attach a copy of the current license

**Flammable and Combustible Liquids, Flammable Gases and Solids**

*Complete this section for the storage of flammable and combustible liquids, solids, and gases; see 527 CMR 1.00 Table 1.12.8.50; Attach additional pages if needed. All tanks and containers are considered full for the purposes of licensing and permitting.*

PRODUCT NAME	CLASS	MAXIMUM QUANTITY	UNITS gal., lbs, cubic feet	CONTAINER UST, AST, IBC, drums
<u>GASOLINE</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>GALLON</u>	<u>UST</u>
<u>GASOLINE</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>GALLON</u>	<u>UST</u>
<u>DIESEL</u>	<u>3A</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>GALLON</u>	<u>COMPART- MENTALIZED</u>

Total quantity of all flammable liquids to be stored: 30,000

Total quantity of all combustible liquids to be stored: 10,000

Total quantity of all flammable gases to be stored: 0

Total quantity of all flammable solids to be stored: 0

LP-gas (Complete this section for the storage of LP-gas or propane) N/A

Indicate the maximum quantity of LP-gas to be stored and the sizes and capacities of all storage containers. (See 527 CMR 1.00 Table 1.12.8.50)

❖ Maximum quantity (in gallons) of LP-gas to be stored in aboveground containers: \_\_\_\_\_  
List sizes and capacities of all aboveground containers used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum quantity (in gallons) of LP-gas to be stored in underground containers: \_\_\_\_\_  
List sizes and capacities of all underground containers used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

Total aggregate quantity of all LP-gas to be stored: \_\_\_\_\_

Fireworks (Complete this section for the storage of fireworks) N/A

Indicate classes of fireworks to be stored and maximum quantity of each class. (See 527 CMR 1.00 Table 1.12.8.50)

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.3G: \_\_\_\_\_ Type/class of magazine used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.4G: \_\_\_\_\_ Type/class of magazine used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.4: \_\_\_\_\_ Type/class of magazine used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

Total aggregate quantity of all classes of fireworks to be stored: \_\_\_\_\_

Explosives (Complete this section for the storage of explosives) N/A

Indicate classes of explosive to be stored and maximum quantity of each class. (See 527 CMR 1.00 Table 1.12.8.50)

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.1: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of magazines used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.2: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of magazines used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.3: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of magazines used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.4: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of magazines used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.5: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of magazines used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.6: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of magazines used for storage: \_\_\_\_\_

I, MATT D'AMOUR, hereby attest that I am authorized to make this application. I acknowledge that the information contained herein is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I acknowledge that all materials stored pursuant to any license granted hereunder must be stored or kept in accordance with all applicable laws, codes, rules and regulations, including but not limited to Massachusetts Chapter 148, and the Massachusetts Fire Code (527 CMR 1.00). I further acknowledge that the storage of any material specified in any license granted hereunder may not exceed the maximum quantity specified by the license.

Signature [Signature] Date 01.19.2021 Name Matt D'Amour

*Fire Department Use Only*

I, Andrew Pelis, Head of the Nor Thornton Fire Department endorse this application with my

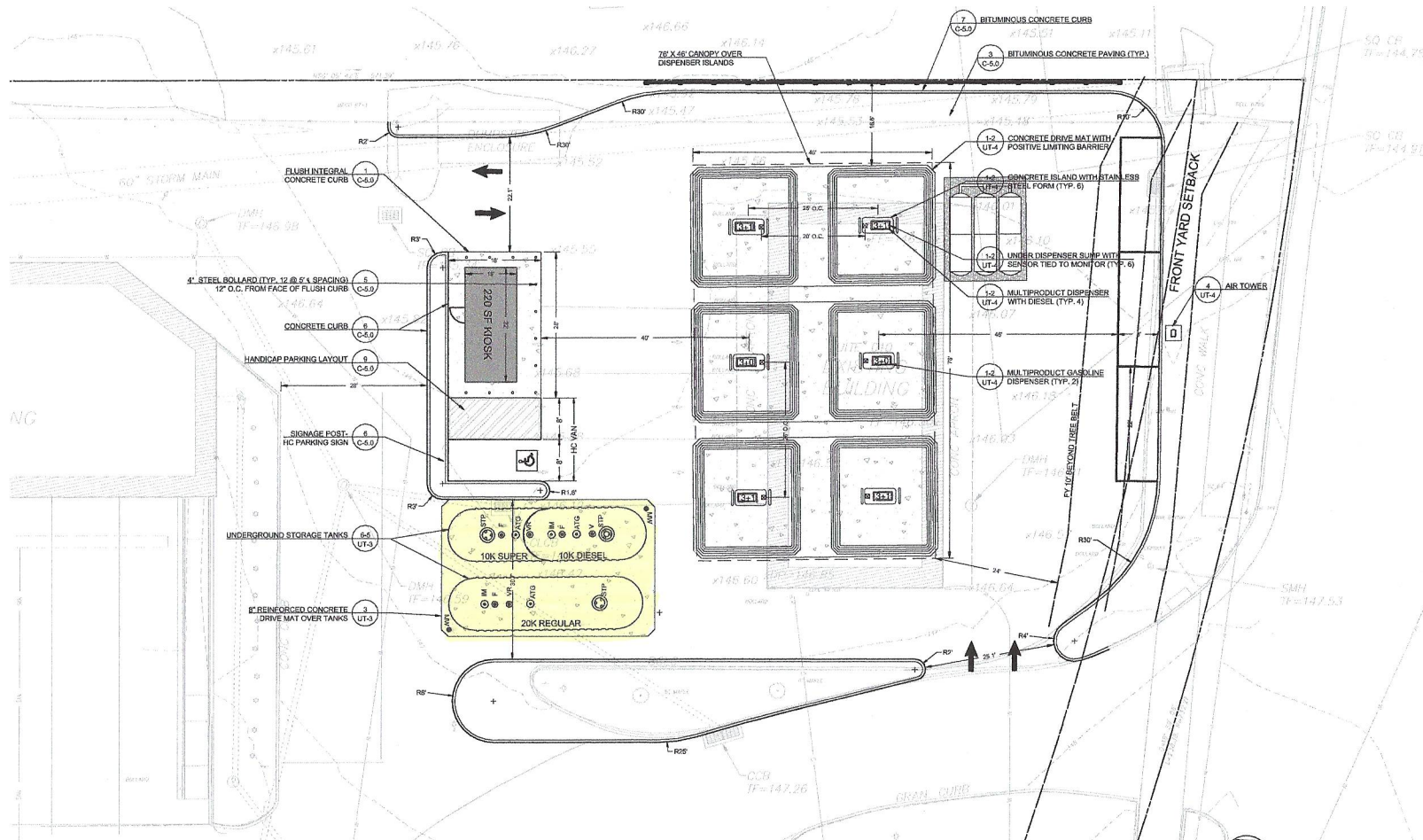
Approval  Disapproval

Signature of Head of the Fire Department [Signature]

Date 1/25/2021

Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSED  
 CONVENIENCE/FUEL  
 FACILITY**  
 NORTH KING STREET  
 NORTHAMPTON, MA



**ZONING TABLE**

ZONE: HB HIGHWAY BUSINESS			
USE TYPE:			
EXISTING: AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE (MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICE LUBRICATION CENTERS)			
PROPOSED: AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE (MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL SALES - NO CONVENIENCE)			
ITEM	REQUIREMENTS	EXISTING	PROPOSED
MIN. LOT AREA	0	528,434 SF	528,434 SF
MIN. LOT FRONTAGE	0	440 FT (COOKE AVE), 359 FT (PINE BROOKE CURVE), 244 FT (N. KING STREET)	440 FT (COOKE AVE), 359 FT (PINE BROOKE CURVE), 244 FT (N. KING STREET)
FRONT YARD BUILDING SETBACK	0 *	50 FT EXIST. (JEFFY LUBE TO FRONT YARD)	53 FT CANOPY TO FRONT YARD
SIDE YARD BUILDING SETBACK	0	23 FT (JEFFY LUBE TO SIDE LOT)	16 FT (CANOPY TO SIDE LOT)
REAR YARD SETBACK	0	711 FT (JEFFY LUBE TO REAR LOT)	653 FT (KIOSK TO REAR LOT)
MAX. BUILDING COVERAGE	90,000 SF (MAX)	124,466 SF (ALL BUILDINGS ON LOT)	125,780 SF (ALL BUILDINGS ON LOT)
MAX. BUILDING HEIGHT	20 FT MIN 55 FT MAX	16'6" (JEFFY LUBE)	14'-6" (CANOPY)
MIN. PARKING SPACES	0	0 (JEFFY LUBE ONLY)	4 (BIG Y EXPRESS ONLY)
MIN. FRONT YARD LANDSCAPE	10 FT TREE BELT BEYOND WALK	10 FT TREE BELT BEYOND WALK	10 FT TREE BELT BEYOND WALK

\* MEASURED FROM BEYOND A REQUIRED 10-FOOT TREE BELT, 6 FOOT SIDEWALK

**LEGEND**

- PROPERTY LINE
- BUILDING
- CONCRETE
- RAIN GARDEN
- CONCRETE CURB
- CATCH BASIN
- BOLLARD
- LIGHT FIXTURE
- HANDICAP RAMP

**PLAN REFERENCE**

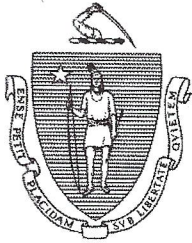
SITE INFORMATION FROM PLAN ENTITLED: "TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY, PREPARED FOR BIG Y, INC., NORTH KING STREET, NORTHAMPTON, MA SCALE 1" = 20', DATED AUGUST 2016, BY ALFRED BENESCH & CO., 120 HEBRON AVENUE, GLASTONBURY, CT 06033.

**Site Plan**

DRAWING NO.:

**C-1.0**

138 N. KING STREET



FP-002  
(Rev. 1.1.2015)

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
City/Town of Northampton

**License**

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 148 §13

New License     Amended License

GIS Coordinates
_____
LAT.
_____
LONG.
_____
License Number

After notice and hearing, and in accordance with Chapter 148 of the Mass. General Laws, a license is hereby granted to use the land herein described for the purposes described.

Location of Land: 138 NORTH KING STREET  
Number, Street and Assessor's Map and Parcel ID

Owner of Land: BIG Y TRUST

Address of Land Owner: 2145 ROOSEVELT AVE, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01102

**Flammable and Combustible Liquids, Flammable Gases and Solids**

Complete this section for the storage of flammable and combustible liquids, solids, and gases. All tanks and containers are considered full for the purposes of licensing and permitting. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

PRODUCT NAME	CLASS	MAXIMUM QUANTITY	UNITS gal., lbs, cubic feet	CONTAINER UST, AST, IBC, drums
<u>GASOLINE</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>GALLON</u>	<u>UST</u>
<u>GASOLINE</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>GALLON</u>	<u>UST</u>
<u>DIESEL</u>	<u>3A</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>GALLON</u>	<u>COMPARTMENT</u>

**LP-gas** (Complete this section for the storage of LP-gas or propane) N/A

❖ Maximum quantity (in gallons) of LP-gas to be stored in aboveground containers: \_\_\_\_\_  
List sizes and capacities of all aboveground containers used for storage \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum quantity (in gallons) of LP-gas to be stored in underground containers: \_\_\_\_\_  
List sizes and capacities of all underground containers used for storage \_\_\_\_\_

Total aggregate quantity of all LP-gas to be stored: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fireworks** (Complete this section for the storage of fireworks) N/A

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.3G: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.4G: \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.4: \_\_\_\_\_

Total aggregate quantity of all classes of fireworks to be stored: \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS LICENSE OR A CERTIFIED COPY THEREOF MUST BE CONSPICUOUSLY POSTED ON THE LAND FOR WHICH IT IS GRANTED.**

**Explosives** (Complete this section for the storage of explosives) *N/A*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.1: _____ | Number of magazines used for storage: _____ |
| ❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.2: _____ | Number of magazines used for storage: _____ |
| ❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.3: _____ | Number of magazines used for storage: _____ |
| ❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.4: _____ | Number of magazines used for storage: _____ |
| ❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.5: _____ | Number of magazines used for storage: _____ |
| ❖ Maximum amount (in pounds) of Class 1.6: _____ | Number of magazines used for storage: _____ |

**Licensing Authority Use:**

This license is granted upon the condition that the licensed activity will comply with all applicable laws, codes, rules and regulations, including but not limited to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 148, and the Massachusetts Fire Code (527 CMR 1.00) as amended. The license holder may not store materials in an amount exceeding the capacities herein specified unless and until any amended license has been granted.

**ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS:**

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Signature of Licensing Authority \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS LICENSE OR A CERTIFIED COPY THEREOF MUST BE CONSPICUOUSLY POSTED ON THE LAND FOR WHICH IT IS GRANTED.**



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
125 Locust Street  
Northampton, MA 01060

413-587-1570  
Fax 413-587-1576

**Donna LaScaleia**  
Director

## Memorandum

---

To: Donna LaScaleia, Director of Public Works *Approved 1-19-21 ML*  
From: Dawn Nims, Staff Civil Engineer  
Date: January 14, 2021  
Re: Council Orders 20.174 & 20.177 – Petition for Joint or Identical and Single Ownership Pole Relocations No. 23303524 – Damon Road Reconstruction Project MassDOT No. 608236 – Bridge Road

---

I have reviewed Department of Public Works (DPW) records and submittals including images, sketches and reconstruction plans for MassDOT Damon Road project No. 608236. This petition includes the proposed relocation of one (1) single ownership (SO) pole owned by National Grid, referenced in City Council Order 20.174, and the proposed relocation of three (3) joint ownership (JO) poles shared between National Grid and Verizon, referenced in City Council Order 20.177.

The one (1) SO pole is numbered 96-84 on Bridge Road. This pole is to be located at a point approximately 378 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of North King Street and Bridge Road and continuing approximately 29 feet and 6 inches in a north direction.

No potential conflicts were observed.

The three (3) JO poles include (3) poles, numbered P96, P97, and P98, on Bridge Road. These poles are to be located beginning at a point approximately 123 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection between North King Street and Bridge Road and continuing approximately 400 feet in a west direction.

No potential conflicts were observed.

A valid trench permit approved by the DPW is required before work at these locations commences.



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
125 Locust Street  
Northampton, MA 01060

413-587-1570  
Fax 413-587-1576

Donna LaScaleia  
Director

## Memorandum

---

To: Donna LaScaleia, Director of Public Works

From: Dawn Nims, Staff Civil Engineer

Date: January 14, 2021

Re: Council Orders 20.175 & 20.176 – Petition for Joint or Identical and Single Ownership Pole Installs, Removals, and Relocations No. 23303524 – Damon Road Reconstruction Project MassDOT No. 608236 – Damon Road

*Approved 1-19-21 ML*

---

I have reviewed Department of Public Works (DPW) records and submittals including images, sketches and reconstruction plans for MassDOT Damon Road project No. 608236. This petition includes the proposed installation and relocation of five (5) single ownership (SO) poles owned by National Grid, referenced in City Council Order 20.175, and the proposed installation, removal, and relocation of thirty-two (32) joint ownership (JO) poles shared between National Grid and Verizon, referenced in City Council Order 20.176.

The five (5) SO poles on Damon Road include proposed installation of two (2) poles, numbered P0-50 and P7-50, and proposed relocation of three (3) poles, numbered P16, P17, and P18. These poles are to be located at a point approximately 57 feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection of North King Street and Damon Road and continuing approximately 339 feet in an east direction.

No potential conflicts were observed.

The thirty-two (32) JO poles, numbered P1 through P31 on Damon Road, include proposed installation of three (3), removal of one (1), and relocation of twenty-eight (28) poles. These poles are to be located beginning at a point approximately 140 feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection between North King Street and Damon Road and continuing approximately 4200 feet in an east direction.

The proposed relocation of P7-25 (ULT7 on MassDOT plans) appears to be less than five (5) feet from a hydrant. Please provide a minimum separation of five (5) feet.

We note that P7-25 is shown 35 feet east of P-7 on the petition but appears to be 35 feet west of P-7 on Sheet 43 of the utility plans submitted for a trench permit. Please clarify the location in writing to the DPW, attn.: Donna LaScaleia.

A valid trench permit approved by the DPW is required before work at these locations commences.



December 9, 2020

**City of Northampton, Massachusetts**

To whom it may Concern:

Enclosed please find two (2) petitions of NATIONAL GRID, covering NATIONAL GRID pole location(s).

If you have any questions regarding this permit, please contact:

**Dan Lopez-Velez**

Please notify National Grid's Lisa Ayres of the hearing date / time.

If this petition meets with your approval, please return an executed copy, including hearing date.

National Grid: Lisa Ayres; 1101 Turnpike Street; North Andover, MA 01845  
978-725-1418

Very truly yours,

*Jim Kehrer/lla*

Jim Kehrer  
Supervisor, Distribution Design

Enclosures

Questions contact – Daniel Lopez-Velez 774-235-2603  
**PETITION FOR POLE AND WIRE LOCATIONS**

North Andover, Massachusetts

To the City Council  
Of Northampton, Massachusetts

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Bridge Rd. - National Grid to relocate (1) SO pole # 96-84 on Bridge Rd. beginning at a point approximately 378 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of North King St. and Bridge Rd. and continuing approximately 29' 6" in a north direction.

Location approximately as shown on plan attached.

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked – Bridge Rd. - Northampton, Massachusetts.

**23303524**

Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioner agrees to reserve space for one cross-arm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

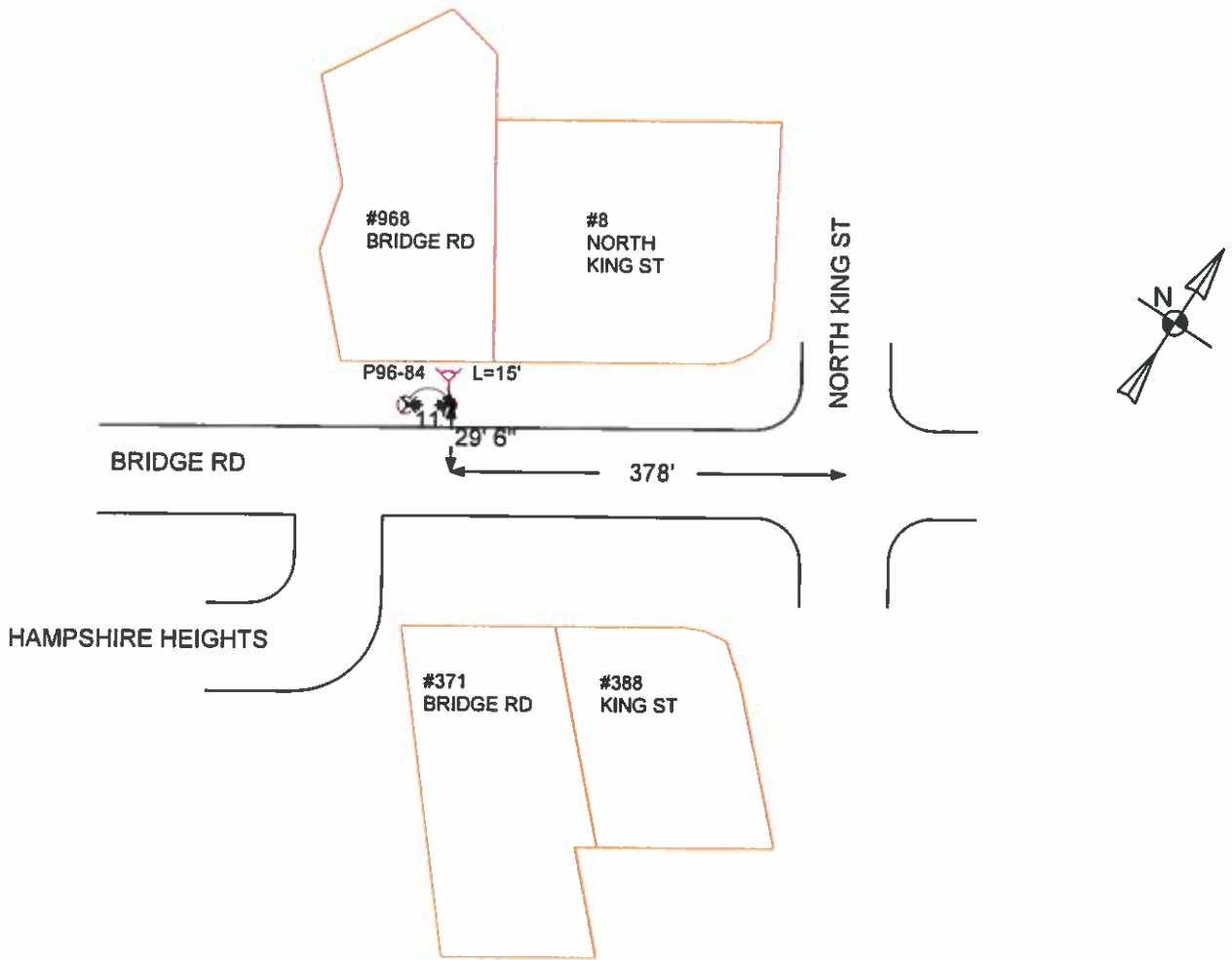
Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a  
NATIONAL GRID *Jim Kehrer/lla*

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Engineering Department

December 9, 2020

Bridge Rd. SO petition

SO POLES



<b>SOLELY OWNED POLE PETITION</b>		<b>nationalgrid</b> And <b>Verizon New England, Inc.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposed NGRID Pole Locations		Date: 12/2/2020	
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing NGRID Pole Locations		Plan Number: WR# 23303524	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposed J.O. Pole Locations		To Accompany Petition Dated: 12/2/2020	
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing J.O. Pole Locations		To The: City Of Northampton	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing Telephone Co. Pole Locations		For Proposed: SO Pole: P96-84 Location: Bridge Rd	
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing NGRID Pole Location To Be Made J.O.		Date Of Original Grant: N/A	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing Pole Locations To Be Removed			
DISTANCES ARE APPROXIMATE			

**ORDER FOR POLE AND WIRE LOCATIONS**

In the City of Northampton, Massachusetts

Notice having been given and public hearing held, as provided by law,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

that Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and be and it is hereby granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires to be placed thereon, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as said Company may deem necessary, in the public way or ways hereinafter referred to, as requested in petition of said Company dated the 9th day of December 2020.

All construction under this order shall be in accordance with the following conditions:

Poles shall be of sound timber, and reasonable straight, and shall be set substantially at the points indicated upon the plan marked – Bridge Rd. - Northampton, Massachusetts.

**23303524** Filed with this order:

There may be attached to said poles such wires, cables, and fixtures as needed in their business and all of said wires and cables shall be placed at a height of not less than twenty (20) feet from the ground.

The following are the public ways or part of ways along which the poles above referred to may be erected, and the number of poles which may be erected thereon under this order:

Bridge Rd. - National Grid to relocate (1) SO pole # 96-84 on Bridge Rd. beginning at a point approximately 378 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of North King St. and Bridge Rd. and continuing approximately 29' 6" in a north direction.

I hereby certify that the foregoing order was adopted at a meeting of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_, Massachusetts held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Massachusetts City/Town Clerk.  
20 \_\_\_\_\_

Received and entered in the records of location orders of the City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_  
Book \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Attest:  
City/Town Clerk

I hereby certify that on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, M  
at \_\_\_\_\_ a public hearing was held on the petition of  
Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID for permission to erect the poles, wires,  
and fixtures described in the order herewith recorded, and that we mailed at least seven days before  
said hearing a written notice of the time and place of said hearing to each of the owners of real  
estate (as determined by the last preceding assessment for taxation) along the ways or parts of  
ways upon which the Company is permitted to erect Poles, wires, and fixtures under said order.  
And that thereupon said order was duly adopted.

City/Town Clerk.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Board or Council of Town or City, Massachusetts

**CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the location order and certificate of  
hearing with notice adopted by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_  
Massachusetts, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of 20\_\_\_\_ and recorded with the records of location orders  
of the said City, Book \_\_\_\_\_, and Page \_\_\_\_\_. This certified copy is made under the  
provisions of Chapter 166 of General Laws and any additions thereto or amendments thereof.

Attest:  
City/Town Clerk

Questions contact – Daniel Lopez-Velez 774-235-2603  
**PETITION FOR POLE AND WIRE LOCATIONS**

North Andover, Massachusetts

To the City Council  
Of Northampton, Massachusetts

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Damon Rd. - National Grid to install (2) SO poles P0-50 and P7-50 and relocate (3) SO poles P16, P17, and P18 on Damon Rd. beginning at a point approximately 57 feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection of North King St. and Damon Rd. and continuing approximately 339 feet in an east direction.

Location approximately as shown on plan attached.

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked – Damon Rd. - Northampton, Massachusetts.

**23303524**

Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioner agrees to reserve space for one cross-arm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

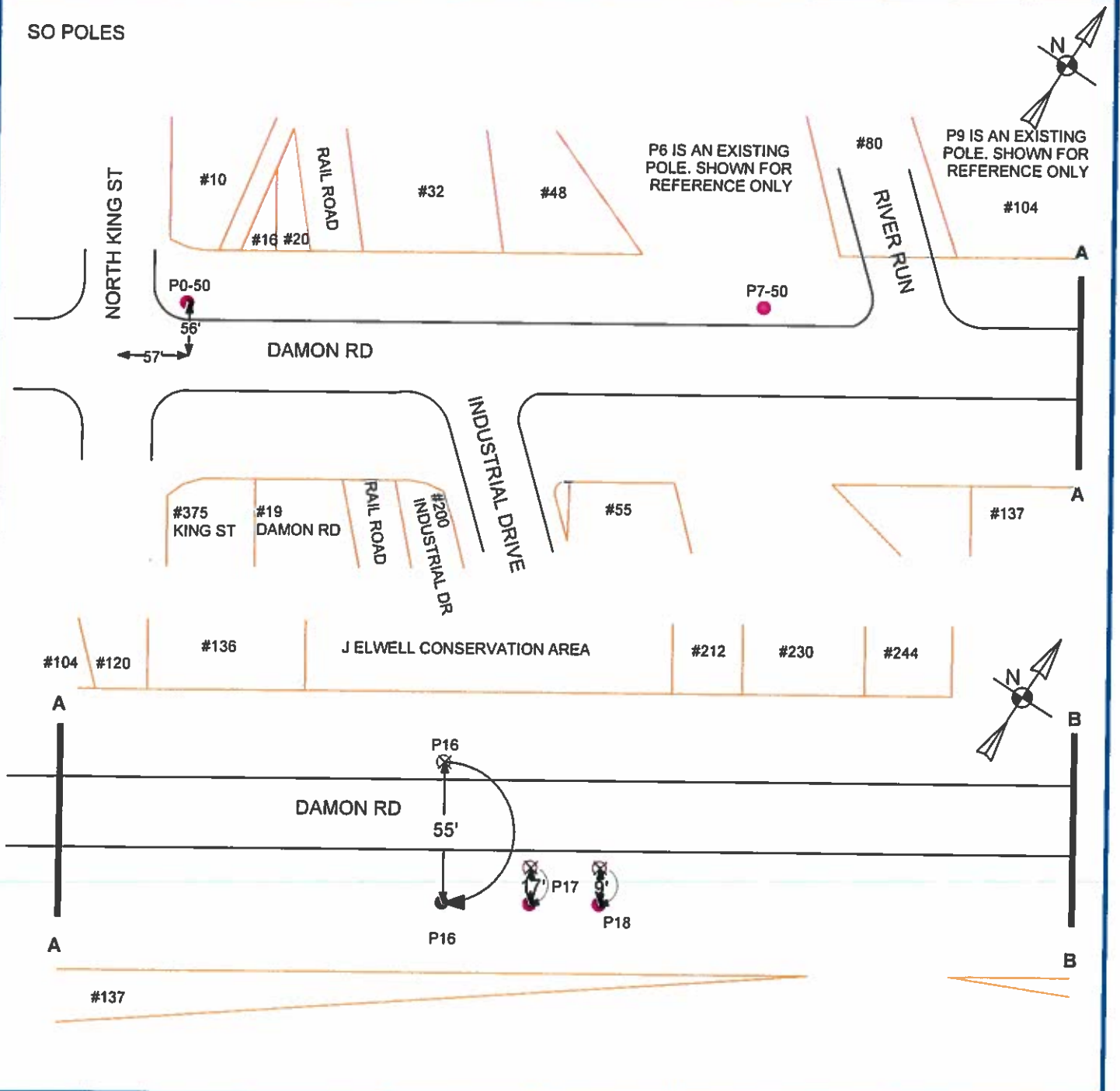
Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a  
NATIONAL GRID *Jim Kehrer/lla*

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Engineering Department

December 9, 2020

Damon Rd. SO petition

SO POLES



<b>SOLELY OWNED POLE PETITION</b>		<b>nationalgrid</b> And <b>Verizon New England, Inc.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposed NGRID Pole Locations		Date: 12/2/2020	
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing NGRID Pole Locations		Plan Number: WR# 23303524	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposed J.O. Pole Locations		To Accompany Petition Dated: 12/2/2020	
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing J.O. Pole Locations		To The: City Of Northampton	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing Telephone Co. Pole Locations		For Proposed: SO Pole: P0-50, P16-P18 Location: Damon Rd	
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing NGRID Pole Location To Be Made J.O.		Date Of Original Grant: N/A	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing Pole Locations To Be Removed			
DISTANCES ARE APPROXIMATE			

**ORDER FOR POLE AND WIRE LOCATIONS**

In the City of Northampton, Massachusetts

Notice having been given and public hearing held, as provided by law,  
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

that Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and be and it is hereby granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires to be placed thereon, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as said Company may deem necessary, in the public way or ways hereinafter referred to, as requested in petition of said Company dated the 9th day of December 2020.

All construction under this order shall be in accordance with the following conditions:

Poles shall be of sound timber, and reasonable straight, and shall be set substantially at the points indicated upon the plan marked – Damon Rd. - Northampton, Massachusetts.

**23303524** Filed with this order:

There may be attached to said poles such wires, cables, and fixtures as needed in their business and all of said wires and cables shall be placed at a height of not less than twenty (20) feet from the ground.

The following are the public ways or part of ways along which the poles above referred to may be erected, and the number of poles which may be erected thereon under this order:

Damon Rd. - National Grid to install (2) SO poles P0-50 and P7-50 and relocate (3) SO poles P16, P17, and P18 on Damon Rd. beginning at a point approximately 57 feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection of North King St. and Damon Rd. and continuing approximately 339 feet in an east direction.

I hereby certify that the foregoing order was adopted at a meeting of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_, Massachusetts held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Massachusetts City/Town Clerk.  
20 \_\_\_\_\_

Received and entered in the records of location orders of the City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_  
Book \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Attest:  
City/Town Clerk

I hereby certify that on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, M  
at \_\_\_\_\_ a public hearing was held on the petition of  
Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID for permission to erect the poles, wires,  
and fixtures described in the order herewith recorded, and that we mailed at least seven days before  
said hearing a written notice of the time and place of said hearing to each of the owners of real  
estate (as determined by the last preceding assessment for taxation) along the ways or parts of  
ways upon which the Company is permitted to erect Poles, wires, and fixtures under said order.  
And that thereupon said order was duly adopted.

City/Town Clerk.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Board or Council of Town or City, Massachusetts

**CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the location order and certificate of  
hearing with notice adopted by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_  
Massachusetts, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of 20\_\_\_\_ and recorded with the records of location orders  
of the said City, Book \_\_\_\_\_, and Page \_\_\_\_\_. This certified copy is made under the  
provisions of Chapter 166 of General Laws and any additions thereto or amendments thereof.

Attest:  
City/Town Clerk



December 9, 2020

The City Council of Northampton, Massachusetts

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find two (2) petitions of NATIONAL GRID and VERIZON, covering joint NATIONAL GRID-VERIZON pole location(s)

If you have any questions regarding this permit, please contact:

**Dan Lopez-Velez 774-235-2603**

Please notify National Grid's **Lisa Ayres** of the hearing date / time.

If this petition meets with your approval, please return an executed copy to each of the above-named Companies.

National Grid: Lisa Ayres; 1101 Turnpike Street; North Andover, MA 01845  
978-725-1418

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Kehrer/lla".

Jim Kehrer  
Supervisor, Distribution Design

Enclosures

Questions contact - Daniel Lopez-Velez 774-235-2603  
**PETITION FOR JOINT OR IDENTICAL POLE LOCATIONS**

North Andover, Massachusetts

To the City Council  
Of Northampton, Massachusetts

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and Verizon New England, Inc requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Damon Rd. - National Grid to install (3), remove (1) and relocate (28) JO poles on Damon Rd. beginning at a point approximately 140 feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection of North King St. and Damon Rd. and continuing approximately 4200 feet in an east direction; install, remove and relocate poles along Damon Rd. from P1 to P31.

Location approximately as shown on plan attached.

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked – Damon Rd. - Northampton, Massachusetts.

**23303524**

Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioner agrees to reserve space for one cross-arm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a  
NATIONAL GRID *Jim Kehrer/lla*

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Engineering Department

VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC.

BY *Albert C. Bessette*  
Manager / Right of Way

Dated: December 3, 2020

Questions contact – Daniel Lopez-Velez 774-235-2603

**ORDER FOR JOINT OR IDENTICAL POLE LOCATIONS**

To the City Council - Northampton, Massachusetts

Notice having been given and public hearing held, as provided by law,  
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

that Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC. (formerly known as NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY) be and they are hereby granted joint or identical locations for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires to be placed thereon, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as said Companies may deem necessary, in the public way or ways hereinafter referred to, as requested in petition of said Companies dated the 3rd day of December 2020.

All construction under this order shall be in accordance with the following conditions:

Poles shall be of sound timber, and reasonable straight, and shall be set substantially at the points indicated upon the plan marked – Damon Rd. - Northampton, Massachusetts.

23303524 Filed with this order:

There may be attached to said poles by Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and Verizon New England Inc. such wires, cables, and fixtures as needed in their business and all of said wires and cables shall be placed at a height of not less than twenty (20) feet from the ground.

The following are the public ways or part of ways along which the poles above referred to may be erected, and the number of poles which may be erected thereon under this order:

Damon Rd. - National Grid to install (3), remove (1) and relocate (28) JO poles on Damon Rd. beginning at a point approximately 140 feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection of North King St. and Damon Rd. and continuing approximately 4200 feet in an east direction; install, remove and relocate poles along Damon Rd. from P1 to P31.

Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

I hereby certify that the foregoing order was adopted at a meeting of the  
Of the City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_, Massachusetts held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20 .

Massachusetts

City/Town Clerk.  
20 .

Received and entered in the records of location orders of the City/Town of  
Book Page

Attest:  
City/Town Clerk

I hereby certify that on 20 , at o'clock, M  
At a public hearing was held on the petition of  
Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND,  
INC. for permission to erect the poles, wires, and fixtures described in the order herewith recorded,  
and that we mailed at least seven days before said hearing a written notice of the time and place of  
said hearing to each of the owners of real estate (as determined by the last preceding assessment  
for taxation) along the ways or parts of ways upon which the Company is permitted to erect  
Poles, wires, and fixtures under said order. And that thereupon said order was duly adopted.

City/Town Clerk.

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.....

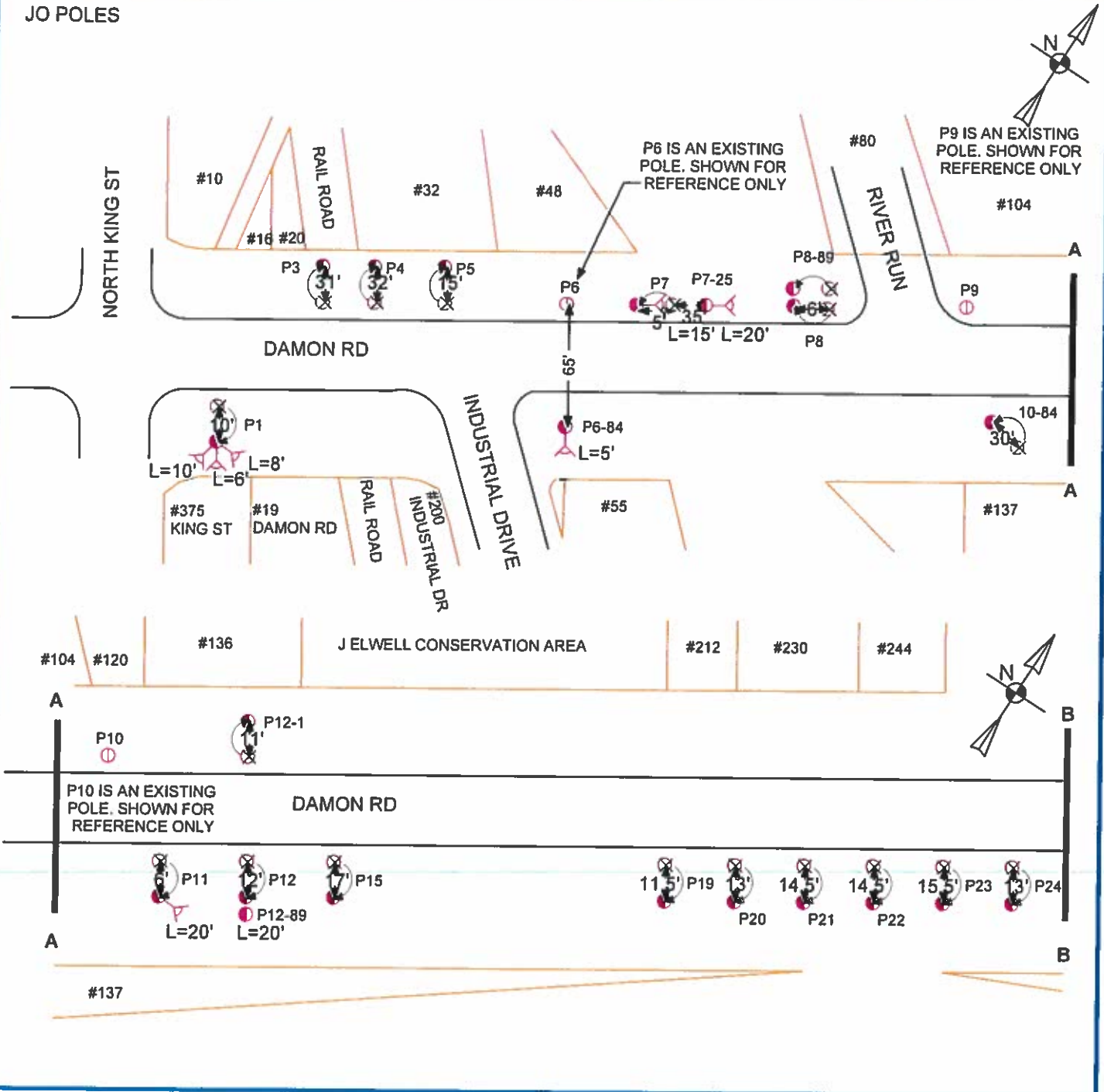
Board or Council of Town or City, Massachusetts

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the location order and certificate of  
hearing with notice adopted by the of the City of  
Massachusetts, on the day of 20 and recorded with the records of location orders  
of the said City, Book , and Page . This certified copy is made under the  
provisions of Chapter 166 of General Laws and any additions thereto or amendments thereof.

Attest:  
City/Town Clerk

JO POLES



**JOINT OWNED POLE PETITION**

**nationalgrid**

And  
**Verizon New England, Inc.**

- Proposed NGRID Pole Locations
- Existing NGRID Pole Locations
- ⦿ Proposed J.O. Pole Locations
- ⓪ Existing J.O. Pole Locations
- ⊕ Existing Telephone Co. Pole Locations
- ⊗ Existing NGRID Pole Location To Be Made J.O.
- ⊗ Existing Pole Locations To Be Removed

Date: 12/2/2020

Plan Number: WR# 23303524

To Accompany Petition Dated: 12/2/2020

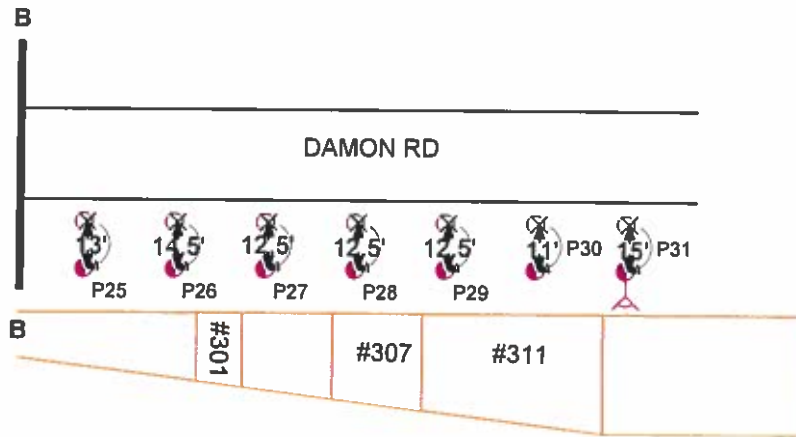
To The: City Of Northampton


For Proposed: JO Pole: P1 TO P24 Location: Damon Rd

Date Of Original Grant: N/A

DISTANCES ARE APPROXIMATE

JO POLES



<b>JOINT OWNED POLE PETITION</b>	 And <b>Verizon New England, Inc.</b>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Proposed NGRID Pole Locations	Date: 12/2/2020
<input type="radio"/> Existing NGRID Pole Locations	Plan Number: WR# 23303524
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Proposed J.O. Pole Locations	To Accompany Petition Dated: 12/2/2020
<input type="radio"/> Existing J.O. Pole Locations	To The: City Of Northampton
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Existing Telephone Co. Pole Locations	For Proposed: JO Pole: P25 TO P31 Location: Damon Rd
<input type="radio"/> Existing NGRID Pole Location To Be Made J.O.	Date Of Original Grant: N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing Pole Locations To Be Removed	
DISTANCES ARE APPROXIMATE	

Questions contact - Daniel Lopez-Velez 774-235-2603  
**PETITION FOR JOINT OR IDENTICAL POLE LOCATIONS**

North Andover, Massachusetts

To the City Council  
Of Northampton, Massachusetts

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and Verizon New England, Inc requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Bridge Rd. - National Grid to relocate (3) JO poles P96, P97, P98 on Bridge Rd. beginning at a point approximately 123 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of North King St. and Bridge Rd. and continuing approximately 400 feet in a west direction.

Location approximately as shown on plan attached.

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked – Bridge Rd. - Northampton, Massachusetts.

**23303524**

Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioner agrees to reserve space for one cross-arm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a  
NATIONAL GRID *Jim Kehrer/lla*  
BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Engineering Department

VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC.  
BY *Albert E. Bessette*  
Manager / Right of Way

Dated: December 3, 2020

Questions contact – Daniel Lopez-Velez 774-235-2603

**ORDER FOR JOINT OR IDENTICAL POLE LOCATIONS**

To the City Council - Northampton, Massachusetts

Notice having been given and public hearing held, as provided by law,  
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

that Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC. (formerly known as NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY) be and they are hereby granted joint or identical locations for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires to be placed thereon, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as said Companies may deem necessary, in the public way or ways hereinafter referred to, as requested in petition of said Companies dated the 3rd day of December 2020.

All construction under this order shall be in accordance with the following conditions:

Poles shall be of sound timber, and reasonable straight, and shall be set substantially at the points indicated upon the plan marked – Bridge Rd. - Northampton, Massachusetts.

23303524 Filed with this order:

There may be attached to said poles by Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and Verizon New England Inc. such wires, cables, and fixtures as needed in their business and all of said wires and cables shall be placed at a height of not less than twenty (20) feet from the ground.

The following are the public ways or part of ways along which the poles above referred to may be erected, and the number of poles which may be erected thereon under this order:

Bridge Rd. - National Grid to relocate (3) JO poles P96, P97, P98 on Bridge Rd. beginning at a point approximately 123 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of North King St. and Bridge Rd. and continuing approximately 400 feet in a west direction.

Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

I hereby certify that the foregoing order was adopted at a meeting of the  
Of the City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_, Massachusetts held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20 .

\_\_\_\_\_  
Massachusetts City/Town Clerk.  
20 .

Received and entered in the records of location orders of the City/Town of  
Book Page

Attest:  
City/Town Clerk

I hereby certify that on 20 , at o'clock, M  
At a public hearing was held on the petition of  
Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND,  
INC. for permission to erect the poles, wires, and fixtures described in the order herewith recorded,  
and that we mailed at least seven days before said hearing a written notice of the time and place of  
said hearing to each of the owners of real estate (as determined by the last preceding assessment  
for taxation) along the ways or parts of ways upon which the Company is permitted to erect  
Poles, wires, and fixtures under said order. And that thereupon said order was duly adopted.

City/Town Clerk.

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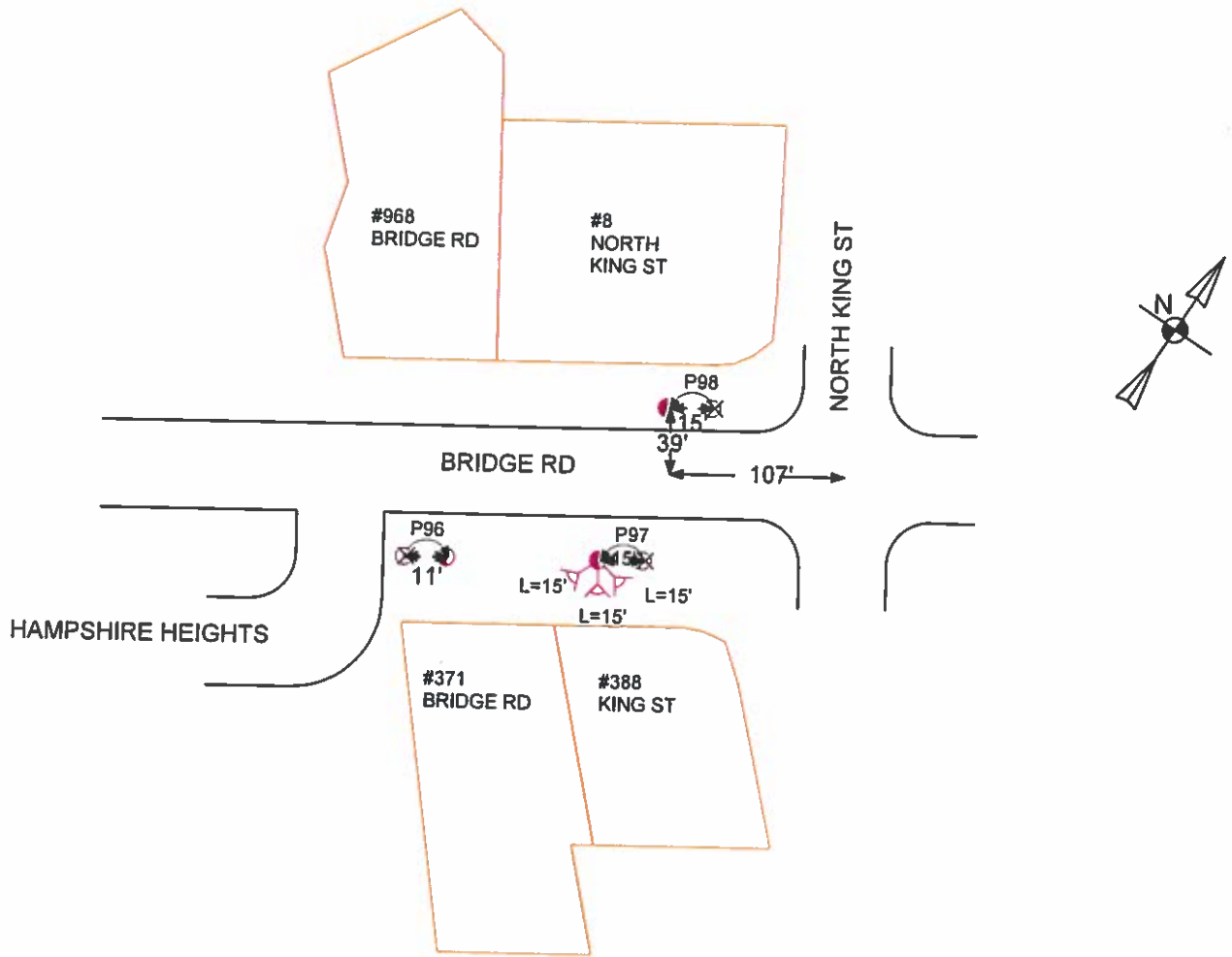
Board or Council of Town or City, Massachusetts

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the location order and certificate of  
hearing with notice adopted by the of the City of  
Massachusetts, on the day of 20 and recorded with the records of location orders  
of the said City, Book , and Page . This certified copy is made under the  
provisions of Chapter 166 of General Laws and any additions thereto or amendments thereof.

Attest:  
City/Town Clerk

JO POLES



<b>JOINT OWNED POLE PETITION</b>		<b>nationalgrid</b> And <b>Verizon New England, Inc.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposed NGRID Pole Locations		Date:	10/14/2020
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing NGRID Pole Locations		Plan Number:	WR# 23303524
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposed J.O. Pole Locations		To Accompany Petition Dated:	10/14/2020
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing J.O. Pole Locations		To The:	City Of Northampton
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing Telephone Co. Pole Locations		For Proposed:	JO Pole: <sup>P96 TO</sup> <sub>P98</sub> Location: Bridge Rd
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing NGRID Pole Location To Be Made J.O.		Date Of Original Grant:	N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing Pole Locations To Be Removed			
DISTANCES ARE APPROXIMATE			

***In the City Council, February 4, 2021***

**Upon the Recommendation of Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra, Councilor William H. Dwight and Councilor James Nash**

**21.193 A Resolution Opposing Internet Data Caps & Committing to Achieving Just Internet Access and Affordability**

WHEREAS, the internet has become a critical utility for individuals, families, businesses and government, and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic internet access has become even more essential to safely participate in education, earn a living, obtain healthcare, connect with family, friends, and community, and participate in local government, and

WHEREAS, Northampton residents are primarily served by Comcast/Xfinity for their internet service, and

WHEREAS, Comcast/Xfinity has announced for the first time the imposition of a “data-cap<sup>1</sup>” beginning in the spring of 2021, that will place a limit on the amount of data an internet consumer may utilize before facing additional charges for internet service, and

WHEREAS, data-caps have no purpose for the consumer. They do not address network traffic or peak time capacity, as they are based on a monthly total of usage. Their irrelevance was proven by Comcast when they suspended already existing data-caps in other parts of the country from the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to July 2020 without detriment to the network, and

WHEREAS, the rising cost of internet access, unimpeded by lack of market competition and the increased service demand during the pandemic, is of concern to residents across Northampton, and

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2020 a group of seventy-one Massachusetts legislators sent a letter to Comcast/Xfinity urging them to reconsider their decision to impose this data-cap<sup>2</sup>, and

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<sup>1</sup> Butz, Greg. “Our Nationwide Data Plan,” *Comcast Corporate*. Nov 24, 2020.

<https://corporate.comcast.com/stories/our-nationwide-data-plan>

<sup>2</sup> Bray, Hiawatha. “Mass. lawmakers oppose Comcast’s plan to charge home Internet users extra: fee for exceeding data cap is at odds with life during pandemic, they say.” *Boston Globe*. December 31, 2020. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/12/31/business/mass-lawmakers-warn-comcast-new-data-caps/>

WHEREAS, as is the case with all essential utilities, the City of Northampton has a responsibility to ensure affordable access to all residents,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northampton City Council urges Comcast/Xfinity to reverse their decision to impose a data-cap on customers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northampton City Council urges our state and federal legislative delegations to consider consumer protection legislation to regulate and end data-caps, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northampton City Council commits to evaluating internet services moving forward with the goal of ensuring all residents have equitable and affordable options to necessary high quality internet, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Northampton shall continue to explore just and fair alternative internet service systems for the vital use of the entire community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to the Federal Communications Commission, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Edward Markey, Congressman Jim McGovern, State Senator Jo Comerford and the State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa.



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CONDUCTED AS AN ON-LINE ZOOM MEETING  
Northampton, MA**

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<p><b><u>Roll Call</u></b></p>	<p>A regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by Council President Gina-Louise Sciarra. At 8:49 p.m. on a roll call the following City Councilors were present:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">At-Large Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra</td> <td style="width: 50%;">At-Large Councilor William H. Dwight</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ward 1 Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.</td> <td>Ward 5 Councilor Alex Jarrett</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ward 2 Councilor Karen Foster</td> <td>Ward 6 Councilor Marianne LaBarge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ward 3 Councilor James B. Nash</td> <td>Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ward 4 Councilor John Thorpe</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	At-Large Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra	At-Large Councilor William H. Dwight	Ward 1 Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.	Ward 5 Councilor Alex Jarrett	Ward 2 Councilor Karen Foster	Ward 6 Councilor Marianne LaBarge	Ward 3 Councilor James B. Nash	Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore	Ward 4 Councilor John Thorpe	
At-Large Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra	At-Large Councilor William H. Dwight										
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Ward 2 Councilor Karen Foster	Ward 6 Councilor Marianne LaBarge										
Ward 3 Councilor James B. Nash	Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore										
Ward 4 Councilor John Thorpe											
<p><b><u>Announcement of Audio/Video Recording</u></b></p>	<p>Councilor Sciarra announced that the meeting was being held via remote participation and audio and video recorded.</p>										
<p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b> Councilor Sciarra opened the floor to public comment and explained the procedure she would use to recognize people wishing to make a comment.</p>										
<p><b><u>Public Hearings</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Public Hearings</u></b> None.</p>										
<p><b><u>I Updates from Council President/ Committee Chairs</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Updates from Council President and Committee Chairs</u></b> The City Services Committee meeting scheduled for January 4, 2021 has been rescheduled to January 14, 2021 at 4 p.m., Councilor LaBarge reminded.</p>										
<p><b><u>Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors</u></b> Saying he didn't want it to pass without notice, Councilor Dwight recognized the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Northampton needle exchange, one of the original above-ground needle exchanges established in the Commonwealth. It is the model of a harm reduction program initiated by Tapestry in conjunction with Police Chief Russell Sienkiewicz and then Mayor Mary Ford in a time when resistance to needle exchanges was intense and saturated with bigotry and deep misunderstanding of substance abuse, HIV and Hep C transmission and other problems associated with intravenous drug use. He acknowledged the work of Leslie Laurie and the late former Holyoke City Councilor Tim Currington, who he watched endure some hideous community reaction with grace and courage. Liz Whynot is the current director. He commented that he is grateful for the program and for the city that had the courage to put it into use.</p>										
<p><b><u>Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor</u></b> None.</p>										
<p><b><u>Resolutions 20.113 Resolution in Support of Plastic Reduction and Sustainability Ordinance - 1st reading</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Resolutions 20.113 A Resolution in Support of Plastic Reduction and Sustainability Ordinance - 1st reading</u></b> The city solicitor has advised that he recuse himself from this discussion and discussion of the ordinance later tonight due to a possible conflict with his business Pedal People, Councilor Jarrett disclosed.</p> <p>The sponsors request postponement of discussion of this resolution since it would presume passage of the ordinance which is to be debated tonight, Councilor Dwight explained. They would like to defer this to their next meeting presuming that the ordinance either passes or fails</p>										

tonight. It would be appropriate to consider it after the second reading of the ordinance, he suggested. The co-sponsors are in agreement, Councilor Maiore confirmed.

**Northampton Policing Review Commission Preliminary Report**

**Northampton Policing Review Commission Preliminary Report**

Northampton Policing Review Commission (NPRC) Chair Daniel Cannity presented highlights of the report. He thanked the City Council and Mayor for creating the joint commission and recognized the work of fellow commissioners, including the contribution of three who have since resigned - Dana Olivo, Carmen Lopez and Larissa Rivera. He also thanked community members who participated in and attended meetings.

The NPRC was formed in response to a national outcry around police brutality and recognition of the history of the institution of policing and its link to racism, sexism, classism and homophobia, Cannity reminded. It was also in response to a local outcry for justice and request to rethink the concept of policing and community services. To that end, they created three subcommittees: Alternatives to Policing, Policing Policies and Services and Spending and Contracts. They also recently formed another subcommittee related to community outreach in recognition of the need to involve the people most impacted by proposed changes. They have invited a number of local, national and international presenters to discuss what is happening within the city and the city’s needs. They have also looked broadly at other contexts where changes have been made, from small changes to reform to action close to abolition, just to understand what the possibilities are and to inspire them. They have made dozens of requests for information from the police department and city in general and this informs their work. They just received more information yesterday to account for police officers’ activities during working hours.

The report is organized into three different sections related to the subcommittees but he stated his intention to condense it into major themes explored by the commission, including:

- ❖ disparities between community members who feel safe and those who don’t, why some people don’t feel safe within the community and what they need to feel safe.
- ❖ history and funding of the police department and responsibilities police have taken on.

He posed a series of questions propounded by Booker Bush, including, “How do we want our child who is experiencing a profound bout of depression to be treated, by a police officer or by a supportive team of providers?”

“If the community has nothing else to offer, the police become the answer,” he quoted Dr. Bush as adding. This is related to police being the fallback for disinvestment in other community services, Cannity asserted.

In looking at movements to defund, such movements also call for reinvestment, he stressed. Any time something is taken away from the police, it needs to be redirected. If they’re taking away money, they also need to take away responsibilities and put it towards the group best suited for the task.

- ❖ Finding the right group or person for the job.

Cannity explained the commission’s underlying premise that, just as they wouldn’t send an electrician to a fire, they shouldn’t send law enforcement to calls that are not crimes, such as dealing with unhoused people or people in mental health crises. They are looking to see what better options they can come up with. Alternatives include peer responder and co-responder models but some of the most compelling are peer-led responders; i.e., well-trained people with expertise who also have lived experience.

With regard to policing policies, many look good on paper and sound really nice but don’t always address all of the concerns of the community, especially those of people most impacted by the problems, Cannity suggested. They are looking at existing policies with an eye toward considering alternatives and making sure everything is in alignment.

- ❖ Accountability and transparency

Commissioners are concerned with making sure accountability is built into any changes they propose and that the people most impacted by services have a voice in those services, not just at the inception point but continually throughout operation of the program/service.

Finally, commissioners are looking at the cost of policing, ranging from exorbitant state costs for incarceration to costs to the city of police responding to inappropriate calls.

The Policies and Services Subcommittee identified several areas where there is marked room for improvement, including policies around school resource officers, domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, mental health and addiction services, interactions with houseless individuals, drone surveillance and traffic enforcement. He offered to review these in greater detail upon request.

### **REALLOCATION**

They are also looking at options for costs; i.e., ways the city can allocate funds away from some departments towards others that reinvest in communities and safety options. This includes looking at revenue generated by the police from outside details and from budget cuts to other departments, including the police department itself. The commission has a wish that the council and mayor work together to allocate the funds that have already been cut from the police department to community safety investments such as the resiliency hub, additional warming shelters, employment and housing. They want to be really clear that, with all of the things they are looking at, the 10% from this year is not going to be a long-term solution. Even before they release their final report, they are looking for those funds to be allocated out into the community.

They are also looking at pay equity across departments within the city. Police represent 34% of city employees who make over \$85,000 per year, nine out of 20 of the top highest-paid employees and four out of the top five highest-paid. They want to make sure that whatever changes are made there is pay equity across the work force, especially considering that employees of peer responder models tend to be underpaid.

Mr. Cannity said that was the executive summary and he would be happy to answer questions.

Councilor Sciarra commented that the preliminary report is quite extensive and clearly reflects the time and effort the commission is investing.

As noted, city officials have given them an enormous charge and the amount of time and work the commission has invested in this has been substantial, Councilor Dwight acknowledged. He asked if, with the deadline looming, members feel they have been overtaxed or if they think they can come up with a substantive, actionable report that they are comfortable with.

Mr. Cannity said yes-ish. He is pretty confident they can have some strong recommendations that are well-thought out for short-term goals. He is a little concerned about the broad, sweeping ideas in terms of exactly how they're going to be implemented. A lot of the recommendations are going to end up being for a process along with a method of on-going evaluation to make sure it meets the expectations of the city. Although there are many issues of agreement, there is also a lot of tension within the group, he acknowledged. He thinks one of the things that they will end up recommending is that there is room for more. In terms of their recommendations, it's going to be more about a process.

Councilor Dwight commented that what he describes is not a symptom of a problem but a symptom of a vibrant, high-functioning commission. Those discussions and debates should exist, he suggested.

Since the establishment of the commission, the state has created new standards by which law enforcement will be held accountable going forward, Councilor Dwight noted. He asked if that meshes with things they are working on or if they have found points of conflict with it.

Mr. Cannity said he doesn't think there are points of conflict, but the state's recommendations as they stand are a bare minimum. As a city, he thinks that they deserve better. NPRC recommendations are much closer to the original draft of state legislation before amendments were made.

Mr. Cannity fielded extensive comments and questions from councilors. Councilor Quinlan noted with regret the resignation of three of the four women of color on the commission, commenting that having meetings at night for these three, especially on Zoom, proved to be impossible.

Councilor Maire commented on how impressed she is with the initial report, noting that the

level of discourse, respect, thoughtfulness and analysis is doing a great service to the community. She encouraged the inclusion of metrics in the final report to guide the budget process and voiced concern that, while it may be efficient and easier to use established organizations, it is important to have accountability in a higher sense so as not to risk transferring services to a police-like organization. She would like to better understand the value of the city creating its own team vs. using established organizations in the community.

She said she was struck by the number of unaccounted hours in the pie chart created using the call logs and wondered why so much was unknown about the calls.

With regard to accountability, the cost/benefit is really going to be about measuring and making sure existing organizations already have a commitment to justice, equality and other desired values, Mr. Cannity said. If they don't already have that and it's not demonstrated, it is very unlikely that the service is going to meet the city's expectations.

Meanwhile, they are looking at what it takes to create a new team or department and examples of places where this has already been done.

With regard to the logs, Mr. Cannity explained that sometimes police are doing more than one thing and this is not captured by the system of recording. Also, the number of available hours was based on the 47 full-time patrol officers budgeted, but the police chief explained just yesterday that on average only 35 officers are on duty. He hasn't had time yet to update the chart to reflect the updated information. They also just received more information to account for about 17,000 of the 69,000 hours. Total hours presented also do not account for paid time off such as vacation, family and personal leave. "This is still preliminary," he stressed.

In response to a comment from Councilor LaBarge, Mr. Cannity said the commission is looking at shifting to civilian flaggers but this is not something that has been easily implementable in Massachusetts. They are also looking at changing traffic enforcement in general so that traffic enforcement is unarmed, reducing the chance for a fatal engagement.

The state police union in Massachusetts is one of the strongest police unions in the country and consequently, Massachusetts is the only state that mandates that any work on a highway system needs a police detail, Councilor Dwight volunteered. It is a means to an end, which is gathering extra overtime for police. That is why state police cruisers are always seen on road construction projects; officers are not even obligated to get out of their cars. As some have proposed, a living wage could be paid to a flagger to do literally the same thing.

Very recently, Massachusetts has allowed civilian flaggers for some types of traffic details but the wages they require are very similar to the wages that are paid for the police so there is not much of an incentive to use them, Councilor Jarrett added. Civilian flaggers can be used but many communities don't use them because they don't save much money.

In response to a question from Councilor Nash about actionable steps, Mr. Cannity said they do not yet have direct recommendations for exactly what to do with \$887,000 cut from the FY2021 police budget. Initial cuts were made in a particular spirit and they would advocate for those funds to be used as soon as possible. They will include recommendations for their use if they have not been used by the time of the final report. He doesn't think a long-term solution could be funded with that money.

Councilor Nash asked if they have looked at dispatch, and Mr. Cannity confirmed they have talked about it pretty extensively. Any major change to emergency services and crisis response in cities has to include well-trained dispatch that knows the questions they should be asking and how to redirect individuals to services that exist. Everyone points to Cahoots as an example because it has three decades of success behind it. Dispatch is the initial point of contact and there are different ways to do it. Emergency services can all have the same number or there can be a separate number for non-violent, non-threatening emergencies. "Dispatch is a big part of it," he agreed.

Councilor Foster thanked Mr. Cannity for the incredible amount of work and thought members have put into this process. When they talked about establishing a commission, this is what they had in mind. She loved the framing of how they would want their loved one responded to in a

mental health crisis. She did read the report and appreciated its recognition that simply using an existing social service agency to handle mental health calls isn't as easy as it may sound.

She thinks they need to recognize that, as part of the process, they are going to need to spend more money upfront to create the kind of change they are looking for. (She gave the example of how investment in out of school time programs has been shown to save money in the long run in policing and incarceration since the peak time youths commit crimes is after-school hours.)

She also brought up the potential for privacy concerns around electronic traffic enforcement.

Mr. Cannity agreed that defunding the police without making an investment in community services just creates problems down the line since right now police have a lot of the responsibility for community safety. He mentioned savings in police spending that have been realized in communities where peer responder and co-responder models have been introduced.

Regarding traffic enforcement, every time an officer pulls someone over there's a potential for violent interaction, so one of the things that has been looked at is just reducing the number of stops at night, he related

He mentioned different kinds of electronic enforcement, including license plate readers, stationary cameras, radar and facial recognition technology. Facial recognition technology especially is related to a lot of problems with racial inequity.

It's worth noting that facial recognition and municipally-operated stationary cameras are banned in the City of Northampton specifically for the reasons cited, Councilor Dwight advised.

As a fellow member of the NPRC, Councilor Jarrett thanked Mr. Cannity for the presentation and for serving as first co-chair and then chair. He thinks the report is really a great synthesis of the work of their commission. Councilors will see in the report acknowledgement of further work that needs to be done, and commissioners welcome feedback about what future work is needed. In thinking about costs, it's important to remember that much of these costs, i.e., medical and incarceration, are borne by organizations other than the municipality. If they can avoid having people incarcerated, it saves the state a great amount of money, and it would be great to figure out a way to share in that savings, Councilor Jarrett suggested.

He thinks Massachusetts pays roughly \$70,000 per year for every person that's incarcerated, Mr. Cannity shared. The NPRC made some requests from the district attorney for information about the outcomes for people incarcerated from this community. As people are diverted away from incarceration they could make a pretty strong correlation between interventions done by the city and the outcomes seen. In Dallas, they introduced a simple co-responder model and saw 31% fewer people going to jail, county lock-up or the hospital. Assuming they see a similar reduction, that's a pretty significant number to bring to the state.

Councilor Sciarra made the observation that they have very rich qualitative data from the community and voluminous quantitative data from the police department but little qualitative data from this source. She asked what the commission's process will be for interviewing and collecting information from police department members.

They have gotten some information from the police chief through freedom of information requests and have had lively internal debates about where, when and how to include police personnel themselves, Mr. Cannity said. The Policies and Services Subcommittee wants to bring the chief in to speak but other folks wanted to bring in individual officers. The commission as a body has left it up to the individual subcommittees to decide who they want to bring in and for what purpose.

Councilor Foster pointed out that, in talking about percentages of incarceration, they are talking about human lives. Although questions may have been couched in terms of the budget, she wanted to recognize that actual people's lives will potentially be benefitted by this work.

Councilor Sciarra thanked Mr. Cannity for his report and presentation.

**Ordinances**  
**20.114 Plastic**  
**Reduction &**  
**Sustainability**  
**Ordinance - 1st**  
**reading**

**Ordinances**  
**20.114 Plastic Reduction & Sustainability Ordinance - 1st reading**

Councilor Sciarra stated her intention to move this item up on the agenda if there was no objection.

Councilor Jarrett stated his intention to recuse himself.

Councilor Sciarra read the ordinance.

Councilor Dwight moved to put the ordinance on the floor for discussion. Councilor Maiore seconded.

Councilor Dwight moved to recognize Noah Kassis, Eli Marlin, Renna Pye and Marty Nathan. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused.

Councilor Dwight invited Youth Commission Chair Noah Kassis to open the discussion since the ordinance is the product of the earnest and inspired work of that commission. Discussion on the ordinance has been ongoing for at least two years, and the Youth Commission has been devoted to this issue for a long time, he noted.

This has been very much a team effort across several generations of the Youth Commission with their fantastic community partners, doctors Renna Pye and Marty Nathan, and he's glad to get to the council floor, Noah related. He thanked Councilor Nash as chair of the Community Resources Committee and said he is looking forward to answering any and all questions. For young people, the climate crisis is a very important issue. Tackling it through a plastics ordinance is not the flashiest way of going about it but is one way for the city to start to address the issue. There are going to be a lot more ways, and he promised he or his successors would be back with more climate-related initiatives.

Councilor Nash summarized the process the Community Resources Committee followed in reviewing the ordinance and reported on its findings. He worked with Downtown Northampton Association (DNA) Executive Director Amy Cahillane, Marty Nathan, Renna Pye, Councilor Maiore and Eli Marlin on extensive outreach to the business community, including flyering downtown businesses and personally speaking with many business owners, he reported.

Councilor Nash summarized the major concerns heard from the business community and how they were addressed: specifically, the need for plastic straws for people with disabilities, concern about the August 1<sup>st</sup> start date, the timing of the ordinance in relation to the pandemic and the unreliability of the supply chain. Amendments have been made to address the first two concerns. Regarding timing, after consulting the city solicitor he has come to the conclusion that they should enact the proposal tonight with the idea that, as the responsible body, come January 1<sup>st</sup>, if they still are in a state of emergency, they could delay implementation. If they are still in a pandemic, he will bring to the floor next year a delay order that will last until the end of the pandemic, he pledged. They don't want to do undue harm to businesses, he assured.

With regard to the supply chain, he acknowledged that due to the pandemic and high demand for take-out, the availability of materials required by the ordinance is unreliable. He and Councilor Maiore spent a lot of time with Herrell's and Cooper's Corner, two businesses in particular that feel they're going to be very impacted by the exemptions. He had a discussion with the mayor today about situations where compliance would be so detrimental to a business that another solution would need to be considered, and the Mayor shared with him that he would be open to such consideration. The job of the executive is to work with the council, he pointed out. Two years from now, should there be a business which would have an undue negative effect due to this ordinance, the city and city council will work with that business, he avowed.

Mayor Narkewicz confirmed that if the administrative arm encounters an issue that requires some modifications or allowances, the executive branch would come back to the council and say 'we need to adjust this.' That's certainly very commonplace with ordinances, he noted.

It is worth noting this is true of every ordinance, Councilor Dwight commented. As an example, he cited King Street zoning. Standards were established that those in the business community

felt were too restrictive and stifled development. The chamber came back and lobbied for change and the city council effectively changed the ordinances. There was a recommendation to tie the implementation date to the lifting of the state of emergency, but the city solicitor's strong recommendation was to attach it to a date certain.

Sponsors have been responsive, inquisitive and conscientious about how this proceeds while at the same time maintaining its essential mission. One very encouraging outcome from all the Zoom calls is that it appears there is unanimity on the need to reduce the human contributions to climate change and environmental degradation. Almost everyone has prefaced their remarks with agreement that something must and should be done.

Progressive insults on the climate are not the consequences of a dark campaign prosecuted by a malevolent state. "We did this...all of us are complicit because we tend to favor expedience and expense over all other things."

"We must address our impact on the ongoing systemic collapse of the climate with the same urgency and commitment and sacrifice that we addressed the pandemic," he suggested. What's more critical at this point is to protect everyone else in the community. Their response to this is just as critical. "We're sitting here dealing with a ticking clock."

What they're doing is declaring that they will not be complicit in this process. They've been bested by Westfield, a much more conservative community. The reason for doing this is to protect all of them and generations subsequent to them. It is particularly powerful because it is inspired and presented by the youth commission, a group with much greater investment in the outcome than older residents. Their urgency is not fashionable; their urgency is genuine. As the fossil fuel industry - the creator of all plastics - has transitioned out of producing fuel oil, they've decided that their only salvation is to invest in a massive expansion of plastics. One thing he found in his research is that all the plastics ever created with the exception of those burned still exist today. "To now, all of that plastic is still with us. It's still part of our system and, as we find out, it's part of our reproductive systems, our food chain, our blood systems [and] our endocrine systems."

The fossil fuel industry is one of the most egregious sources of climate impact. The creation of plastics now is threatening to outstrip the danger of cars. They have a very real obligation not to come off as hypocrites. They have to at every opportunity that presents itself enact laws and policies that move them toward that goal. As such, 1) they won't be complicit, and 2) they become a model and help to persuade state initiatives. Questions and concerns relative to the supply chain, etc., have been addressed. The more real questions that are problematic are the ones raised by Rebecca and Dmitri and also heard from Amy and Jesse. Since the city ceded that it will no longer manage and control its own waste and own landfill, they now have to deal with the increased pressures for compostability. The hope is that it will inspire more people to compost at home and that the city will be able to do something to accommodate the increased volume of compostable material.

"I don't think we should dispense with this ordinance or postpone it any more out of those concerns," he concluded.

He did want to ask the solicitor whether this applies to municipal systems. He would want to ask the solicitor, but he thinks it does. Hopefully before they get to second reading he will have an opportunity to speak to the solicitor about that. He would recommend alphabetizing definitions in the beginning, he added.

Councilor Maiore said she completely agreed with Rebecca Robbins, Aimee Francaes and Amy Cahillane that they're going to have to figure this out as a city. There is definitely going to have to be a component of consumer education and consumer involvement. She doesn't think they can wait to come to some stable place to then pass an ordinance.

This is certainly something that there's more work to be done on, but the starting point is precisely here.

As she had at Legislative Matters, Councilor LaBarge advocated for including language in the ordinance to put businesses on notice that no establishment has the right to ask anyone the

nature of their disability. However, Councilor Dwight reiterated his previously-stated belief that since this is already covered by the Americans with Disabilities (ADA), it is unnecessary to repeat it here. In general, in order to make laws more streamlined and approachable, they don't repeat in local ordinance what is already established under Mass General Law and state law.

Noah said he agrees with Councilor Dwight about repeating the ADA language. There is a requirement that the mayor or mayor's designee provide succinct materials explaining the requirements of the ordinance. He thinks this admonition should be included in that material.

When Northampton passed the plastic bag ban, the city created a flyer and other educational materials to distribute to businesses. Mayor Narkewicz confirmed. He agreed it could be included in the educational material.

Councilor Quinlan said he heard a call for the city itself to have a facility or program for handling compostable infrastructure. He challenged the Youth Commission to think of what the city can do to support this. He asked whether packaged plastic straws will still be for sale by retailers under this ordinance.

The way he's reading it and the way it was intended, a retail establishment cannot distribute non-polypropylene straws, Noah responded. A retail establishment could sell bulk polypropylene straws only, he clarified.

In response to a question from Councilor LaBarge, Councilor Maiore said she and Councilor Nash met with State Street Fruit Store owner Rich Cooper and went through the list of products he uses, and Councilor Nash took copious notes. They also spent hours and many meetings talking with Judy Herrell.

After various additional comments, Councilor Maiore moved to amend the ordinance by adding the following as an 8<sup>th</sup> item in Section B:

- (8) *Food establishments must provide disposable food service ware accessories only upon request by customers or at a self-serve station.*
- a) *Online food ordering platforms that take orders of prepared food for pickup by or delivery to customers in the City of Northampton are required to provide options on their ordering platform that enable customers to choose which disposable food service ware accessories to include with each order. When no options are selected by the customer, the default practice shall be that no disposable food service ware accessories are provided. The platform must provide the food establishment an option/method for listing a customized list of accessories that are offered by each food establishment listed on their platform.*
  - b) *For delivery orders, food establishments may choose to include specific accessories, such as cup lids, spill plugs, and trays, in order to prevent spills and deliver food and beverages safely.*

And, by adding the following as new definitions, titled "DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE ACCESSORY" and "ONLINE FOOD ORDERING PLATFORM," respectively, directly after the definition "DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE":

**DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE ACCESSORY**

*All types of disposable food service ware provided alongside prepared food, including but not limited to utensils, chopsticks, napkins, cup lids, cup sleeves, food or beverage trays, condiment cups or packets, straws, stirrers, splash sticks, and cocktail sticks. This does not include such items that are necessary for the containment of foods, such as plates, bowls and bags.*

**ONLINE FOOD ORDERING PLATFORM**

*The digital technology provided on a website or mobile application through which a consumer can place an order for pick-up or delivery of prepared food. Such platforms include those operated directly by food establishments, by companies that provide delivery of prepared meals to consumers, and by online food ordering systems that connect consumers to prepared food vendors directly.*

Councilor Dwight seconded.

This 'opt-in' provision is modeled after an ordinance from Berkeley, CA, Noah explained. It saves businesses money and is something a lot of businesses are already doing.

Eli Marlin and Renna Pye spoke to the amendment.

The motion passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused.

Next, Councilor Maiore moved that the Plastic Reduction and Sustainability Ordinance be amended by adding the following as a seventh clause in section B:

*"Any retail establishment or food establishment that is greater than 5,000 square feet in area and provides any type of checkout bag shall sell such checkout bags for no less than ten cents (\$.10) per checkout bag. All proceeds from the sale of such checkout bags shall be retained by the retail establishment or food establishment. Any charge for a checkout bag shall be separately stated on a receipt provided to the customer at the time of sale and shall be identified as the "checkout bag charge" thereon."*

Councilor Dwight seconded with correction of a scrivener's error to change the numbering from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> clause.

Noah spoke to the amendment. Councilor LaBarge asked if the City Council had the ability to set the price of an item for a business.

Councilor Dwight said Noah consulted the city solicitor and he said the language is fine and appropriate as crafted.

Members asked questions and offered comments, Councilor Dwight explained that they were trying to change a culture. "The idea is to promote a cultural shift." The amendment requires supermarkets over 5,000 square feet to charge at least 10 cents for a paper checkout bag.

Councilor Nash requested that they table this particular amendment. His instinct is that this is probably not a big deal. He would be fine with moving forward with voting on the ordinance up to this point tonight and just having a chance to think this over.

Councilor Dwight alternately proposed that he approve the amendment tonight and, should his decision change, propose a deletion in two weeks. Otherwise they will have to amend in second reading and people won't know it's part of the content. His preference is not to table, he shared.

This is very standard measure in similar ordinances and clearly within the scope of promoting reusable items, Noah added.

Councilor Sciarra called the motion to approve the amendment to a vote, and it passed 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused.

The motion to approve the ordinance as amended passed 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused.

**See minutes of January 21, 2021 for second reading.**

Councilor LaBarge requested a five-minute break. The City Council recessed briefly at 11:40 p.m. The council reconvened at 11:49 p.m.

**Consent Agenda**

**Consent Agenda**

Councilor Sciarra reviewed the items on the consent agenda, offering to remove any item for separate discussion upon request. Councilor Jarrett asked that the appointment of Sara Howard be removed for separate discussion. **Councilor Maiore moved to approve the consent agenda with the removal. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.**

**The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda:**

- A. Minutes of December 3, 2020 City Council Meeting**

**B. 20.162 Appointments to Various Committees - for referral to City Services Committee**

Arts Council

**Jesse Hassinger**, 184 Main Street, Apt. 4, Northampton

Term: January 2021-June 2024

*To fill a vacancy*

Human Rights Commission

**Kathy Wicks**, 102 Black Birch Trail, Florence

Term: January 2021-June 2024

*To fill a vacancy*

Northampton Housing Authority- Board of Commissioners

**Jo Ella Tarbutton**, 81 Conz Street, Apt. 626, Northampton

Term: January 2021-June 2022

*To fill a newly-created position on the NHA Board of Commissioners through the Special Act*

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the appointment of Sara Howard to the Northampton Housing Partnership. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

Councilor Jarrett said he needed to recuse himself since Sara Howard is his life partner.

The motion passed 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused. The following appointment was approved:

Housing Partnership

**Sara Howard**, 8 High Street, Florence

Term: January 2021- June 2024

*To fill a vacancy*

<p><b><u>Recess for Committee on Finance Meeting</u></b></p>	<p><b>At 11:53 p.m., the City Council recessed for the Committee on Finance. The Committee on Finance adjourned at 12:22 p.m. The City Council reconvened at 12:22 p.m.</b></p>
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<p><b><u>Financial Orders (on 1st reading pending Finance) 20.178 Order to Increase Personal Property Tax Exemption Threshold to \$2,500 - 1st reading</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Financial Orders (on 1st reading pending Finance review)</u></b>  <b><u>20.178 An Order to Increase Personal Property Tax Exemption Threshold to \$2,500 - 1st reading</u></b>                  Councilor Jarrett moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded.                   Councilor Jarrett said he read a portion of the state law that authorizes this, M.G.L. Ch. 59, Section 5. It lists at least 58 exemptions. It would be helpful to have a briefing of all the possible exemptions the city could be enacting, he suggested. He asked how the mayor has gone about making decisions about which ones to adopt.                   The finance director recently did a Powerpoint presentation to explain many of the exemptions available to seniors, Mayor Narkewicz advised.                   Selecting particular exemptions has been a slow process as additional exemptions have become available, Director Wright related. Most of them have quite a range that the city can adopt. They stayed the same for quite a while until last year, when the mayor asked the assessor's for a recommendation. The assessors recommended increasing several exemptions. She thinks the one they use most is the elderly exemption. The city raised not only the income eligibility limit for applicants but the exemption amount and reduced the age requirement from 70 to 65. The presentation is still on the assessor's website. They made quite a few changes in the exemptions last year to provide more generous benefits to veterans and elders. They do take advantage of many of them.                   Councilor Jarrett said he would take a look over them to see if there are any they haven't heard about.                   The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.</p>
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<p><u>20.179 Order to Authorize Borrowing \$1.5 Million for Paving Projects - 1st rdg.</u></p> <p><u>20.180 Order to Appropriate Free Cash \$1.5 Million to Stabilization, Capital Stabilization and Fiscal Stability Stabilization Funds - 1st reading</u></p>	<p><u>See minutes of January 21, 2021 for second reading.</u></p> <p><u>20.179 An Order to Authorize Borrowing \$1.5 Million for Paving Projects - 1st reading</u> Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.</p> <p><u>See minutes of January 21, 2021 for second reading.</u></p> <p><u>20.180 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash \$1.5 Million to Stabilization, Capital Stabilization and Fiscal Stability Stabilization Funds - 1st reading</u> Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.</p> <p><u>See minutes of January 21, 2021 for second reading.</u></p>
<p><u>Financial Orders (in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading)</u></p> <p><u>20.157 Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to the Conservation Fund - 2nd rdg.</u></p>	<p><u>Financial Orders (in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading)</u></p> <p><u>20.157 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to the Conservation Fund - 2nd reading</u> Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.</p> <p><u>The following order passed two readings:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>City of Northampton</b> MASSACHUSETTS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>In City Council, December 17, 2020</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>20.157 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to the Conservation Fund</u></b></p> <p><i>Ordered, that</i></p> <p>WHEREAS, the Northampton Conservation Commission submitted an application for Community Preservation Act funding for the Conservation Fund;</p> <p>WHEREAS, the fund makes possible increased acquisition or protection of open space parcels in Northampton by supporting fast action on time-sensitive real estate opportunities and placement of permanent conservation restrictions;</p> <p>WHEREAS, the project meets the goals of the Northampton Sustainability Plan for protection of open space and agricultural lands, and the applicant has used these funds effectively in the past towards the protection of hundreds of acres of open space;</p> <p>WHEREAS, on November 19, 2020, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee, voted unanimously to recommend that \$50,000 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.</p> <p><b>NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,</b></p> <p>That \$50,000 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to the Northampton Conservation Fund. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.</p> <p>Specifically, \$50,000 is allocated from the CPA Open Space Reserve (account #2344930-359931)</p> <p><u>Passed two readings and enrolled.</u></p>

20.158 Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Smith Charities Emergency Repair Project - 2nd reading

20.158 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for the Smith Charities Emergency Repair Project - 2nd reading

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed two readings:

**City of Northampton  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In City Council, December 17, 2020*

*Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee*

**20.158 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for the Smith Charities Emergency Repair Project**

***Ordered, that***

WHEREAS, the Smith Charities submitted a CPA application for critical exterior repairs to the Smith Charities Building at 51 Main Street;

WHEREAS, the Smith Charities have operated continuously since 1865 from the building, which was designed by noted architect William Fenno Pratt, and is located within the Downtown National Register Historic District;

WHEREAS, the project will address the most critical needs identified in an historic building assessment to ensure that it will remain a unique part of the downtown streetscape in the future, and will leverage state grant funds;

WHEREAS, CPA funds will be utilized exclusively for critical exterior repairs, and in no way contribute to the operating expenses of Smith Charities;

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2020, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously to recommend that \$85,000 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,**

That \$85,000 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to the Smith Charities for the Smith Charities Emergency Repairs project. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$85,000 is appropriated from the CPA Historic Preservation Reserve (account #2344930-359932).

---

**Passed two readings and enrolled.**

20.159 Order to Appropriate \$55,000 in CPA Funds to AOM Lobby and Salon Rehabilitation - 2nd reading

**20.159 An Order to Appropriate \$55,000 in CPA Funds to AOM Lobby and Salon Rehabilitation - 2nd reading**

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed two readings:

**City of Northampton  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In City Council, December 17, 2020*

*Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee*  
**20.159 An Order to Appropriate \$55,000 in CPA Funds to AOM Lobby and Salon  
Rehabilitation**

**Ordered, that**

WHEREAS, the Academy of Music submitted a CPA application for lobby, salon, and downstairs hallway rehabilitation;

WHEREAS, the work will conform to the Secretary of the Interior’s standards for historic rehabilitation, will complement theater restorations already completed using CPA and other funds, and will take advantage of Covid-19 closures to prepare for reopening;

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2020, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee voted to recommend that \$55,000 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,**

That \$55,000 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to the Academy of Music for the Lobby and Salon Rehabilitation. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$55,000 is appropriated from the CPA Historic Preservation Reserve (account #2344930-359932).

---

**Passed two readings and enrolled.**

**20.160 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to the Pine Brook Connector Acquisition Project - 2nd reading**

**20.160 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to the Pine Brook Connector Acquisition Project - 2nd reading**

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Foster seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

**The following order passed two readings:**

**City of Northampton  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In City Council, December 17, 2020*

*Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee*

**20.160 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to the Pine Brook Connector Acquisition Project**

***Ordered, that***

WHEREAS, the Northampton Conservation Commission and Office of Planning & Sustainability submitted a CPA application for purchase of 53 acres within the Broad Brook/Fitzgerald Lake Greenway on Boggy Meadow Road;

WHEREAS, the parcel includes a perennial stream, rich wetlands, upland habitat, serves as a critical segment of an existing wildlife corridor, is adjacent to already-protected open space and will provide an additional entrance to the Greenway from Bridge Road;

WHEREAS, the project meets the goals of the Sustainable Northampton Plan, Northampton Community Preservation Plan, and Open Space, Recreation and Multi-use Trail Plan to protect open space, provide for passive recreation, and protect heritage landscapes;

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2020, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously to recommend that \$160,600 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,**

That \$160,600 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to the Northampton Conservation Commission and Office of Planning and Sustainability for the Pine Brook Connector acquisition Project. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$73,400 is appropriated from the CPA Open Space Reserve (account #2344930-359931), and \$87,200 is appropriated from the CPA Budgeted Reserve (account #2344930-359930).

---

**Passed two readings and enrolled**

**20.161 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to the Affordable Housing Fund - 2nd reading**

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

**The following order passed two readings:**

**20.161 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to the Affordable Housing Fund - 2nd reading**

**City of Northampton  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In City Council, December 17, 2020*

*Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee*

**20.161 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to the Affordable Housing Fund**

***Ordered, that***

WHEREAS, the Office of Planning and Sustainability submitted an application for Community Preservation Act funding for the Affordable Housing Fund;

WHEREAS, the fund will be used for soft due diligence and soft costs for predevelopment work necessary for new affordable housing opportunities that the City creates, and for which no other funds are readily available;

WHEREAS, this fund will result in new affordable housing opportunities in Northampton, meets the goals of the Housing Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan, and will help to address impediments to fair housing identified in the Fair Housing Assessment;

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2020, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee, voted unanimously to recommend that \$50,000 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,**

That \$50,000 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to the Affordable Housing Fund. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$50,000 is allocated from the CPA Affordable Housing Reserve (account #2344930-359933)

---

**Passed two readings and enrolled.**

**Orders**  
**20.183 Order**  
**Amending the**  
**Charter to Mail**  
**Ballots for**  
**Municipal Elec-**  
**tions to All**  
**Registered Voters**  
**- 1st reading**

**Orders - Charter Review Committee Recommendations**

Councilor Sciarra reminded councilors that these orders were drafted by solicitor Seewald at their direction and have been reviewed by house counsel. The goal tonight is to approve this language so it can be submitted to the legislature for its consideration

**20.183 An Order Amending the Charter to Mail Ballots for Municipal Elections to All Registered Voters - 1st reading**

Councilor Sciarra read the order.

Councilor Jarrett moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

Interestingly, it is coincidental that they are voting on this order today because those who stayed up and watched the discussion on the House and Senate floor last night know this is the very issue that was being challenged by a number of representatives, particularly as it related to the Pennsylvania vote, Councilor Dwight related. The Republicans in that instance were working very hard to suppress the ability of certain classes to vote and to limit the opportunities of people in urban areas to vote. COVID-19 actually prompted a situation where the state of Pennsylvania made modifications to allow for mail-in ballots. The crux of their argument is that it was an invalid rule that was made during COVID because it wasn't done by the legislature and it therefore invalidated all the votes cast.

In this case, they are establishing and expanding voter rights and expanding participation as opposed to trying to limit it. He finds it particularly relevant today because they've seen a

grotesque display punctuated by a grotesque action. The news just broke that a capitol police officer died due to injuries sustained yesterday. He thinks this is a very appropriate response because they were driven by the sense that the more people entitled to participate in democracy the better. These cynical Republicans would rather game the system in order to advance their own agendas. They're not going to do that here. They don't know who they're expanding the vote to. They could actually be similar right-wing patriots. The fact is, they're entitled to vote and participate in the conversation. He wanted to go on the record that it is with particular pride that he's going to be voting now because it is so very germane and relevant tonight.

The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of January 21, 2021 for second reading.

**20.184 Order Amending the Charter to Allow Resident Non-Citizens to Vote in Municipal Elections - 1st reading**

**20.184 An Order Amending the Charter to Allow Resident Non-Citizens to Vote in Municipal Elections - 1st reading**

Councilor Sciarra read the order.

Councilor Quinlan moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

Councilor Quinlan asked if there is a space to lobby for this when the orders are considered.

All municipal bills generally go through a committee process and anyone can submit written testimony, Mayor Narkewicz confirmed. They can get information from their legislators as to when the bills are scheduled for hearing. Legislators usually take a bunch of charter changes en masse.

The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of January 21, 2021 for second reading.

**20.185 Order Amending the Charter to Make Clarifications and Correct Deficiencies in the Prior Language - 1st reading**

**20.185 An Order Amending the Charter to Make Clarifications and Correct Deficiencies in the Prior Language - 1st reading**

Councilor Foster read the order.

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of January 21, 2021 for second reading.

**20.186 Order Amending the Charter to Allow Residents 16 Years of Age or Older to Vote in Municipal Elections - 1st reading**

**20.186 An Order Amending the Charter to Allow Residents 16 Years of Age or Older to Vote in Municipal Elections - 1st reading**

Councilor Sciarra read the order.

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

Councilor Quinlan asked if the order shouldn't list 'preliminary election for mayor' in addition to 'preliminary election for ward councilor or preliminary election for ward school committee member' since there may also be preliminary elections for this position.

They could get clarification on this for second reading, Councilor Sciarra said. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of January 21, 2021 for second reading.

**Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)**  
**20.182 Ordinance Relative to Demolition Review for Historically-Significant**

**Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)**

**20.182 An Ordinance Relative to Demolition Review for Historically-Significant Buildings**

Councilor Dwight moved to refer the ordinance to Legislative Matters. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

Councilor Jarrett asked if the Historical Commission had weighed in. Mayor Narkewicz said he was fairly certain this was something they discussed, but he could verify that with the



**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty*  
Upon the Recommendation of the Transportation and Parking Commission

**20.155  
AN ORDINANCE**

**RELATIVE TO PARKING ON  
MIDDLE STREET**

An Ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts. Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

1 SECTION 1  
2  
3 *That the § 312-102 of the Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:*  
4  
5 § 312-102 Schedule I: Parking Prohibited All Times.  
6

Location	Side	From	To
<u>Middle Street</u>	<u>Southerly</u>	<u>Maple Street</u>	<u>A point 40 feet easterly of Maple Street</u>

7  
8

**Passed two readings, ordained and enrolled.**

<b><u>New Business</u></b>	<b><u>New Business</u></b> None
<b><u>Information (Charter Provision 2-7) &amp; Study Requests</u></b>	<b><u>Information (Charter Provision 2-7) and Information Study Requests</u></b> None
<b><u>Motion to Adjourn</u></b>	Upon motion made by Councilor Dwight and seconded by Councilor Nash, the meeting was adjourned at 1:19 p.m. The motion carried unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.  Attest: _____ Administrative Assistant to the City Council



# MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

City of Northampton

Office of the Mayor

210 Main Street Room 12

Northampton, MA 01060-3199

(413) 587-1249 Fax: (413) 587-1275

mayor@northamptonma.gov

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DATE: January 14, 2020

TO: City Council

FROM: Mayor David J. Narkewicz

**SUBJECT: Appointments to Boards, Committees, and Commissions**

Please find the attached appointments to City Boards, Committees, and Commissions:

## **Arts Council**

**Dana Osterling**, 58 Paradise Road, Apt. 1, Northampton

Term: February 2021-June 2024

*To fill a vacancy*

**Thulani Davis**, 112 Franklin Street, Northampton

Term: February 2021-June 2024

*To fill a vacancy*

## **Historical Commission**

**Dr. Jonathan Daube**, 15 Carolyn Street, Florence

Term: February 2021- June 2024

*To fill a vacancy*

**Rev. Harvey Hill**, 19 Ward Avenue, Northampton

Term: February 2021-June 2024

*To fill a vacancy*



# Online Form Submittal: Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees and Commissions

noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 11:11 AM

To: mayor@northamptonma.gov

## Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees and Commissions

City of Northampton Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Please return the completed form to: [Mayor@northamptonma.gov](mailto:Mayor@northamptonma.gov) or David J. Narkewicz, Mayor 210 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

First Name	Dana
Last Name	Osterling
Title, if applicable	MT-BC
Address1	<a href="#">58 Paradise rd</a>
Address2	apt 1
City	Northampton
State	MA
Zip	01060
Home Phone	585-267-6579
Work Phone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Cell Phone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Occupation & Place of Employment	Music Therapist, Cooley Dickinson Hospital and Baystate Home Health Pediatric Palliative Care
Email	<a href="mailto:danaosterling@gmail.com">danaosterling@gmail.com</a>
Are you a Northampton resident?	Yes
Years Lived in Northampton	3
Age	30 - 39

Sex	Female
Racial / Ethnic Background	White
Boards and Committees	Arts Council
Please list "other" board or committee of interest	<i>Field not completed.</i>
What skills and experience will you bring to this committee assignment?	7-10 years of management of a creative arts program in healthcare facilities (owner, Integrated Music Therapy LLC, and music therapist at Boston Children's Hospital for 6 years prior to moving here), experience as an independent artist in local communities (songwriter and guitarist in band CIVIC: <a href="https://consequenceofsound.net/artist/civic/">https://consequenceofsound.net/artist/civic/</a> , currently an MBA fellow at UMass Amherst Isenberg School of Business with extensive experience in data management, research related to arts and health of communities, and leadership.
Are you currently serving or have you served on any city committee?	No
Please list other city committees you have served on	N/A
<p>Required: Please read the following, by signing below you state that you understand and agree.</p> <p><i>The filing of this form does not guarantee my appointment. An application is kept on file for two (2) years; after that I must file a new application. Being appointed to a committee, board, or commission means that I am considered a Municipal Employee under MGL Chapter 268A and thereby subject to Conflict of Interest Law MGL Chapter 268A, Financial Disclosure Law MGL Chapter 268B, as well as Open Meeting Law MGL Chapter 39: Section 23B. I understand that I will take the conflict of interest test after being appointed and that I also must be sworn in by the City Clerk. I will contact the appointing authority with any questions about my service. Important: Once this form is submitted it becomes a public document, if there is information you do not want open to the public please do not include it on this form.</i></p>	
Signature	Dana C Osterling
Date	1/7/2021

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)



# Online Form Submittal: Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees and Commissions

7 messages

noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>  
To: mayor@northamptonma.gov

Tue, Jan 12, 2021 at 6:30 PM

## Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees and Commissions

City of Northampton Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Please return the completed form to: [Mayor@northamptonma.gov](mailto:Mayor@northamptonma.gov) or David J. Narkewicz, Mayor 210 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

First Name	THULANI
Last Name	DAVIS
Title, if applicable	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Address1	112 FRANKLIN STREET
Address2	<i>Field not completed.</i>
City	NORTHAMPTON
State	Massachusetts
Zip	01060
Home Phone	4132195537
Work Phone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Cell Phone	4132195537
Occupation & Place of Employment	Director of Programming, Spectrum in Motion Dance Theatre Ensemble
Email	<a href="mailto:thulani.p.davis@gmail.com">thulani.p.davis@gmail.com</a>
Are you a Northampton resident?	Yes
Years Lived in Northampton	29 Years
Age	Under 29

Sex	Female
Racial / Ethnic Background	Biracial: African American / Filipino American
Boards and Committees	Arts Council
Please list "other" board or committee of interest	<i>Field not completed.</i>
What skills and experience will you bring to this committee assignment?	<p>I've always lived a dual life. I identify as biracial, with a Black father and a Filipino mother. I was born and raised in Northampton, where most of my friends were white; and in Hartford, CT, where most of my friends were of color. Since age six, when my mother accepted a position with Hartford Ballet, my life has never been the same. I'd go from being a minority in the morning to the majority in the afternoon. It doubled down on my dual life experience as both an insider and outsider. In my fervent efforts to find center, I discovered anthropology. This was an organic transition for someone who is primarily a seeker. Ruth Benedict said, "The purpose of anthropology is to make the world safe for human differences". Through my work, I developed Dance + Anthropology as an opportunity for teens and young adults to ask themselves who they are and what is important to them. Too often, marginalized children are saddled with representing entire communities while figuring out how they themselves fit into them. When we have an opportunity to share our stories, we learn, making for a more holistic perspective that protects our similarities and differences.</p> <p>I am a Northampton native and a dancer by trade. I work for a small dance nonprofit that is committed to advocating for using the arts as a platform to develop empathic, kind citizens that accepts each other's differences to create a more just world.</p> <p>I am a 2019 graduate of the Quest Program by Leadership Greater Hartford and continue to regularly volunteer/participate in their programs. I also have the honor to hold leadership roles at Asylum Hill Congregational Church. Locally, I continue to be a trainer for the Sojourner Truth School for Social Change &amp; Leadership.</p>
Are you currently serving or have you served on any city committee?	No
Please list other city committees you have served on	NORTHAMPTON

Required: Please read the following, by signing below you state that you understand and agree.

*The filing of this form does not guarantee my appointment. An application is kept on file for two (2) years; after that I must file a new application. Being appointed to a committee, board, or commission means that I am considered a Municipal Employee under MGL Chapter 268A and thereby subject to Conflict of Interest Law MGL Chapter 268A, Financial Disclosure Law MGL Chapter 268B, as well as Open Meeting Law MGL Chapter 39: Section 23B. I understand that I will take the conflict of interest test after being appointed and that I also must be sworn in by the City Clerk. I will contact the appointing authority with any questions about my service. Important: Once this form is submitted it becomes a public document, if there is information you do not want open to the public please do not include it on this form.*

---

Signature

Thulani Davis

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Date

1/12/2021

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# City of Northampton

## Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees and Commissions

Name: Dr Jonathan M. Daube  
 Address: 15 Carolyn St., Florence, MA 01062-1019  
 Email: daubejm@gmail.com  
 Home Phone: 413/727-3624 Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation: retired college president Years lived in Northampton: Five (approx)  
 Northampton Resident:  Yes  No

Please indicate the Committee(s) you have interest serving on: *(Appointment subject to vacancies)*

Agricultural Commission	License Commission
Almoners, Board of	Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board of Trustees
Arts Council	Parks and Recreation Commission
Assessors, Board of	Planning Board
Central Business Architecture Committee	Public Shade Tree Commission
Community Preservation Committee	Public Works Commission
Conservation Commission	Redevelopment Authority
Council on Aging	Registrars, Board of
Disability Commission	Transportation & Parking Commission
Energy & Sustainability Commission	Trust Fund Committee
Health, Board of	Youth Commission
Historical Commission <b>XX</b>	Zoning Board of Appeals
Housing Partnership	
Human Rights Commission	

What skills and experience will you bring to this Committee assignment:

*(attach additional sheet or resume if necessary)*

see brief bio. (attached) I have an interest in community history and chaired a charter review commission in Pittsfield many years ago. More details upon request

Are you currently serving or have you served on any City committee:  No  Yes\*

*(\*If yes please state what committee)*

I am on the board of the Friends of Northampton Trails (FNT)

**Required:** Please read the following, by signing below you state that you understand and agree:

The filing of this form does not guarantee my appointment. An application is kept on file for two (2) years; after that I must file a new application. Being appointed to a committee, board, or commission means that I am considered a Municipal Employee under MGL Chapter 268A and thereby subject to Conflict of Interest Law MGL Chapter 268A, Financial Disclosure Law MGL Chapter 268B, as well as Open Meeting Law MGL Chapter 39: Section 23B. I understand that I will take the conflict of interest test AFTER being appointed and that I also must be sworn in by the City Clerk. I will contact the appointing authority with any questions about my service. **IMPORTANT: Once this form is submitted it becomes a public document, if there is information you do not want open to the public please do not include it on this form!**

SIGNATURE

[Signature]

DATE

Dec 2nd, 2020

Please Return Form To: [Mayor@northamptonma.gov](mailto:Mayor@northamptonma.gov) or  
 David J. Narkewicz, Mayor, 210 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

[See over]

## **Dr. Jonathan M. Daube**, December, 2020

Born and educated in Great Britain, **Jonathan M. Daube** came to the United States in 1963. He has been an English teacher in England and the U.S.; a school superintendent in MA; a graduate school director in OH; and President of Berkshire Community College, MA, from 1978 to 1987, and of Manchester Community College, CT, from 1987 to 2008, when he retired with the title President Emeritus. A magnet high school building at MCC was named for him in 2009. He spent 2010-2011 as Interim President of Middlesex Community College, CT. His doctorate is from Harvard University, and he spent 1968-1970 at the University of Malawi in Central Africa, to which he recently returned. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, has served as a visiting member of the editorial board of the *Hartford Courant* and, in the fall of 2002, spent a sabbatical at the Institute of Education, University of London, where he had trained to be a teacher. In 2007 he was elected President of the University of Aberdeen (Scotland) Foundation, Inc., a position he held for five years. (He continues to serve on the Board.) He has taught at the Schools of Education, Universities of CT and MA, and has served as a consultant for the CT State Department of Education. In 2009, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters (*honoris causa*) by Eastern Connecticut State University, and in 2012, the degree of Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*) by his alma mater, the University of Aberdeen. He was presented to the Queen in Scotland in 2012. He has coached in an on-line doctoral program at the University of Maryland; has worked with local school systems; has completed a biography of Harry Rée, the first headmaster he ever worked for (available on amazon.com and amazon.co.uk); consults and teaches occasionally; and currently serves on the Regional Advisory Councils of Middlesex and Naugatuck Valley Community Colleges, CT.

He now lives in Northampton, MA, where he is on the Board of Directors of Friends of Northampton Trails (FNT) and is a member of the Progressive Democrats of America (PDA). He has been married for over fifty-six years; he and his wife Linda, a retired registered dietitian, have three children and three grandchildren. He loves to travel, and is a voracious reader.



# Online Form Submittal: Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees and Commissions

noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Mon, Dec 7, 2020 at 3:52 PM

To: mayor@northamptonma.gov

## Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees and Commissions

City of Northampton Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Please return the completed form to: [Mayor@northamptonma.gov](mailto:Mayor@northamptonma.gov) or David J. Narkewicz, Mayor 210 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

First Name	Harvey
Last Name	Hill
Title, if applicable	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Address1	<a href="#">19 Ward Avenue</a>
Address2	<i>Field not completed.</i>
City	Northampton
State	MA
Zip	01060
Home Phone	17066761078
Work Phone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Cell Phone	17066761078
Occupation & Place of Employment	Episcopal Priest, Saint David's Episcopal Church, Agawam
Email	<a href="mailto:revharveyhill@gmail.com">revharveyhill@gmail.com</a>
Are you a Northampton resident?	Yes
Years Lived in Northampton	11
Age	50 - 59

Sex	Male
Racial / Ethnic Background	Caucasian
Boards and Committees	Historical Commission
Please list "other" board or committee of interest	<i>Field not completed.</i>
What skills and experience will you bring to this committee assignment?	I have a PhD in the history of Christianity, and so some academic training in history. I also have a long-standing interest in local history.
Are you currently serving or have you served on any city committee?	No
Please list other city committees you have served on	<i>Field not completed.</i>
<p>Required: Please read the following, by signing below you state that you understand and agree.</p> <p><i>The filing of this form does not guarantee my appointment. An application is kept on file for two (2) years; after that I must file a new application. Being appointed to a committee, board, or commission means that I am considered a Municipal Employee under MGL Chapter 268A and thereby subject to Conflict of Interest Law MGL Chapter 268A, Financial Disclosure Law MGL Chapter 268B, as well as Open Meeting Law MGL Chapter 39: Section 23B. I understand that I will take the conflict of interest test after being appointed and that I also must be sworn in by the City Clerk. I will contact the appointing authority with any questions about my service. Important: Once this form is submitted it becomes a public document, if there is information you do not want open to the public please do not include it on this form.</i></p>	
Signature	Harvey Hill
Date	12/7/2020

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**City of Northampton  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In City Council, February 4, 2021*

*Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz and the Department of Public Works*

**21.191 An Order to Acquire Land on Nash Hill Road in Williamsburg for Water Supply Protection**

*Ordered, that*

WHEREAS, The City of Northampton owns a surface drinking water supply in the town of Whately which is surrounded by watershed land owned by both the City and private property owners, and;

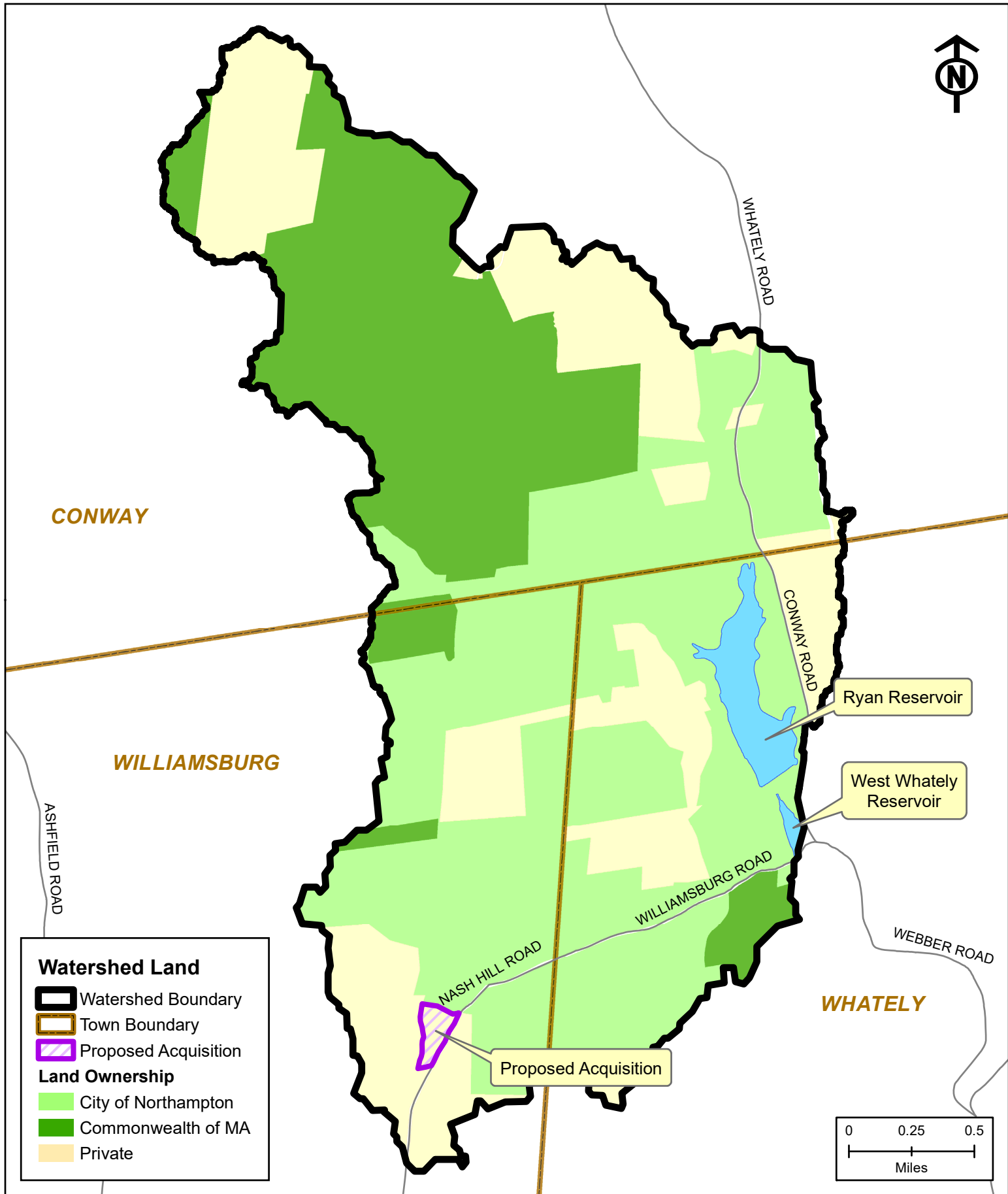
WHEREAS, It is in the interest of the City to acquire privately held parcels within this watershed as they become available for sale to protect its drinking water supply, and;

WHEREAS, Certain parcels of land within the watershed are available for acquisition, and it is in the interest of the City to acquire the parcels for watershed protection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED,

That the City Council authorizes the acquisition by gift, purchase, eminent domain or otherwise, the fee interest in one parcel of land containing 14.79 acres, more or less, located on Nash Hill Road in Williamsburg and shown on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Williamsburg, Massachusetts Prepared for Northampton Dept of Public Works,” dated December 16, 2020, by Holmberg & Howe Land Surveyors. This acquisition is for the purpose of the sanitary protection of the West Whately Reservoir, part of the City of Northampton’s Water Supply. The parcels shall be held in the custody and control of the Department of Public Works.

Further, that no appropriation is necessary for the acquisition of the easement authorized hereunder inasmuch as sufficient funds for this acquisition have been appropriated in Water Enterprise 61523-581000-11 – Land.



CONWAY

WILLIAMSBURG

WHATELY

**Watershed Land**

- Watershed Boundary
- Town Boundary
- Proposed Acquisition

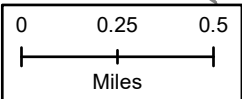
**Land Ownership**

- City of Northampton
- Commonwealth of MA
- Private

Ryan Reservoir

West Whately Reservoir

Proposed Acquisition



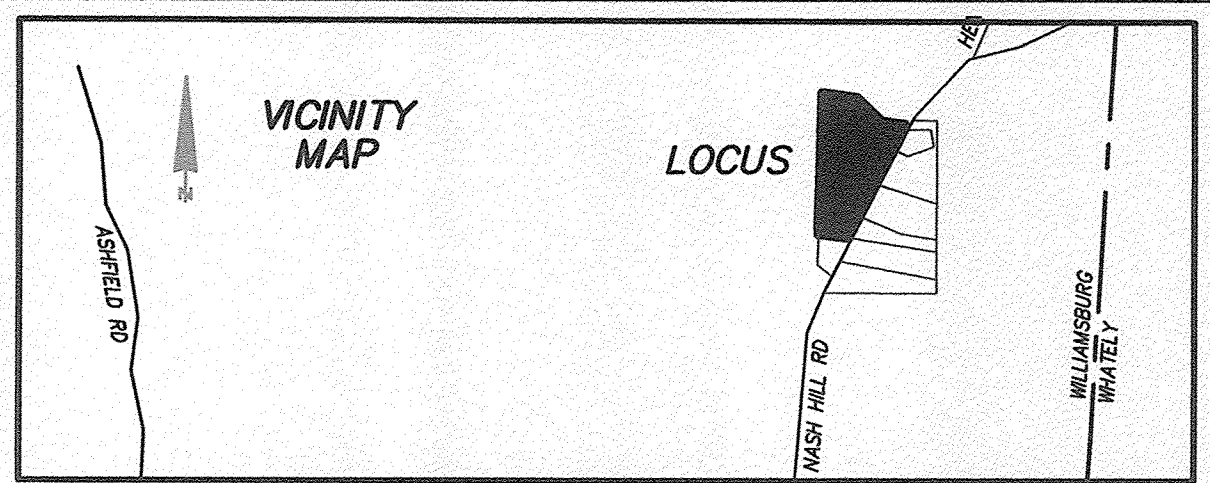
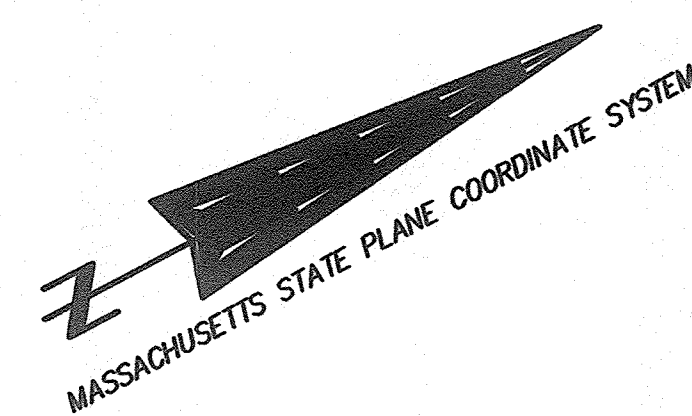
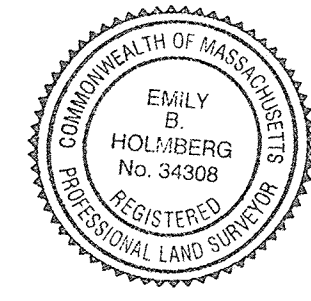
**Ryan Reservoir & West Whately Reservoir Watersheds**

**Proposed Land Acquisition**  
Przasnyski Parcel  
February 2021

Prepared by:  
City of Northampton  
Department of Public Works  
Engineering Division

I REPORT THAT THIS PLAN SHOWS THE PROPERTY LINES OF EXISTING OWNERSHIPS AND THE LINES OF STREETS AND WAYS SHOWN ARE THOSE OF PUBLIC OR PRIVATE STREETS OR WAYS ALREADY ESTABLISHED AND THAT NO NEW LINES FOR DIVISION OF EXISTING OWNERSHIP OR FOR NEW WAYS ARE SHOWN. ALSO, I REPORT THAT THIS PLAN AND SURVEY CONFORM TO THE TECHNICAL AND PROCEDURAL STANDARDS FOR THE PRACTICE OF LAND SURVEYING IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. FURTHERMORE, I REPORT THAT THIS PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE REGISTERS OF DEEDS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

SIGNED: Emily B. Holmberg  
 DATE: December 16, 2020



1. THIS PROPERTY IS ACQUIRED FOR WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION PURSUANT TO MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 40, SECTIONS 38, 39B, AND 41, AND ARTICLE 97 OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS CONSTITUTION AND IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MA.
2. MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION APPROVAL IS REQUIRED, PURSUANT TO M.G.L. CHAPTER 40 SECTION 15B, BEFORE ANY PORTION OF THIS PROPERTY CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO A DIFFERENT OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL, OR BEFORE THE PROPERTY CAN BE CHANGED TO A DIFFERENT USE.

BARB WIRE FENCE REMAINS ARE EMBEDDED IN ALL TREES SHOWN HEREON.

DAVID W. BUSSLER & ANNE M. BUSSLER  
 BOOK 1843 PAGE 343  
 PID: B-30A

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON  
 BOOK 667 PAGE 15  
 PLAN RECORDED IN BOOK 667  
 PAGES 70-71  
 PID: B-29

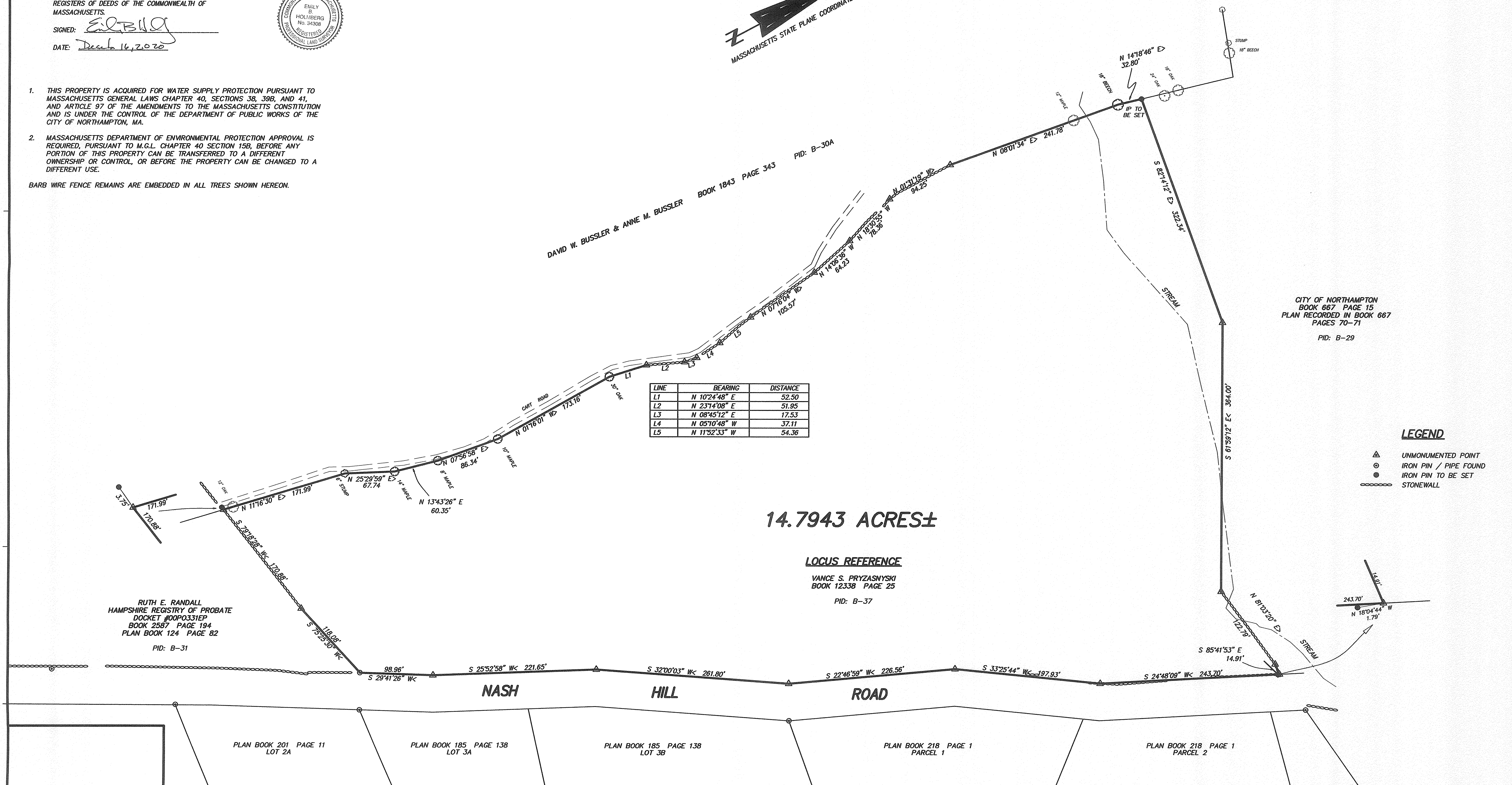
LINE	BEARING	DISTANCE
L1	N 10°24'48" E	52.50
L2	N 23°14'08" E	51.95
L3	N 08°45'12" E	17.53
L4	N 05°10'48" W	37.11
L5	N 11°52'33" W	54.36

14.7943 ACRES±

LOCUS REFERENCE  
 VANCE S. PRYZASNSKI  
 BOOK 12338 PAGE 25  
 PID: B-37

- LEGEND**
- ▲ UNMONUMENTED POINT
  - IRON PIN / PIPE FOUND
  - IRON PIN TO BE SET
  - STONEMALL

RUTH E. RANDALL  
 HAMPSHIRE REGISTRY OF PROBATE  
 DOCKET #0000331EP  
 BOOK 2587 PAGE 194  
 PLAN BOOK 124 PAGE 82  
 PID: B-31



PLAN BOOK 201 PAGE 11  
 LOT 2A

PLAN BOOK 185 PAGE 138  
 LOT 3A

PLAN BOOK 185 PAGE 138  
 LOT 3B

PLAN BOOK 218 PAGE 1  
 PARCEL 1

PLAN BOOK 218 PAGE 1  
 PARCEL 2

FEET 0 60 SCALE 120 180		
METERS 0 18.3 36.6 54.9		
SURVEY: SO	FLD. BK:	
CALC: LWH	DESIGN:	
DRAFT: LWH	CHECK: EBH	
DATE	REVISION	BY

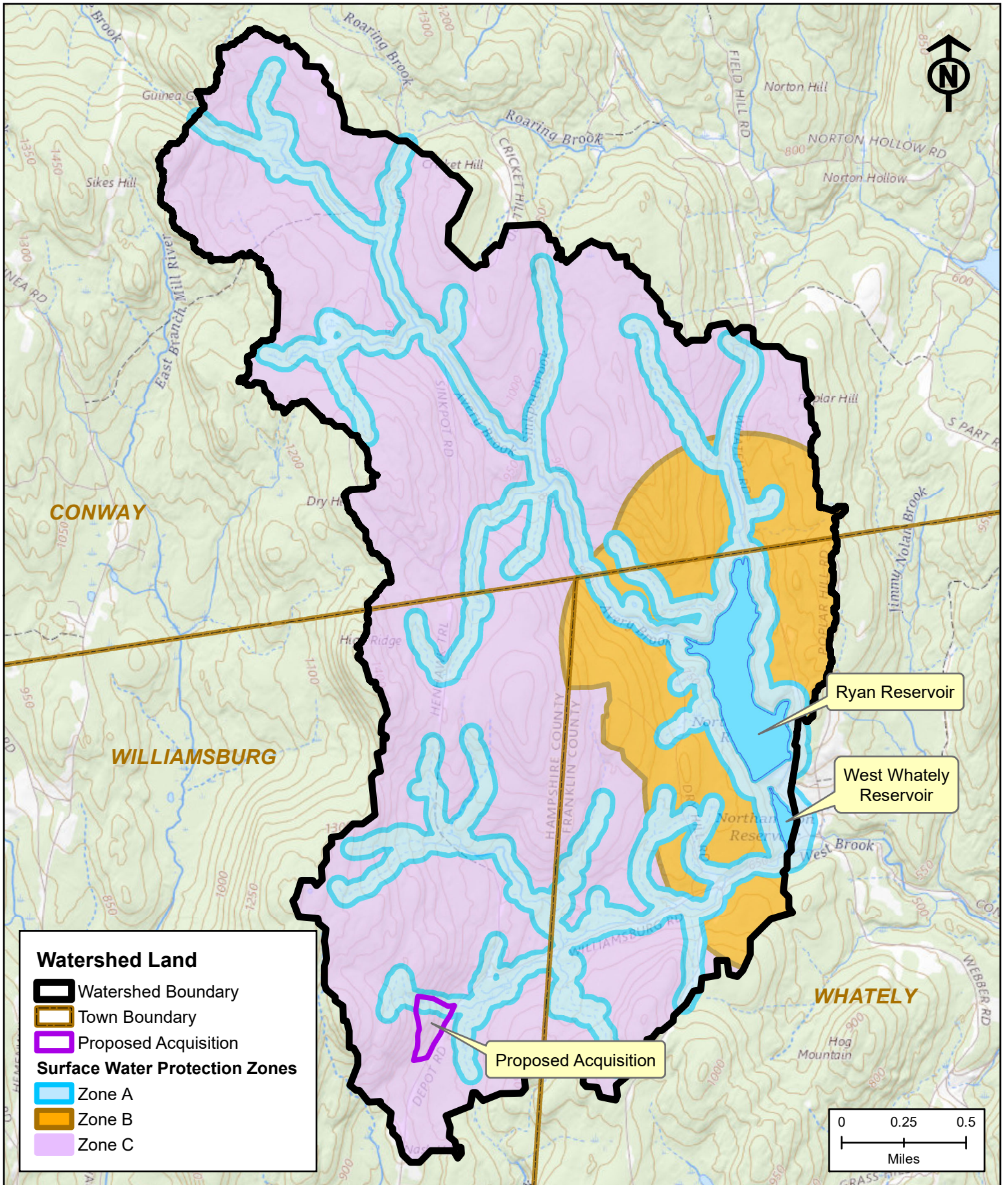
**Holmberg & Howe**  
 LAND SURVEYORS

87 UNION STREET  
 P.O. BOX 945  
 EASTHAMPTON, MA 01027  
 TELEPHONE (413) 529-1700  
 FAX (413) 529-2237

37 DAMON POND ROAD  
 CHESTERFIELD, MA 01012  
 TELEPHONE (413) 298-4525  
 FAX (413) 529-2237

PLAN OF LAND IN  
 WILLIAMSBURG, MASSACHUSETTS  
 PREPARED FOR  
 NORTHAMPTON DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS

SHEET: 1 OF 1    SCALE: 1" = 60'    DECEMBER 16, 2020    JOB NO.: 2020-034



**Watershed Land**

- Watershed Boundary
- Town Boundary
- Proposed Acquisition

**Surface Water Protection Zones**

- Zone A
- Zone B
- Zone C



**Ryan Reservoir & West Whately Reservoir Watersheds**

**Proposed Land Acquisition**  
Przasnyski Parcel  
February 2021

Prepared by:  
City of Northampton  
Department of Public Works  
Engineering Division

**City of Northampton**  
MASSACHUSETTS

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*In City Council*

February 4, 2021

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Upon recommendation of the Mayor

**21.192 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to City Clerk for Elections and DPW for Asphalt**

*Ordered, that*

\$ 288,725 be appropriated from the FY21 General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance (Free Cash) to the following accounts:

\$ 34,512	City Clerk PS Election Workers (11611 512010)
\$ 4,213	City Clerk PS Overtime (11611 513000)
\$250,000	DPW Streets – Asphalt for Road Improvements (14223 584010)

# City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

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In City Council, May 21, 2020

Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz, Planning and Sustainability, Planning Board, and Energy and Sustainability Commission

## **21.190 AN ORDER ENDORSING THE *CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND REGENERATION PLAN***

WHEREAS, the Northampton Planning Board unanimously adopted the ***Northampton Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan*** as an element of and an amendment to the ***Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan***, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chap. 41, Section 81D (1/28/21)

WHEREAS, the Energy and Sustainability Commission unanimously endorsed the ***Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan*** (12/22/20)

WHEREAS, the plan creates a comprehensive climate action plan framework for Northampton with a commitment and roadmap to action

WHEREAS, City Council endorsement does not imply agreement with every recommendation but does imply acceptance of the overall plan and its call to action

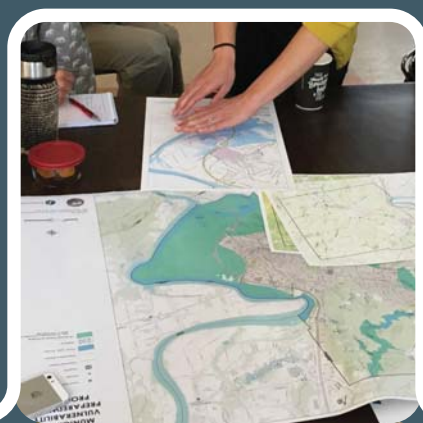
### **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,**

The City Council hereby endorses the ***Northampton Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan: An element of the Sustainable Northampton Plan, Addressing the climate emergency by regenerating a healthy community, adapting to and mitigating climate change.***

# Northampton Climate Resilience & Regeneration Plan

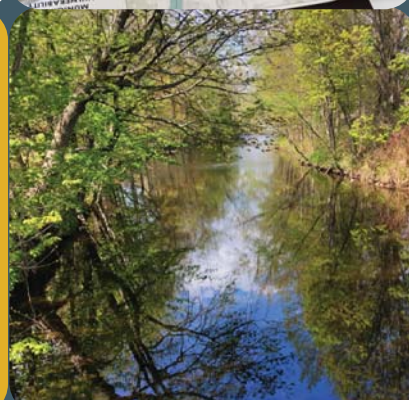
An element of the Sustainable Northampton Plan

Addressing the climate emergency by  
Regenerating a healthy community,  
ADAPTING to and MITIGATING climate change



Northampton  
Climate Action  
Plan (CAP)

Adopted 2021



# Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan (Jan. 2008 amended through Jan. 2021)

*Sustainable Northampton Plan* adopted (MGL C.41, s.81D) January 2008

Amended under MGL Section 81D to add

*Pedestrian & Bicycle Comprehensive Plan* January 2017

*Open Space, Recreation, and Multiuse Plan* June 2018

*Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan*, January 2021

Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan history:

Northampton Planning Board adopted January 28, 2021

Energy & Sustainability Commission endorsed December 22, 2020

City Council endorsed \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

## Acknowledgments

We acknowledge the Northampton is build upon and benefited from the traditional land stewardship and contributions of Indigenous and First Peoples, including the Nipmuc and Pocumtuc Nations.

We also want to acknowledge and thank you to all who contributed to this plan:

### City Staff

Planning & Sustainability: Wayne Feiden FAICP (project manager), Carolyn Misch AICP, Sarah LaValley AICP, and James Thompson

Central Services: Chris Mason and David Pomerantz

Mayor David Narkewicz

Public Works: David Veleta and Doug McDonald

Health Department: Merridith O'Leary and Jenny Meyer

Police Department: Jody Kasper

Senior Services: Marie Westburg

### Community Stakeholder Workshop Participants

Adele Franks, Grow Food Northampton; Andrew Linkenhoker, Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School; Ben Weil, UMass Clean Energy Extension; Bob Zimmermann, Broad Brook Coalition; Caitlin Marquis, Healthy Hampshire; Catherine Ratte, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; Clem Clay, Grow Food Northampton; Dana Roscoe, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; Dano Weisbord, Smith College; Darci Maresca, UMass School of Earth & Sustainability; Denise Lello, Mothers Out Front and Climate Action Now; Emily Slotnick, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; Gaby Immerman, Mill River Greenway Initiative; Geo Kohout, Friends of Northampton Trails and Greenways; Hatim El Otmani, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (Fellow); Irvine Sobelman, Climate Action Now; Jacob Fine, Congregation B'nai Israel Abundance Farm; Janet Bush, Unitarian Society; Jason Johnson, Leeds Civic Association; Jeff Harness, Cooley Dickinson Hospital; Joanne DeRose, National Grid; John Lombardi, Cooley Dickinson Hospital; Jonathan Wright, Wright Builders, Inc.; Keith Zaltzberg, Regenerative Design Group; Mark Sullivan, Planning Board; Nili Simhai, Congregation B'nai Israel Abundance Farm; Pamela Schwartz, Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness; Price Armstrong, Pioneer Valley Transportation Authority; Ron VandenDolder, Coca-Cola; Scott Johnson, Cooley Dickinson Hospital; Scott Silver, Northampton resident; Sharon Moulton, Climate Action Now and First Churches; Somira Bouina, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (Fellow); Stephanie Ciccarello, Town of Amherst

Community Partners (Partner Training, interviews, and conversations Forbes Library, Northampton Neighbors, Way Finders, ServiceNet, Edgardo Cancel (community leader), Lilly Library, Northampton Senior Center, Northampton Survival Center, Highland Valley Elder Services, Community Legal Aid, Community Development Corporation, The Literacy Project, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, Marianne LaBarge, Alisa Klein, Northampton Housing Authority, Mass Fair Housing, Northampton Community Arts Trust, Center for Human Development, Northampton Youth Commission, Northampton High School Environmental Club, Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce.

**Additionally, thank you to the hundreds of community members who also provided input at public workshops and through on-line platforms, contributing to the vision, framework, and strategies capture in this plan.**

### Project Funding

Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Program (Planning Grant)

Massachusetts Planning Assistance Grant

City of Northampton

### Consultant Team

Linnean Solutions, Kim Lundgren Associates, and Fuss & O'Neill.

### Project Management and Coordination

Northampton Office of Planning & Sustainability



# Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary and Introduction
2. Climate Change in Northampton
3. Pathways for Action
4. Action Plan: Resilience and Regeneration Strategies
5. A Plan Crafted by Northampton

Links

**5-STAR community and National Leader in Sustainability**



**USGBC LEED for Cities Certified 9 (final rating is pending)**



# 1

**Bikers on the MassCentral Rail Trail. Alternative modes of transportation, like biking, serve both resilience and regeneration.**

*Image credit: John Phelan*

## SECTION ONE

# Executive Summary & Introduction

### The Plan: A Commitment

In 2018, Mayor Narkewicz committed the City of Northampton to becoming a net carbon neutral city by 2050. City Council endorsed this goal in 2018.

We commit to a City that will thrive, even with climate change. We will:

- Be a net carbon neutral City by 2050.
- Ensure that City government building and operations are net carbon neutral by 2030.
- Ensure that community carbon emissions, building on Smith College's commitment to be net carbon neutral by 2030, will be 50% lower by 2030 and 75% lower by 2040.
- Incorporate climate resilience and regeneration into all future city plans and capital improvement planning.
- Incorporate equity, is a cross cutting need, into every climate action.
- Address energy sources, building energy, transportation, land use, food systems, waste systems, trees and forests, carbon sequestration, and waste; recognizing that the first step in carbon neutralization is conservation and reducing demands (e.g., energy, transport, materials).
- Commit that our top priority needs to be the high impact practices that are most effective at achieving these commitments.
- Become a more resilient city to address the climate change that is coming. This will range from physical features (e.g., stormwater and storms), to social investments to support our communities on the frontline of climate change.
- Develop a biennial resilience & regeneration action plan that includes an annual and long term carbon budget.
- Ensure coordinated response across all of city government.

### What do we mean by resilience and regeneration?

**Resilience:** Increasing the capacity of our city to better anticipate, adapt, and thrive in a changing climate no matter what kinds of acute shocks and chronic stresses we experience. *Climate adaptation* is part of the city's resilience efforts.

**Regeneration:** Reducing our city's contribution to climate change, while renewing the health of natural and human systems damaged by climate change, and growing the vitality of people, the economy, and ecosystems for the future. *Climate mitigation* is part of the city's regeneration efforts.

The City's commitment to reduce its carbon footprint will come from changes in city operations inside the City and outside the City (e.g., its purchasing power and management of city watershed lands), our community's energy footprint, and community-wide direct carbon emissions (scopes 1 and 2). In addition, we will reduce community consumption that results in carbon emissions elsewhere in the world (scope 3).

# In 2018, Mayor Narkewicz committed the City of Northampton to being carbon neutral by 2050. This plan is the next step.

## The Plan: A Road-map

This plan is both a commitment and a road-map. It signifies our dedication to mitigating climate change and the actions we need to build an increasingly **resilient** and **regenerative** future. It is a plan for simultaneously reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, building our capacity to adapt to stresses, and improving our healthy ecosystems, inclusive communities, and ensuring all Northampton residents can thrive.

Our goals and actions are ambitious, necessary, and achievable. This plan outlines the path to that goal—transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, increasing energy efficiency, and creating systems for consuming fewer resources while enhancing our quality of life.

We as a city commit to:

- Creating and updating specific action plans needed to move this plan forward.
- Bringing climate resilience and regeneration into the conversation on every significant city action (regulatory, investment, legislative, budgetary).

We are already feeling the effects of climate change, globally and locally. More frequent higher temperatures, storm intensity, drought risk, and flooding, will increasingly take a toll on our infrastructure, ecosystems, agriculture, and health.

Those impacts are not equally felt. The greatest effects are on communities at the frontline of climate change (e.g., the homeless, populations of color, low income residents, farmers, those in low lying areas). All of the systems we rely on—whether those are wastewater systems, food systems, or social service systems—must effectively adapt to these new stresses.

## How does this fit into other plans?

The *Resilience and Regeneration Plan* builds on a legacy of City sustainability and resilience planning and will contribute to future planning. The next Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan update will incorporate this Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan and its framework.

All city plans must advance resilience and regeneration around a wide variety of stresses and shocks (e.g., economic and housing), not only the climate change, which is the focus of this plan.

**The plan defines a recommended approach. Except for its role as one of the Zoning Special Permit criteria, the plan has no legal teeth. Its power comes from building a consensus vision.**

Our vision is to reduce our impact of climate change on the environment and on our communities. We need to *renew* the health of ecosystems and communities that have been and will be compromised by climate change. In all our work, we must create stronger, healthier, and more equitable systems.

Every action we take has the capacity to achieve multiple community benefits. Consequently, we've worked to identify research- and experience-based strategies, and ways to expand the impact of strategies, that will not only help meet Northampton's resilience and regeneration goals, but also encourage regional collaboration, greater economic and cultural vitality, and greater equity through opportunities and resources here in Northampton.

We acknowledge our limits as a small city and that our regeneration and mitigation efforts amount to nothing absent concerted and stepped up state, federal, and international actions. Northampton needs to move forward as aggressively as we can, as we collectively work towards limiting global climate warming to 1.5 degrees Celcius above pre-industrial levels (the accepted target used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2018, and others). If the state and federal government provide more tools, we should be working towards 2030 climate neutrality.

With our limited tools and financial resources, we must:

- Focus on high impact practices, the most impactful resilience and regeneration actions.
- Focus on the practices that provide us with the highest resilience and regeneration Return on Investment (ROI).

## Northampton Resilience and Regeneration Framework

**Figure 1.** Northampton Climate Resilience and Regeneration Framework In developing strategies that will help us reach our regeneration and resilience goals, we also look for opportunities to increase economic and cultural vitality, equity, and regional collaboration.



## Building on Past Success

Northampton is committed to being one of the most sustainable communities in the nation. We are proud to have been the first city to receive a 5-STAR rating under the former STAR Communities Rating System for sustainable communities and the highest Commonwealth Capital score under the former Massachusetts Smart Growth scoring. We are now a LEED for Cities and Communities certified community and use that system to track and improve upon our progress.

We created a vision for a sustainable community in our 2008 Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan. Since then we have up-zoned our core commercial, residential, and industrial/office districts to encourage walkable and bikable development patterns; adopted the energy stretch code; invested in solar PV capacity; hired an energy coordinator; ramped up energy efficiency in municipal buildings; doubled the amount of our protected conservation land; restored natural systems and revitalized new open spaces; designed resilient stormwater systems with natural systems; invested in public art; implemented the ValleyBike regional bike share program; improved bicycle and pedestrian accommodations and complete streets; planted over 1,000 shade trees; and invested millions in social equity, to name but a few of the many efforts.

Our dedication to track and reduce city-wide greenhouse gas emissions supports our commitment to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy—and now our pledge to be carbon neutral by 2050. This commitment can be seen throughout Northampton’s governing

bodies including the City Council and Planning Department (see Appendix for a list of City Council resolutions on environmental issues). These investments in the past, present, and earmarked for the future demonstrate how we’ve been both forward-looking and *forward-moving* in reaching those goals. Nevertheless, there is much more to do. The Northampton Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan intends to build on that momentum, integrating actions already underway, and laying out next steps for legislation, decision-making, implementation, and tracking progress over both the short- and long-term.

## Summary of Resilience and Regeneration Strategies

Reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 is a challenge and an opportunity for Northampton that will require action at individual, city, and regional scales. We have identified a set of strategies, ranging from policies, regulatory changes, and capital improvement projects, to new programs and advocacy that will move us towards a more resilient and regenerative Northampton.

**■ Reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 is a challenge and an opportunity for Northampton that will require action at individual, city, and regional scales.**

# Northampton Resilience and Regeneration Strategies

Figure 3. Strategy organization in Action Plan section of this plan

### How are the strategies organized?

Northampton is tracking its progress using the new US Green Building Council (USGBC) rating system LEED for Cities and Communities. This replaced the former STAR Communities program. The Resilience and Regeneration strategies are broken down by the categories defined in the rating system to help us track how our actions help us make progress.

### Time-frame Notations

**Short-term** = less than one year  
**Mid-term** = one to three years  
**Long-term** = over three years

### Cost Notations

Cost ranges include costs for the implementer and roughly represent:

- \$** = Capital cost (<\$1M)  
= Planning/policy/program implementation (<\$25k)
- \$\$** = Capital cost (\$1-5M)  
= Planning/policy/program implementation (\$25-250k)
- \$\$\$** = Capital cost (>\$5M)  
= Planning/policy/program implementation (>\$250k)

# 2

---

**The Mill River at West Street. Maintaining healthy natural water systems, and reducing flood risk are captured by strategies in this plan.**

*Image credit: Holly Jacobson*

## SECTION TWO

# Climate Change in Northampton

### Why is the Climate Changing?

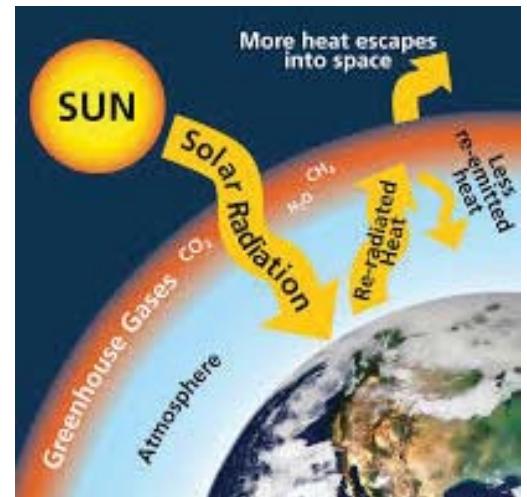
The fossil fuels we use for generating electricity, heating our homes and workplaces, growing the food we eat, and fueling our cars, as well as trash breaking down in landfills release greenhouse gases (GHGs) into the atmosphere. Naturally occurring greenhouse gases are important for regulating the Earth's temperature and keeping it warm enough for life on this planet.

Since the industrial revolution, however, human activity such as burning fossil fuels, converting our forests to farms and human development, and producing waste has caused much larger quantities of greenhouse gases (particularly carbon dioxide and methane) to be released into the atmosphere than is sustainable. The amount of carbon dioxide has increased 100 times faster in the last 60 years than previous natural increases! This large increase in greenhouse gases is causing global temperatures to rise and is disrupting our climate patterns, causing more extreme weather events.

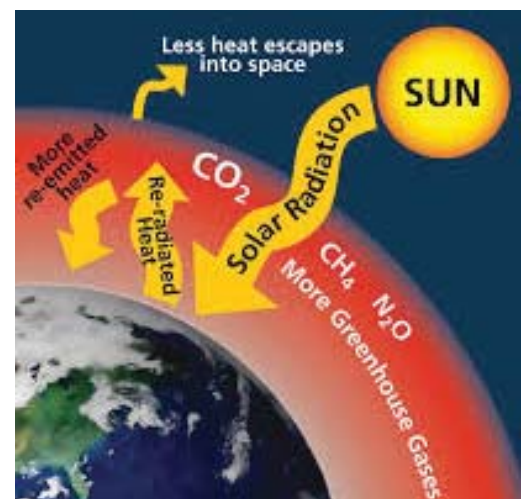
**Figure 3.** This image depicts the greenhouse gas effect that is at the root of climate change. While greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are important for trapping heat from the sun (image [A]), too many greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is changing the climate on Earth (image [B]).

*Image credit: Will Elder, National Park Service.*

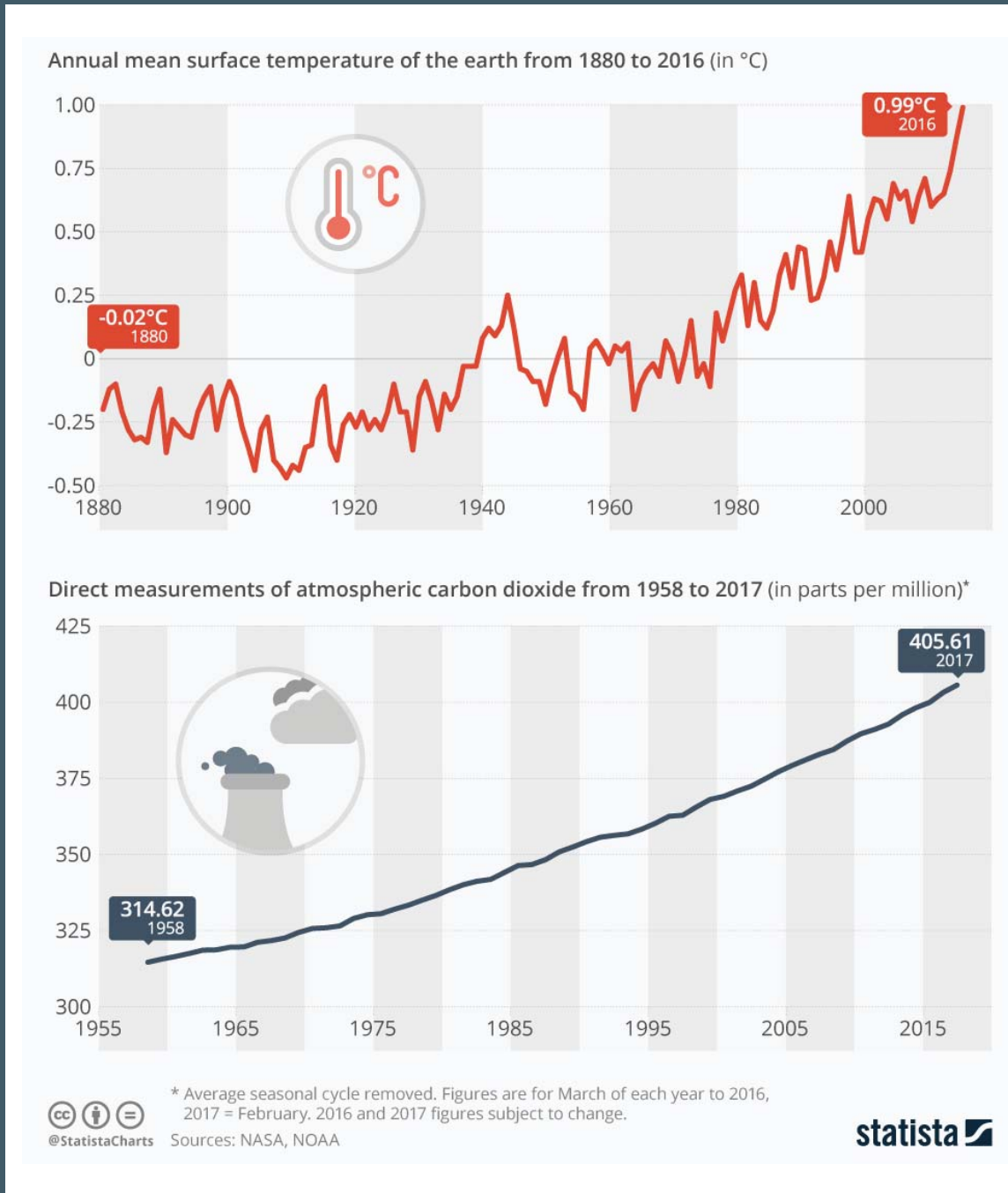
[A]



[B]



# Changes in Global Surface Temperatures and CO<sub>2</sub> in the Atmosphere



**Figure 4.** Change in the annual mean surface temperature of the earth from 1880 to 2016 (top) and change in the carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere from 1958 to 2017 (bottom).

Image credit: Martin Armstrong, Statista.  
 See: [www.statista.com/chart/8471/co2-levels-and-global-warming](http://www.statista.com/chart/8471/co2-levels-and-global-warming)

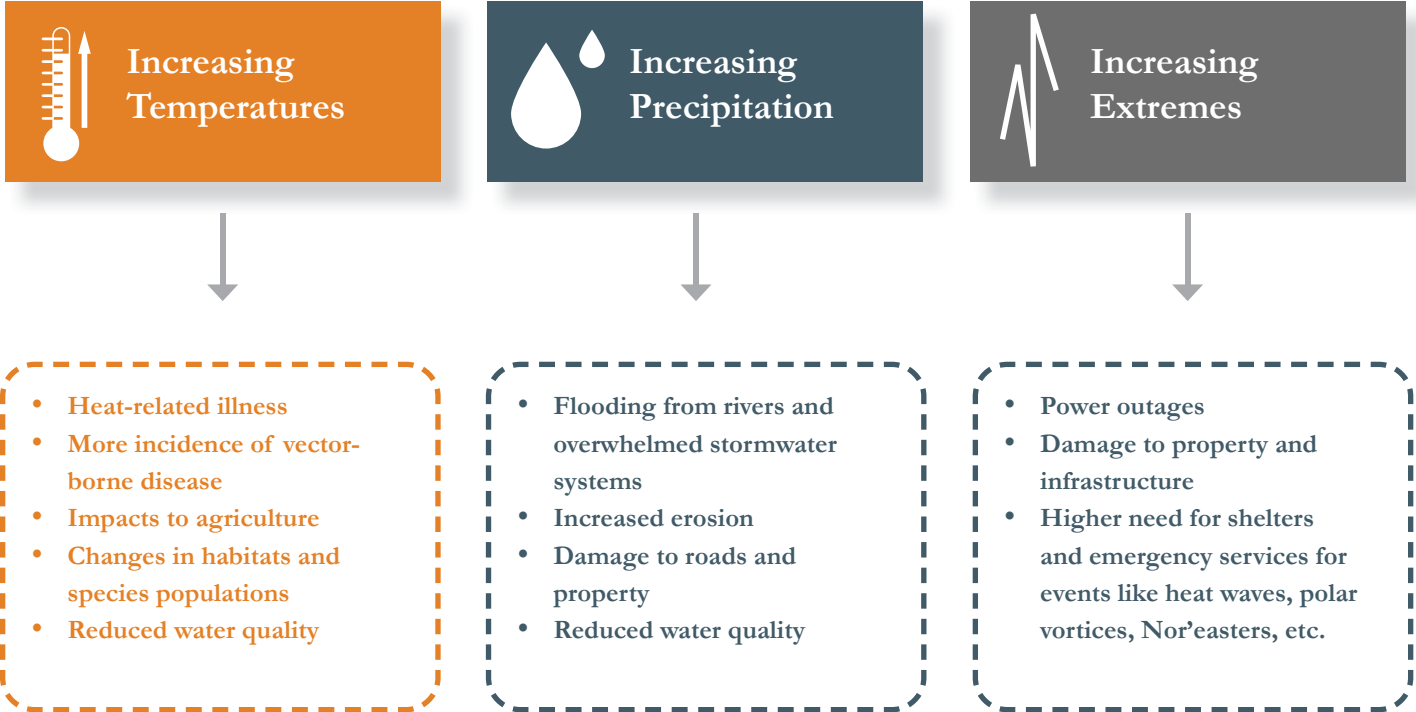
# Signs of a Changing Climate and Future Projections

## Climate Change in Northampton

As a result of climate change, Northampton is experiencing increasing mean temperatures and more intense storms. These changes are taking a toll on our infrastructure, ecosystems, and health, including more frequent flood events, wear and tear on our roads, spread of new invasive species, disruptions to farming, and increasing vector-borne disease. Even if we can achieve significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions globally, even if we can become net carbon neutral, feedback

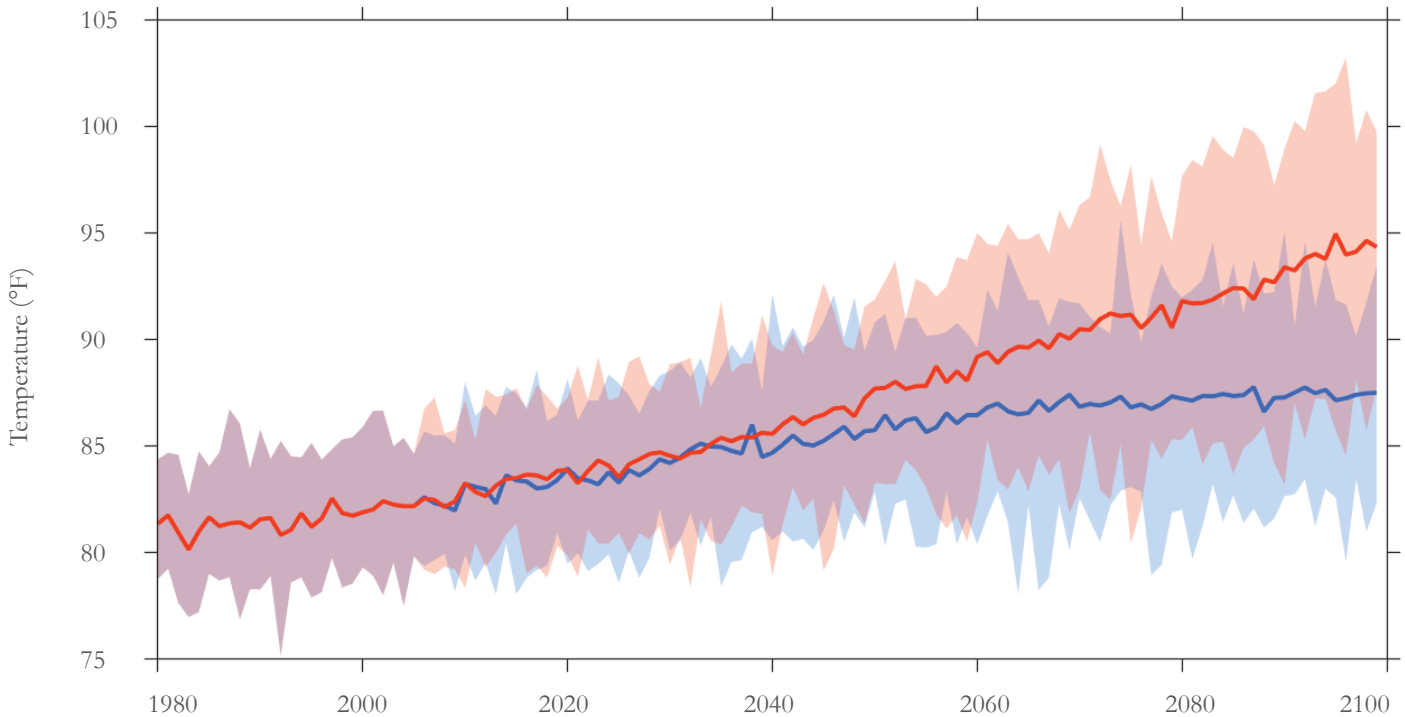
loops will continue and we will see and experience the intensifying impact of these changes within the next thirty years and even more so by the end of the century.

## Changes in Temperature



**Figure 5.** Key indicators of climate change in Northampton (solid boxes) and some of the potential impacts we are likely to see from those changes (dashed boxes). *Icon credit: André Luiz and Baboon designs from the Noun Project.*

## Maximum Summer Temperatures for Northampton, MA



**Figure 6.** Summer temperatures (average maximum daily temperatures for June – August) have been increasing over the past several decades, and are expected to continue to increase through the end of the century. Whereas the average maximum temperature in the summer is currently around 83°F, it may increase to nearly 95°F by 2100. The red line shows a “business-as-usual” case if we continue to emit greenhouse gases globally at the same rate. The blue line shows temperature change projections with significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

*Historical simulations (1980-2005) and projections (2006-2099) in seasonal averages of maximum daily temperature from a 29-member, high resolution (4 km) statistically downscaled Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP5) ensemble mean lower (RCP 4.5 W - thick blue line) and higher (RCP 8.5 - thick red line) representative concentration pathway (RCP) emission scenarios. Red and blue lines for the period 1980-2005 are identical. The light blue (light red) shading represent the highest and lowest values from the 29 different model RCP 4.5 (RCP 8.5) simulations for each year. Graph from Elizabeth Burakowski and Cameron Wake, Earth System Research Center/EOS, U. of New Hampshire.*

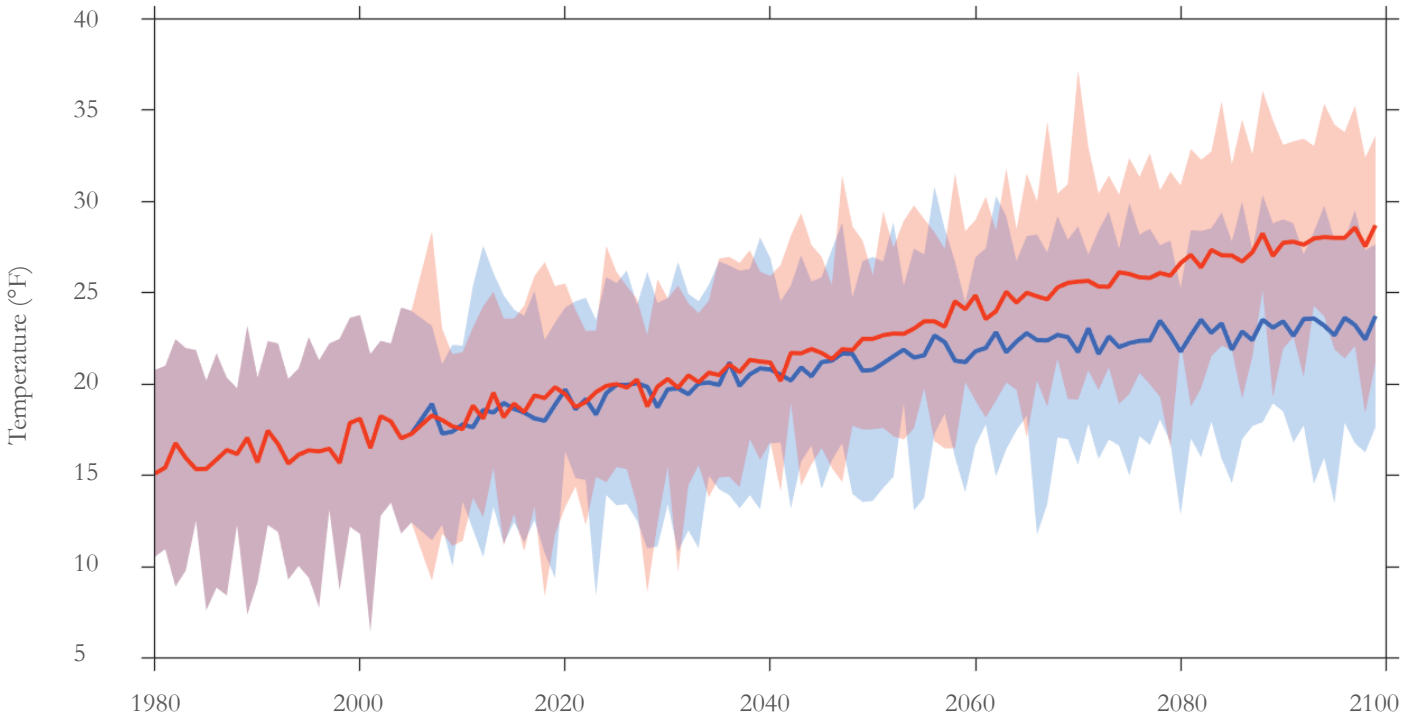
Annual temperatures in the Northeast have been warming 0.5°F per decade on average since 1970, with winter temperatures increasing even faster at 1.3°F per decade (Massachusetts EOEEA/Department of Energy Resources (EEA). (2017). *Resilient MA: Climate Change Clearinghouse for the Commonwealth*. Retrieved from <http://resilientma.org/>.) In Western Massachusetts, specifically, average annual temperatures have increased 1.9°F since 1970 (Climate Central. (2019). “US Warming by State.” Retrieved from [www.climatecentral.org/gallery/maps/us-warming-by-state](http://www.climatecentral.org/gallery/maps/us-warming-by-state), using Springfield, MA data).

Based on downscaled climate projections, average temperatures for the Connecticut River Basin are expected to increase 3–6°F by 2050 and 4–11°F by the end of the century (Downscaled climate projections by the Northeast Climate Science Center at UMass-Amherst. Accessed from Massachusetts Climate Change Projections, Massachusetts EOEEA/Department of Energy Resources, 2017.

With these changes in temperature we will see more days with extreme heat and fewer days below freezing. From 1970–2000, the Connecticut River Basin had an average of roughly 6 days with maximum temperatures of 90°F each year, a number which is expected to increase to 16–42 days by 2050. Likewise, by 2050 the Connecticut River Basin is likely to have 19–37 fewer days where temperatures dip below 32°F each year.

Along with potential impacts to the city’s agriculture, air quality, and the health of our water supplies, these temperature increases are already showing effects on our ecosystems by degrading the health and longevity of tree species that are accustomed to colder climates, contributing to pest outbreaks, and facilitating the spread of invasive species. Insects,

# Minimum Winter Temperatures for Northampton, MA



**Figure 7.** Winter temperatures (average minimum daily temperatures for December - February) have been increasing over the past several decades, and are expected to continue to increase through the end of the century. The average winter minimum temperature (approximately 18°F) may increase to nearly 28°F by 2100. The red line shows a “business-as-usual” case if we continue to emit greenhouse gases globally at the same rate. The blue line shows temperature change projections with significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

*Historical simulations (1980-2005) and future projections (2006-2099) in seasonal averages of minimum daily temperature from a 29-member, high resolution (4 km) statistically downscaled Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP5) ensemble mean lower (RCP 4.5 W - thick blue line) and higher (RCP 8.5 - thick red line) representative concentration pathway (RCP) emission scenarios. Red and blue lines for the period 1980-2005 are identical. The light blue (light red) shading represent the highest and lowest values from the 29 different model RCP 4.5 (RCP 8.5) simulations for each year. Graph from Elizabeth Burakowski and Cameron Wake, Earth System Research Center/EOS, U. of New Hampshire.*

including tick species that carry Lyme disease, are less likely to die off in the winter with higher winter temperatures, leading to higher breeding rates. Northampton has seen increasing rates of Lyme disease cases and increases in mosquito and other vector-borne disease.

With increasing average temperatures, Northampton will see more extended heat waves, which produce more challenges than the occasional hotter day. Extreme heat, humidity, and sustained heat waves cause heat-related illness, particularly for people with compromised immune systems, asthma, or without access to air conditioning. We recognize and need to address how climate change disproportionately affects some community members (frontline communities) more than others (climate justice).

## Changes in Precipitation

Average annual rainfall has increased by nearly ten percent in the Northeast since 1970 (*Massachusetts Climate Change Clearinghouse. (2017). "Changes in Precipitation," from [http://resilientma.org/changes/changes-in-precipitation#fn\\_1](http://resilientma.org/changes/changes-in-precipitation#fn_1)*). The intensity of downpours has also increased significantly. Between 1958 and 2010, the Northeast experienced a 70% increase in the precipitation that fell in “very heavy events,” the heaviest 1% of all daily events (*Horton, R., Yobe, G., Easterling, W., Kates, R., Ruth, M., Sussman, E., Welbel, A., Wolfe, D., & Lipschultz, F. (2014) Ch. 16: Northeast. "Climate Change Impacts in the United States." The Third National Climate Assessment. J. M. Melillo, Terese Richmond, and G. W. Yobe, Eds. U.S. Global Change Research Program, 16-1-11*).

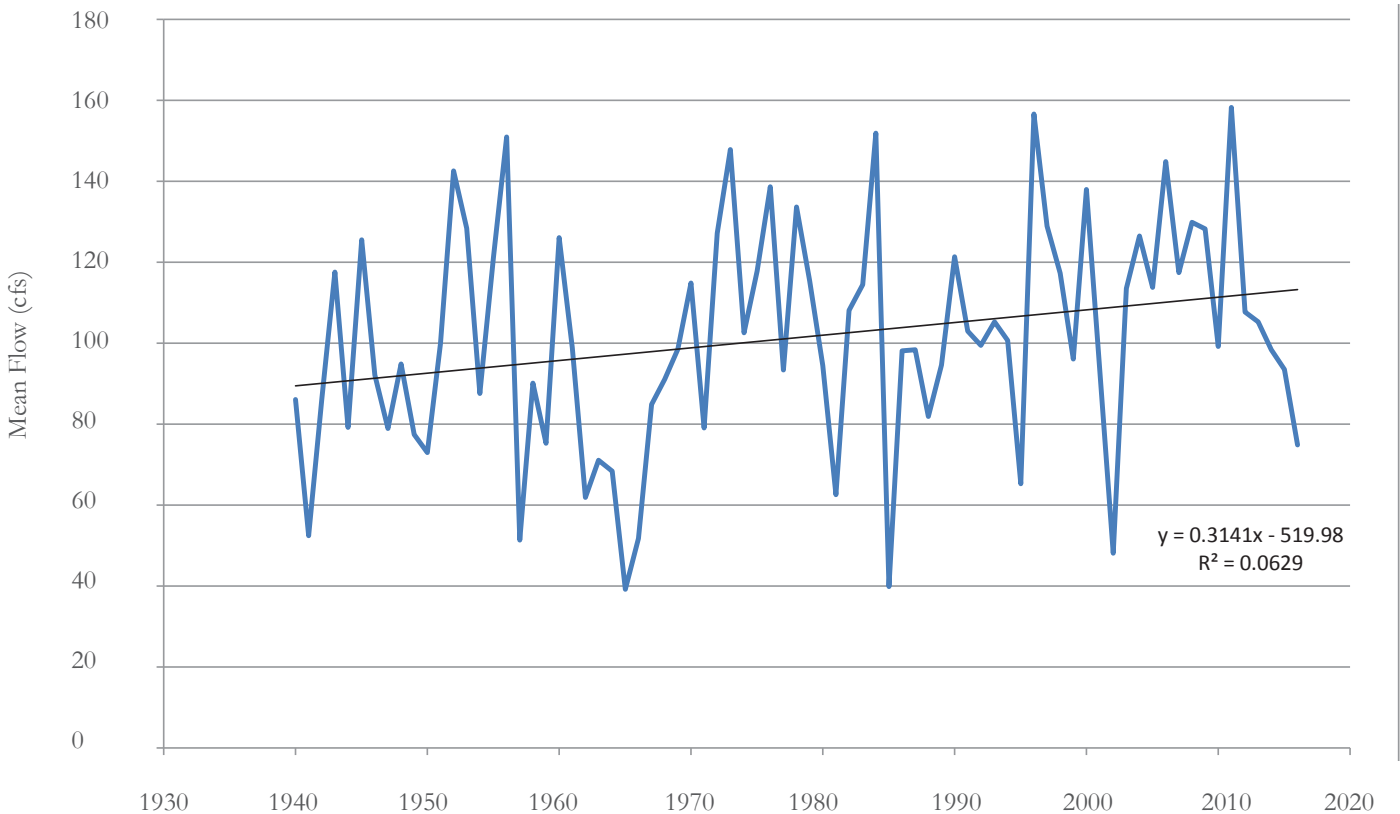
Mill River stream flow data (US Geological Survey) show annual mean flow and annual peak flow have trended upward over the past 80 years, showing the impact of these precipitation changes (**Figures 8 and 9**).

Total Western Massachusetts annual precipitation is expected to increase

over the course of the century. Currently the Connecticut River Basin sees an average of roughly 46 inches of annual precipitation. This is projected to increase to 48–53 inches by 2050 and to 55 inches by the end of the century. The majority of that increase is projected to occur in the winter months; the summer and fall may in fact see a decrease in precipitation.

Likewise, the intensity of storms is projected to increase, which is measured by more precipitation over a shorter period of time. The Connecticut River Basin currently sees roughly 6.5 days in a year on average where precipitation exceeds one inch. The number of days is expected to increase to between 7 and 10 days by 2050 and up to 11 days by 2100. (*Climate projections in this section are all downscaled climate projections by the Northeast Climate Science Center at UMass-Amherst, from Massachusetts Climate Change Projections by Massachusetts EOEEA/Department of Energy Resources, 2017*).

## Annual Mean Flow for the Mill River (USGS Site 1171500)



**Figure 8.** Historic annual mean flow for the Mill River (USGS Site 1171500)



With these major storms, Northampton faces three types of flood risk: 1) Riverine flooding from the Connecticut River, Mill River, Manhan River, Parsons Brook, and unnamed streams; 2) Localized flooding when infiltration and the stormwater system reaches maximum capacity; and 3) Downtown flooding if floodwaters over-top the levee or if the levee or Hockanum Road pump station fail. Much easterly portion of the city sits within the floodplain of the Connecticut River. The flood control system, which was built in the 1940s after two major floods in the 1930s damaged much of the city, affords the downtown protection from major floods. The system was designed, however, to protect against a maximum predicted flood level in the 1940s, with additional freeboard of two to five feet along the earthen levees and concrete walls. Although this is a conservative design, it may not be sufficient for the higher intensity storms expected with climate change.

of the city’s aging culvert and stormwater systems, causing more localized flooding. Without updated infrastructure design standards and new strategies for infiltrating and storing water, flooding is likely to increasingly impact roads, buildings, and communities.

The flood control systems for the Connecticut and Mill Rivers were designed and constructed by the US Army Corps of Engineers to protect the city from flooding. Areas within the City that would flood without the levee structures are considered to be a levee-protected zone according to FEMA. FEMA is currently updating their floodplain mapping, a process that currently includes the City’s obtaining engineering certification of the levee system. This FEMA map modernization and City certification is anticipated to be complete in 2025.

More frequent high-intensity rain events will surpass the capacity

## Annual Peak Flows for the Mill River (USGS Site 1171500)

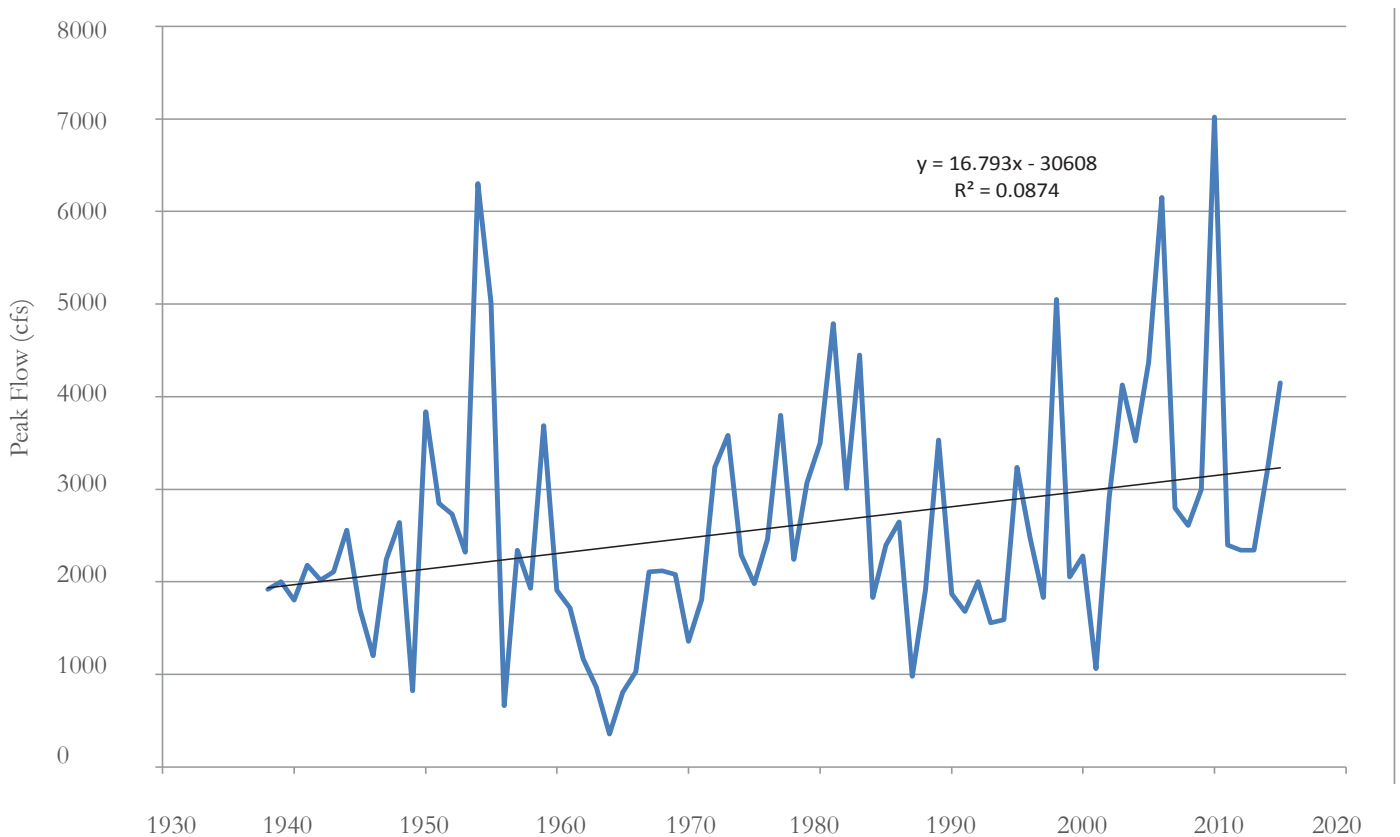


Figure 9. Historic annual peak flow for the Mill River (USGS Site 1171500)

## Variability and Extremes

Climate change will bring average higher temperatures and more precipitation. That shift, however, will not result in steady weather patterns. In the Northeast we expect greater variability and more extreme weather. This may include longer periods of drought, more severe hurricanes, heavier snowstorms, or polar vortices.

Despite our city’s robust water supply, longer periods of dry weather may impact the quantity and quality of that supply. In 2016, Massachusetts issued a drought declaration in which the Connecticut River Region reached “warning” status. Although Northampton had implemented water restrictions in years past, this level of drought demonstrated the need for further water use conservations as we continue to see the effects of climate change.

In particular, the vast majority of Northampton’s farmland is not irrigated, making the city’s agriculture especially vulnerable to drought.

The City must increase the resiliency of the city’s systems to address extreme storm events that can bring power outages, interruptions in transportation, heavier reliance on homeless and emergency shelters, and business and service closures.

Community members and staff discussed the potential impacts from climate hazards (e.g., rising temperatures, increased precipitation, floods, droughts, and more intense storms) at several workshops. See the Community Resilience Building Workshop Summary of Findings (2018, amended 2020)

## Annual Average Precipitation for Northampton, MA



**Figure 10.** Average annual precipitation has been increasing over the past several decades, and is expected to continue to increase through the end of the century. The red line shows a “business-as-usual” case if we continue to emit greenhouse gases globally at the same rate. The blue line shows projections for the change in annual precipitation with significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

*Historical simulations (1980-2005) and future projections (2006-2099) in annual averages of total precipitation from a 29-member, high resolution (4 km) statistically downscaled Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP5) ensemble mean lower (RCP 4.5 W - thick blue line) and higher (RCP 8.5 - thick red line) representative concentration pathway (RCP) emission scenarios. Red and blue lines for the period 1980-2005 are identical. The light blue (light red) shading represent the highest and lowest values from the 29 different model RCP 4.5 (RCP 8.5) simulations for each year. Graph from Elizabeth Burakowski and Cameron Wake, Earth System Research Center/EOS, University of New Hampshire.*



# Equity Disparities and Frontline Communities

Some of our residents, generally those with the least resources, will be disproportionately hit by climate change (frontline communities).

Some individuals can drive away and stay in a hotel when a major storm is threatened. Some can afford to purchase air conditioning or swim in a pool when it is hot. Some can afford higher water rates. Some can purchase more robust housing.

Some cannot. The frontline communities for climate change tend to be the communities who are already facing chronic stress, low income, populations of color, homeless, under employed, those with disabilities, and many other existing situations that add to the day to day challenge.

These frontline communities include those who are under chronic stress. For example:

- The 1% of the population that is experiencing homelessness and others under the most severe chronic stress
- The 15% of the population below the poverty line
- The 40% of the population that is housing-burdened and under chronic stress
- Populations of color who may be suffering from structural racism
- Elderly and health compromised residents
- Persons with disabilities.

During periods of acute stress (extreme storm events, natural and human-made disasters, and pandemics) 100% of the population is at much greater risk from climate change.

# 3

Northampton coordinates ValleyBike share for the Pioneer Valley, part of its strategy for low carbon transportation.

*Image credit: Planning & Sustainability*



## SECTION THREE

# Pathways for Action

### Northampton's Carbon Neutrality Goals

The City of Northampton is committed to net carbon neutrality by 2050, City buildings and operations to net carbon neutrality by 2030, and community carbon emissions to a 50% reduction by 2030 and a 75% reduction by 2040. This commitment is aided by Smith College's commitment to be net carbon neutral by 2030.

The city and its commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential partners need to ensure greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to as close to zero as possible and any remaining emissions are covered by offsets or sequestration, while incorporating climate resilience and regeneration into all future city plans and capital improvement planning. Addressing energy sources, building energy, transportation, land use, food systems, waste systems, trees and forests, carbon sequestration, and waste, while acknowledging that the most effective carbon neutralization strategy is always conservation and reducing demands (e.g., energy, transport, materials).

### Northampton's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

To understand Northampton's contribution to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, we conducted an inventory of the GHG emissions produced within the city. This Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory identifies the major sources of emissions and the quantity emitted from those sources. To allow for comparison with our peer cities, the GHG inventory followed the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GPC), which is an international accounting protocol. The inventory is based on 2016 data, the most recent set of data in hand.

**Figure 11.** shows the results of the inventory, broken down by sector.

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions- Scopes

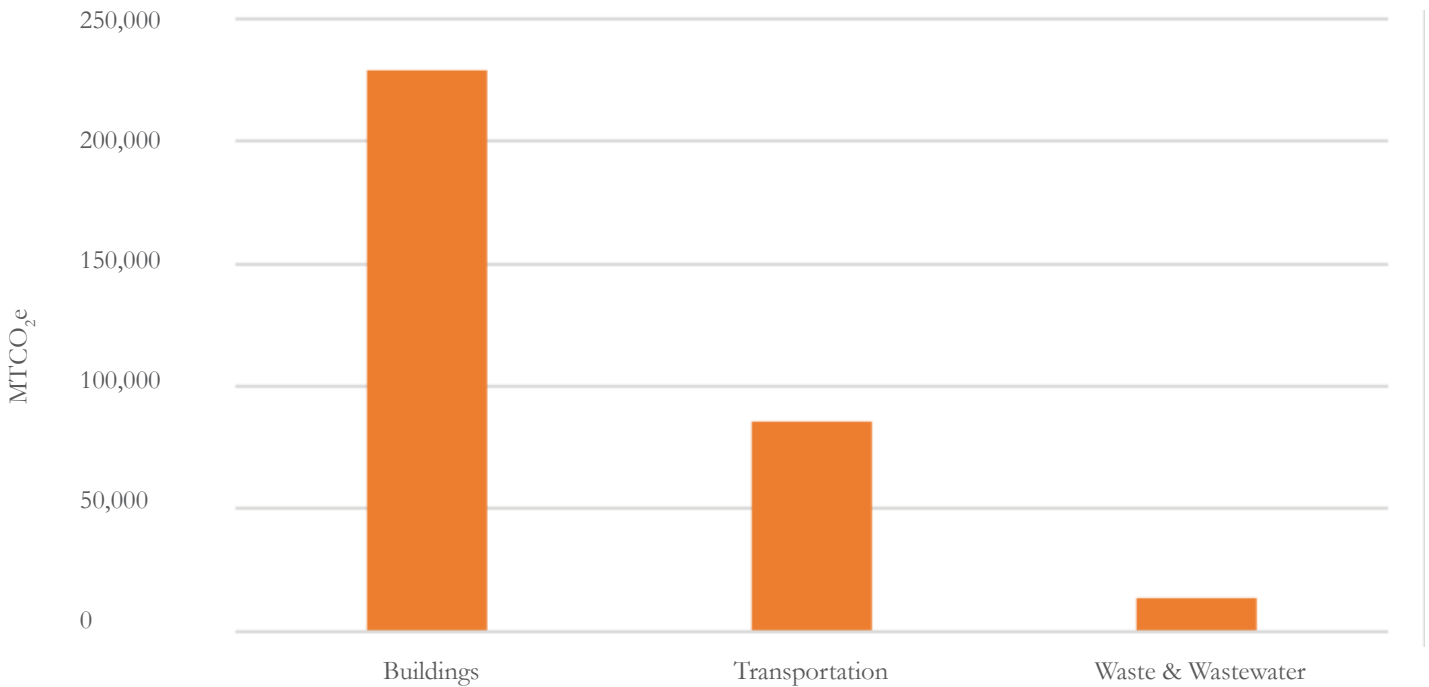
We focus on Scope 1 and 2 emissions, but work on some actions to address Scope 3.

Scope 1 – Direct Emissions (e.g., fuel combustion on-site, vehicle emissions, gas line leaks, within the city), with related offsets.

Scope 2 – Indirect Emissions from off-site production of city electricity use.

Scope 3 – Other Indirect Emissions beyond control, such as the global footprint of products consumed in the city.

# Northampton 2016 Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector



**Figure 11.** Northampton’s 2016 community GHG emissions by sector. Commercial and residential buildings account for 70% of the GHG emissions in Northampton.

Emissions totaled approximately 329,140 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2016. That is the same amount of emissions that roughly 70,000 gasoline-powered cars release in one year. Commercial and residential buildings together account for 70% of community GHG emissions. Transportation accounts for 26%, while waste and wastewater treatment account for 4%.

**Figure 12.** Shows more detailed information about where our community greenhouse gas emissions are coming from. The 52% of emissions labeled “commercial and multi-family buildings” includes emissions from all commercial and institutional properties in Northampton, including municipal facilities, multi-family housing and Smith College and Cooley Dickinson Hospital. The energy we use in private homes makes up 18% of our community emissions. Data related to energy use and emissions from industrial buildings and processes and from agriculture, specifically, was unavailable and therefore is not included in this analysis. The assessment

indicates, however, that building energy use presents a significant opportunity for targeting emissions reductions.

Another area of opportunity for targeting emissions reductions is in “on-road transport,” which makes up 26% of our community’s emissions. These emissions include both gas- and diesel-powered vehicles used for commercial and personal use. Meanwhile, “water and wastewater treatment and discharge” accounts for 3% of our total emissions, and includes emissions from electricity use and other emissions at the water and wastewater treatment plants and throughout the entire system. While “solid waste disposal” emissions are low at 1% this is an important and common area to address as the actions we take to reduce the amount of material sent to the a sanitary landfill or incinerator can have other benefits, e.g., reducing our material consumption and the energy use associated with the production, packaging, and transportation of products.

Burning fossil fuels is the main source of greenhouse gas emissions globally. In Northampton, emissions from fossil fuels account for 87% of Northampton’s total inventory.

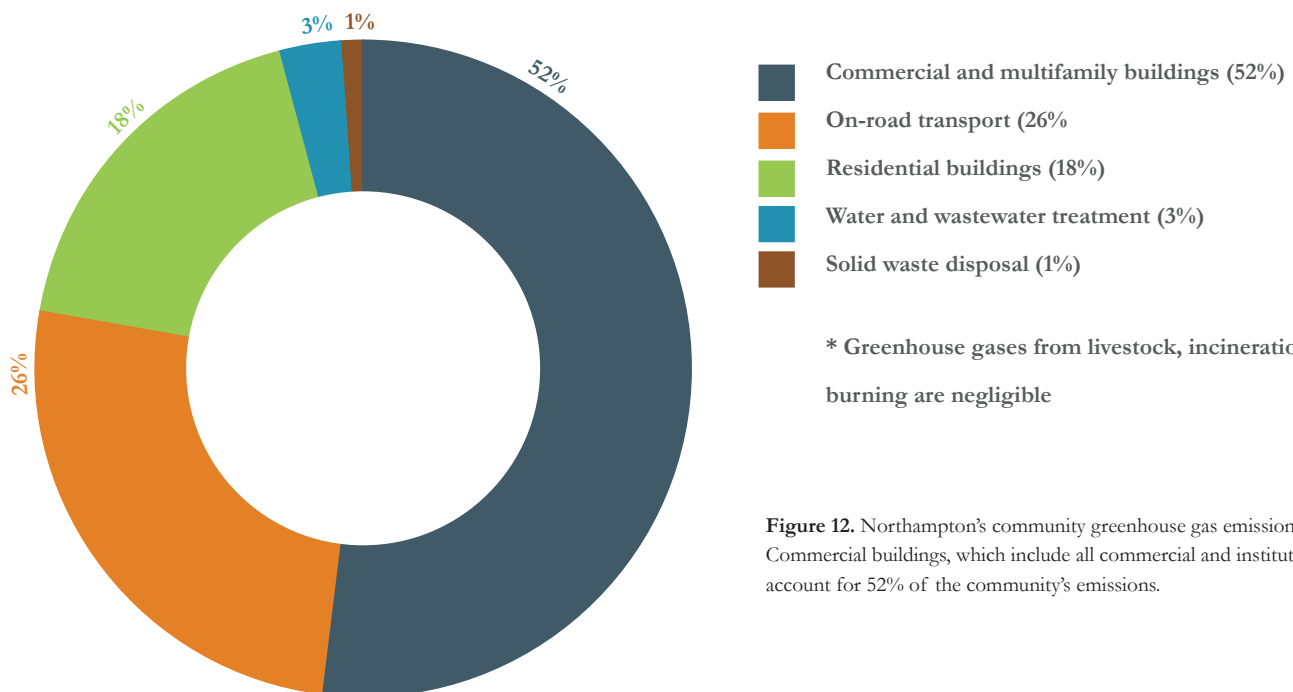
**Figure 17.** Provides total emissions by fuel source and use. Natural gas used in building heating and hot water is the primary source of emissions from stationary sources, and emissions from gasoline are nearly double that of diesel fuel as it relates to mobile sources.

Though it is often reported to have a lower carbon footprint than oil and coal, when gas leakage is included natural gas is an extremely high emitter of GHG emissions relative to renewable energy sources. Investments in natural gas supplies and distribution are not compatible with the City’s net zero carbon goal. New investments in natural gas create additional stranded assets in the long-term. Northampton will continue to use existing natural gas pipelines within a larger transition away from a dependency on oil and coal while transitioning to renewable energy sources.

### What is MTCO<sub>2</sub>e?

MTCO<sub>2</sub>e is an abbreviation for “metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.” GHG inventories look at several types of greenhouse gases, which each have a different capacity for trapping heat. Because humans produce more carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) than any other GHG, emissions of GHGs are counted based on how each GHGs heat trapping capacity compares to that of CO<sub>2</sub>. This is called the CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). At a community scale, GHGs are measured in metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e).

## Northampton 2016 Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sub-Sector



**Figure 12.** Northampton’s community greenhouse gas emissions by sub-sector. Commercial buildings, which include all commercial and institutional facilities, account for 52% of the community’s emissions.

# Northampton 2016 Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Fuel Type

Sector	Greenhouse Gases Emissions (MTCO <sub>2</sub> e)					Total
	Stationary Energy			Mobile Energy		
	#2 Fuel Oil	Natural Gas	Electricity	Gasoline	Diesel	
Buildings	13,620	128,770	58,070	-	-	200,460
On-road transportation	-	-	-	56,740	29,060	85,800
Water	-	-	500	-	-	500
Wastewater	-	-	680	-	-	680
<i>Total</i>	<i>13,620</i>	<i>128,770</i>	<i>59,250</i>	<i>56,740</i>	<i>29,060</i>	<i>287,440</i>

Figure 13. Northampton’s greenhouse gas emissions (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e) by fuel source and sector.

Though solid waste appears to only account for 1% of all GHG emissions in these figures, in reality, the carbon footprint from this sector is much larger. This disparity is due to the GHG emissions produced through the production, packaging, and shipping of products that eventually become solid waste within the Northampton community. Though Northampton does not include these emissions within its inventory as they are accounted for by the communities generating and transporting these products, it is important to understand how our communities’ consumption and waste practices ultimately contribute to a global network of large-scale emitters.

## Moving Forward

Greenhouse gas emissions are a primary indicator for a more sustainable and resilient future. To ensure we are constantly moving toward our goal of carbon neutrality, it will be essential for the city to develop a streamlined process to collect energy use and emissions data for ongoing tracking and reporting purposes. There is also a strong need to improve the quality and availability of the data based on shifts in priorities and market transformations. For example, through Community Choice Aggregation, Northampton will gain access to some electric utility data that previously was challenging to come by. It will be critical to have a system in place for identifying what our current and future data needs might be and ensuring that we are equipped to store, manage, and utilize that data to tell the story of our path to carbon neutrality.

### What is mobile versus stationary energy?

Mobile energy refers to the energy used for transport activities like driving a car.

Stationary energy refers to the electricity and natural gas used in our buildings, including homes, schools, and offices.



# Our Path to a Carbon-Neutral and Regenerative City

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## Pathways

The Carbon Neutral Pathway Analysis quantifies the impact of a the pathways that have the potential to yield the greatest reductions and for which data was readily available. The city needs a comprehensive approach to reducing emissions that prioritizes conservation and efficiency, as well as includes as additional pathways with impacts that have yet to be quantified, including targeting mode shift and changes in land use. We recognize that many of the strategies within these pathways may result in higher short-term costs and that many members of our community would be disproportionately burdened by these cost increases. Equity is a primary lens for this plan and needs to be part of all relevant implementation efforts.

The Carbon Neutral Pathway Analysis assessed the reduction potential of the first six of the following pathways, although the vehicle emissions standards pathways is totally at the federal and state levels. These pathways, and the others not analyzed, should be pursued simultaneously and presented in no particular order. They tackle the sectors that make up the majority of Northampton's GHG emissions- buildings, transportation, and electricity generation.

All of the pathways are reflected in the strategies in Section Four.

### PATHWAY 1

## Reduce Energy Demand- Efficiency and Conservation

Reducing energy use, from buildings, from transportation, from consumption, and all other energy users is always the most effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Within the City's footprint, increasing building energy efficiency is the most cost-effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and, at the same time, retain more money within the city. This requires a wide variety of actions, including a much stronger energy stretch code, zoning incentives, public investment in city buildings, energy benchmarking and disclosure, planting of street trees to reduce heat island effects, and right-sizing new construction to avoid over-building.

Regulations can range from incentives, technical assistance, energy performance standards (for new buildings) to a benchmarking and disclosure requirements (for existing buildings meeting certain thresholds) to assess and disclose their energy use and other performance indicators against some benchmark. The latter action creates market incentives to improve building performance (typically achieving between 2-11% energy reductions annually). (*US Environmental Protection Agency (2012) "Benchmarking and Energy Savings."*)

The City is leading by example, with the Mayor issuing an executive order (2020) to examine HVAC systems in city buildings with a plan towards the City being able to achieve its city operations carbon neutral target by 2030.

Reducing consumption and moving to a zero waste framework, where waste generation is dramatically reduced and what is generated becomes a resource instead of a waste (e.g., composting of materials) has a relatively small effect on local greenhouse gas emissions (scope 1 and 2 emissions). Those steps, however, have a dramatic effect on the long footprint that Northampton has on the entire world (scope 3 emissions) because GHG emissions to make and ship products to Northampton can be reduced. These actions will take place both within the City and, through its management of public land and purchasing power, outside of the City.

### PATHWAY 2

## Electricity from Renewable / Low-Carbon Sources

This pathway calls for transforming Northampton's electricity supply as a climate change mitigation mechanism. To achieve zero carbon electricity, all fossil fuel generation sources must be replaced by renewables, with any remaining generation "neutralized" with carbon offsets or carbon credits. Northampton has advanced this pathway by encouraging private and municipal solar (including relevant zoning, three commercial scale and many smaller scale solar PV installations, and past participation in MassCEC's Solarize Mass Program). Per capita solar

capacity through this program grew eight times faster in Northampton than the statewide average. Because conservation and energy demand reduction are usually more cost-effective than switching to renewables, Northampton is actively pursued both strategies. Efficient distributed energy and distributed energy storage (batteries or other storage mechanisms), on both City and private facilities and land, are critical to this effort.

### PATHWAY 3

## Electric Vehicle Deployment

Encouraging the shift toward electric vehicles (EVs) can significantly reduce GHG emissions and improve air quality in Northampton, even with today's electricity mix. Increasing the adoption of electric vehicles requires:

- Converting more of the city fleet to electric vehicles.
- Continuously expanding EV charging infrastructure.
- Informing the public on state and federal EV incentives.

Northampton is already making progress in this area with 60 EV charging station ports within 9 miles of the city, with many more private ones installed by local businesses and residents.

### PATHWAY 4

## Net Zero Energy Buildings

A Net Zero Energy (NZE) building produces enough renewable energy to meet its own annual energy consumption requirements. Typically, they are highly energy efficient and leverage passive solar to minimize the renewable energy requirements. This requires a combination of state building code reforms, local zoning and other incentives, and the City leading by example by ensuring that all new and existing municipal and school buildings are built and rehabilitated to Net Zero Energy. Requiring all new and major redevelopment to meet these aggressive requirements can go a long way toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our new and existing buildings sector.

### PATHWAY 5

## Electrification of Thermal Loads

Switching from traditional heating systems to newer air source and ground-source heat pumps can reduce energy demand and eliminate

or dramatically reduce on-site fossil fuel consumption, and switch the energy source to electricity, which will eventually be served by 100% renewable sources. The increased performance and energy efficiency of air-source heat pumps (ASHPs) and ground-source heat pumps manufactured for cold weather climates today is a result of technical, manufacturing, and installation advances. The first run of the HeatSmart Northampton ASHP program helped 54 homeowners around Northampton make the switch to ASHPs. The city has already joined others in the community in using more efficient, but capital-intensive, ground-source heat pumps at its Senior Center. Smith College is exploring switching its entire thermal load to ground-source heat pumps as part of its own efforts to be carbon neutral by 2030. The city is beginning the necessary energy studies to ensure that it electrifies its thermal (heating and cooling) systems in its public buildings as boilers and heating systems fail and/or require major upgrades.

### PATHWAY 6

## CAFE and Other Vehicle Standards

The federal Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards, first enacted in 1975, set the minimum average fuel performance of the cars and light trucks sold in the United States. CAFE standards have resulted in more efficient (higher miles per gallon) passenger vehicles on the road. Separately, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) greenhouse gas tailpipe emissions regulations also apply to all vehicles, working in coordination with CAFE and truck standards toward more efficient, less polluting vehicles. Even with the 2020 federal attempts to rollback some of these standards, fuel efficiency and per vehicle emissions will continue to improve, especially with the increase in electric vehicles.

### PATHWAY 7

## Transportation Mode Shift

Mode shift is moving trips from single occupancy motor vehicles (SOV) to alternative transportation options. The most cost effective ways are to provide more sustainable options, walking, bicycling, and public transit, and providing land use options to reduce the number and length of necessary trips. These sustainable forms of transportation reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and bring social equity, community cohesion, and health benefits by providing more affordable transportation methods, better access to goods and services for residents without cars or who cannot drive, and avenues for healthy outdoor activity.



Northampton has made the use of sustainable transportation modes increasingly feasible for residents by investing in shared use paths; complete streets with shade trees that are welcoming to walkers, cyclists, and transit users; and launching ValleyBike, the regional electric-assist bike share program. Northampton must further expand walking, bicycling, bike share, car share, and public transportation improvements to reduce GHG emissions and increase equitable access. Because a trip avoided is even better than a mode shift, the Land Use Patterns pathway below is critical.

#### PATHWAY 8

### Land Use Patterns

Northampton's land use patterns play a key role in our pathway towards a carbon neutral and regenerative city. Compact development connected to multi-modal transit (e.g., bus routes and ValleyBike), trail networks, and in close proximity to amenities, encourages walking, biking, and bus use; reduces vehicle miles traveled; and encourages more efficient land and resource use through green infrastructure. Development review, zoning, planning, and infrastructure investments can all encourage an increase in the percentage of residents living within walking distance of downtown and commercial and village centers. Along with focusing on people over vehicles, encouraging a diversity of housing types; and installing community amenities (e.g., bike lanes, sidewalks, and parks), siting solar power systems, often with battery storage, on City and private land to offset energy needs, this pathway reduces GHG emission reductions.

#### PATHWAY 9

### Carbon Sequestration and Offsets

Planting and retaining trees, especially street trees, and maximizing carbon storage in trees and soils is critical to reducing atmospheric carbon. Soils represent the Earth's largest reservoir of terrestrial carbon, storing more carbon than vegetation and the atmosphere combined. Rural and urban forests provide carbon sequestration and offset benefits through forest management activities including the re-establishment of forests, retaining existing forests, increased street trees, and sustainable forest management practices. While enhancing carbon sequestration has a relatively minimal impact on offsetting the city's current level of greenhouse gas emissions, these practices become critical as the city's emissions approach zero. Furthermore, understanding that the current healthy soils and forests in the city store an immense amount of carbon

further justifies land preservation efforts. Offsets are a critical part of the City being able to offset its own operations by 2030.

#### PATHWAY 10

### Carbon Budgeting and City Operations

The City's effort to achieve carbon neutrality for City buildings and operations cuts across all of the above pathways. In addition, because City department heads and operation managers have more intimate knowledge of possibilities, highlighting the carbon footprint and offsets of all city operations and creating capital and operating budgets of allowable carbon emissions may be the most effective way to incentivize future reductions.

#### *Cost of Carbon-budgets and offsets*

*Carbon offsets and mitigation need to be valued for aligning carbon budgets with fiscal budgets. For planning purposes, some literature assumes that carbon pricing at around \$100/ton, reflecting the value of efficiency measures in New England. See, for example: [www.synapse-energy.com/sites/default/files/AESC-2018-17-080.pdf](http://www.synapse-energy.com/sites/default/files/AESC-2018-17-080.pdf).*

### Pathways Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Northampton's goal of carbon neutrality means that our emissions in 2050 will equal zero metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e). Our consultants analyzed Pathways 1 through 6, above, for their GHG emissions reduction potential in low-case, mid-case, and high-case scenarios.

The low-case emissions reduction scenario is the status quo scenario. The mid-case scenario is more aggressive actions, achievable with continued effort, support, and focus on reducing emissions. Neither scenario is sufficient to achieve the City's goals.

The high-case scenario is market transformation, exemplary achievement, and remarkable progress by the year 2030 in each pathway area. The model, while only an estimate, provide guidance as we move towards carbon neutrality.

**Northampton's committed goals are more aggressive than even the high case scenario.** This requires:

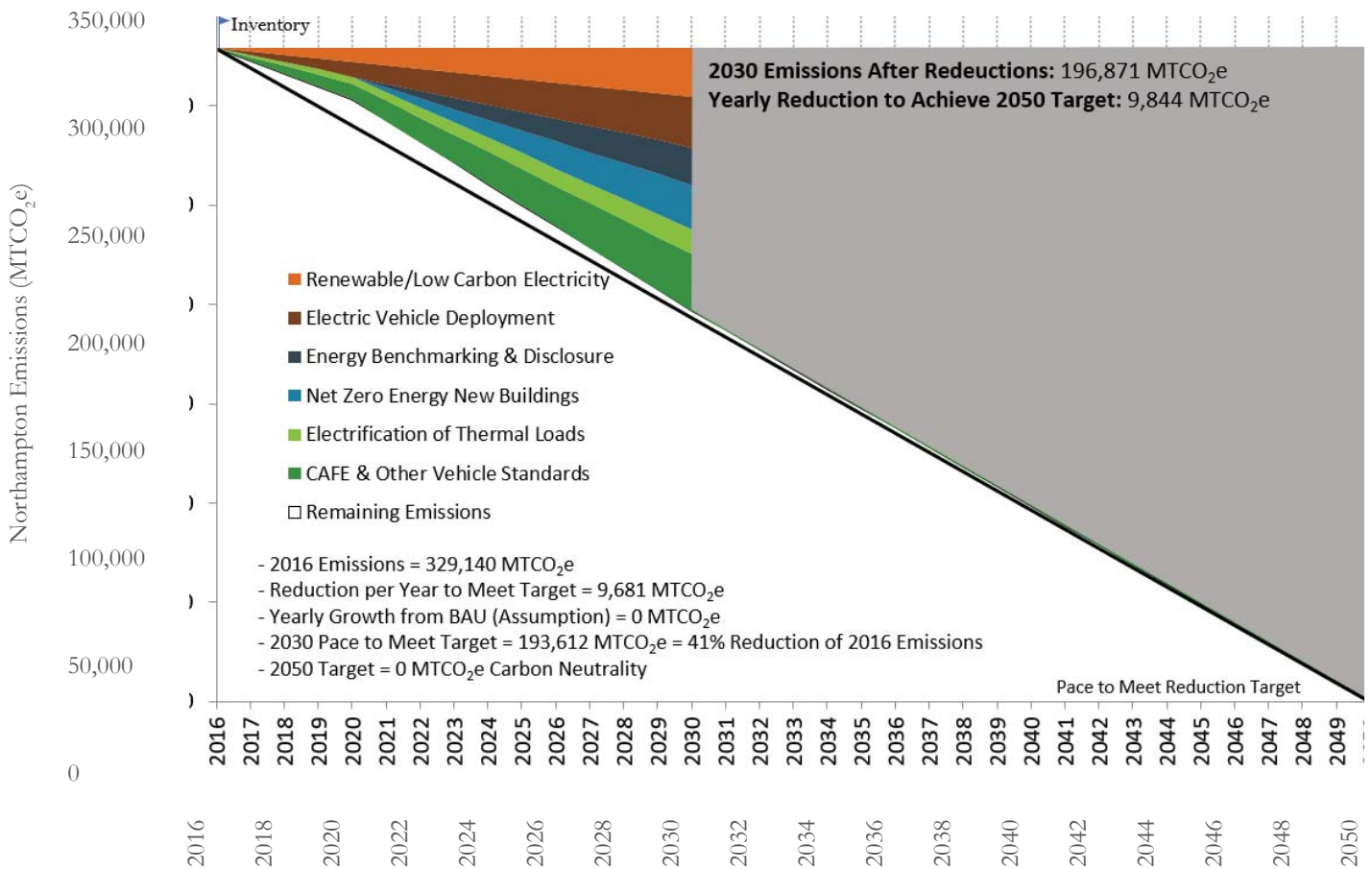
1. Additional pathways to be modeled as more information and resources becomes available.
2. Significant financial and political investments.
3. Acceptance of the trade-offs with other public policy goals

## Emissions Reduction Potential of Analyzed Pathways (#1 - 6)

Pathway	Low	%	Mid	%	High	%
1. Renewable / Low-Carbon Electricity	13,564	4.1%	19,086	5.8%	24,609	7.5%
2. Electric Vehicle Deployment	5,927	1.8%	12,281	3.7%	25,418	7.7%
3. Energy Benchmarking and Disclosure	9,061	2.8%	13,710	4.2%	18,861	5.7%
4. Net Zero Energy New Buildings	5,656	1.7%	11,313	3.4%	22,625	6.9%
5. Electrification of Thermal Loads	3,831	1.2%	7,931	2.4%	12,301	3.7%
6. CAFE & Other Vehicle Standards	12,320	3.7%	19,069	5.8%	28,455	8.6%
Total	50,359	15.3%	83,390	25.3%	132,269	40.1%

**Figure 14.** Reduction potential in MTCO<sub>2</sub>e of each analyzed pathway under three scenarios (low-case, mid-case, and high-case scenarios) in 2030. Percentages indicate the percent reduction in emissions by 2030, aiming for 100% reduction by 2050.

## Northampton High-Case Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projection



**Figure 15.** Greenhouse gas reduction potential of SIX selected pathways under a high-case scenario. The thick black represents a straight line to the 2050 carbon neutrality. Each wedge represents a reduction pathways emission reduction potential. The other three pathways and other actions are needed to achieve the City's more aggressive carbon neutrality commitments.

# Our Path to Climate Adaptation and a Resilient City

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## Pathways

In addition to our pathways for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Northampton is pursuing pathways to adapt to climate change and increase our resilience. These strategies cross our built, natural, and social systems, and overlap with our efforts to create a carbon neutral and regenerative city.

### PATHWAY 1

#### Northampton Designs with Nature for Stormwater

With climate change increasing annual precipitation and the frequency of intense storms, Northampton needs to improve how we direct, infiltrate, and store stormwater. This includes updating design standards for stormwater infrastructure and stormwater management—particularly ones that use natural systems (e.g., existing mature trees, new plantings, healthy soil systems, water storage, wetlands preservation and enhancement, collectively part of green infrastructure) to absorb and store water. In 2018 the city launched *Northampton Designs with Nature*, to assess ten potential sites for green infrastructure projects to improve stormwater infiltration and to reduce the risk of localized flooding in the city, and advance this approach more broadly. The green infrastructure site projects bring co-benefits, such as reduced heat island effect, healthier wildlife habitat, enhanced carbon sequestration, and new recreational opportunities. Northampton will use the design principles developed in the *Northampton Designs with Nature* project to implement blue-green infrastructure (natural systems with rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands, and vegetation) to infiltrate stormwater, reduce runoff volumes and peak flows, and provide additional storage capacity within public rights-of-way and open space. Specific projects include, for example, the Rocky Hill Greenway- Pine Grove Golf Course restoration, the Route 66 Ice Pond restoration, and the Elm Street Brook watershed Low Impact Development Best Management Practices.

### PATHWAY 2

#### Resilient Building and Energy Systems

This pathway calls for retrofits, upgrades, and new construction of buildings and energy systems that can better withstand floods, heat waves, or extreme storms. The development of micro-grids and distributed energy systems with battery storage, particularly to power emergency services, will provide backup power alternatives if the grid fails. In the case that portions of the city do lose power, buildings with greater “passive survivability” will help keep occupants safe. “Passive survivability” refers to the ability of a building to maintain critical conditions—such as staying warm enough in the winter to keep occupants well—even during extended loss of power, heating fuel, or water. Encouraging resilient building retrofits and design standards, ranging from increased freeboard heights, continuous insulation, renewable and redundant energy sources and battery storage, and minimum R-values or air-tightness levels, can all contribute to the resilience of buildings and their occupants, and in many cases, increase energy efficiency as well.

### PATHWAY 3

#### Healthy and Resilient Natural Ecosystems

Healthy natural ecosystems play a significant role in infiltrating stormwater, improving air quality, keeping temperatures cooler on hot days, sustaining healthy food systems, and contributing to the overall resilience of Northampton. Consequently, this pathway calls for preserving and planting street shade trees, restoring natural ecosystems whenever feasible, monitoring ecosystems to ensure their health, as well as developing adaptive management methods to support ecosystems in adapting to changing climate conditions. This scope includes monitoring natural water systems to address changes in water quality due to climate change as well as implementing new park, forestland, and farmland soil management practices to enhance soil health. It will also include developing city strategies for expanding an urban tree canopy

and ensuring resilient tree and forest populations, such as ongoing monitoring protocols, selective harvesting, adaptive species planting, and invasive species removal in tandem with a public campaign to help raise awareness around addressing vulnerabilities in tree stocks and ecosystems to invasive species, pests, and local climate changes.

#### PATHWAY 4

### Resilient and Connected Landscapes

This pathway calls for the continuation of open space preservation efforts, acquisition of land that will experience more frequent flooding with climate change, and the prioritization of protecting land for the long-term migration of wildlife and plants that is critical for healthy ecosystems to thrive with climate change. Priorities for land protection include areas denoted in the Nature Conservancy’s map of Resilient and Connected Landscapes that are in the “Resilient with Confirmed Diversity, Climate Flow Zones, or Climate Corridor mapped areas.” The City should discourage development (e.g., residential and solar PV) in this relatively narrow band along the western edge of the City, except in existing developed areas. Open space preservation efforts should also prioritize these areas, as the city has done for a number of years. Future development should not occur within any mapped areas that are defined by the city, state, or federal government as areas of resilient and connected landscapes with confirmed diversity or determined to be important climate corridors for climate resiliency.

#### PATHWAY 4

### Healthy and Equitable Communities

This pathway calls for both strengthening resources and services that support health and wellbeing, as well as creating spaces and processes for building stronger relationships between neighbors, organizations, businesses, and the city. Resilience research shows that stronger social bonds with one’s community and neighbors leads to a more resilient community. Likewise, inequity—whether seen through income, education, access to resources, access to decision-making, among other avenues—continues to prohibit collective community resilience. This pathway includes safeguarding and improving the health of food systems and food security for all residents; creating accessible recreational areas with an expanded urban canopy where all residents can cool off in high heat; encouraging community conversations and neighborhood-driven initiatives around climate adaptation; and ensuring that diverse voices

play a role in shaping Northampton’s future.

#### PATHWAY 5

### Knowledge and Skills for Addressing Climate Change

This pathway focuses on enhancing education, skills development, and job training in areas that will build awareness and knowledge around climate change and support climate mitigation and adaptation action. One avenue includes developing a climate curriculum, co-produced with youth and students, in Northampton public schools that address resilience and regeneration. Smith Vocational and Agricultural School is both suited to hands-on education in this area and to development of demonstration installations. The curriculum would systematically build on new topics over the course of a K-12 education, preparing youth for understanding the impacts of climate change as well as equipping them to be leaders in climate action. This pathway also includes supporting job training or career development programs in fields that will support the local economy and simultaneously support Northampton in reaching its resilience and regeneration goals.

In partnership with new and existing community partners the city would expand resilience and regeneration skills development programs in tandem with demonstration projects or other municipal efforts. These could include job training or career development (e.g., as green infrastructure installation and maintenance; permaculture, regenerative, and resilient agricultural practices; urban forestry; clean energy and energy efficiency technologies).

#### PATHWAY 6

### Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Preparedness

A number of strategies can support Northampton in preparedness, response, and recovery from a climate shock, particularly over the time-frame immediately preceding, during, and after a hazard. For flood events, these strategies include ongoing evaluations and upgrades to the city’s flood control infrastructure; encouraging residents to invest in flood insurance; as well as delineating floodplain boundaries, evacuation routes, and/or flood-safe buildings with signs or other markers. For floods as well as other types of emergencies including severe storms, power outages, and periods of high heat, Northampton can add to its



already robust multi-pronged strategy for various levels of resilience-based communication, including emergency alerts, regular notifications (e.g., parking bans), and ongoing public education and outreach on a variety of climate change topics.

# NORTHAMPTON'S Framework for Resilience & Regeneration

## RESILIENCE

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### Adaptive Capacity

Increasing the capacity of systems to better withstand climate hazards, systematically learning and adapting standards and practices to better respond.

### Strong & Healthy Communities

Building a sense of community through social networks or social cohesion, reducing the vulnerability of Frontline Communities (e.g., homeless, low income, populations of color, new Americans), and increasing community health and safety in culturally sensitive ways.

### Climate-Smart Action

Developing the city's and community's ability to make decisions that better prepare us for climate change through education, use of climate projections, and collaboration across city departments.

## REGENERATION

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### Nature as Model

Employing natural systems to use water wisely, enhance soil health, draw carbon out of the atmosphere, maintain comfortable air temperatures, and improve air quality.

### Respect Resource Limits

Using resources responsibly by reducing our consumption, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, and material reuse, re-purposing, and up-cycling.

### Stewardship

Taking care of our planet through preserving healthy habitats, managing non-native species and disease vectors, and improving environmental education.

## ECONOMIC & CULTURAL VITALITY

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### Conscious Economic Exchange

Creating stronger local economies by increasing the number of jobs that pay a living wage, sourcing materials and labor locally, and supporting an inclusive economy.

**Forward-Looking Economy** Preparing our economy for the future by strengthening job-related skills training, diversifying the economy and supporting entrepreneurial activity, and encouraging diverse workforces.

**Creative and Cultural Value** Supporting the creative economy, local agriculture, and other industries with local cultural significance in Northampton.

# EQUITY

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## Distributional Equity

Reducing disparities in access to resources as well as educational and economic opportunity, and mitigating exposure to hazards for those who face disproportionate harm.

## Procedural Equity

Including diverse and non-traditional stakeholders in decision-making and in the measurement of project success, and ensuring transparency in the development of programs or projects.

## Structural Equity

Actively recognizing and working to change structural forces of inequity, including developing pathways for more diverse and representative leadership and addressing institutional racism.

## Inter-generational Equity

Addressing the needs of those not yet involved in or empowered to participate in the decision making process, or even alive today.

## Cultural Equity

Our decision making values all cultures equally.

# REGIONAL COLLABORATION

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## Collaborative Learning

Creating platforms for sharing insight or information between communities, and developing tools, processes, or frameworks that allow communities to replicate success.

## Interdependence

Working with neighboring communities to share resources and take advantage of economies of scale, or creating complimentary or aligned approaches.

## Nested Systems

Considering the way local systems affect regional systems and vice versa by working at a watershed or ecosystem scale and by making local changes that impact regional systems.

# Evaluating the Actions, Achieving Co-Benefits

This plan provides guiding principles that shape all of our planning. A resilient and regenerative community requires investments in projects and programs and adjusting the way we plan, develop policies, and implement those policies. We must consider the potential for achieving resilience and regeneration outcomes in every investment we make.

We cannot be a resilient and regenerative city without being an equitable city. **Equity, along with resilience and regeneration, is** our third guiding principle for planning and implementation. We must recognize and reconcile injustice, create more equitable access to resources and opportunities, and have an inclusive processes for planning and decision-making.

Likewise, fostering **Economic and Cultural Vitality** is integral to making Northampton strong, healthy, and vibrant. We must support local businesses and job and skill-training opportunities, and nurture a creative economy.

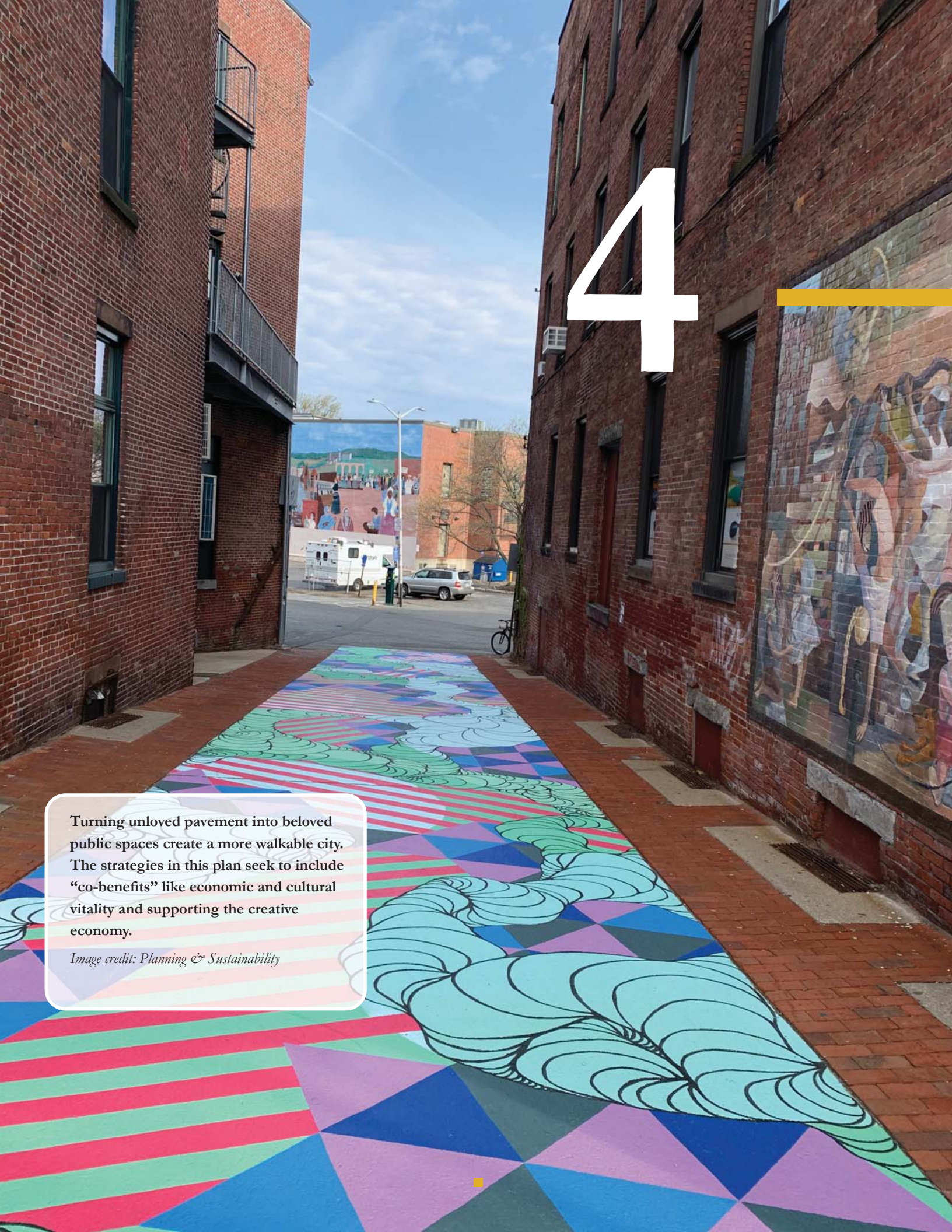
Northampton is one city nested within our region and state. We must grasp the opportunities to share learning and accelerate adoption of practices by working collectively across the Pioneer Valley, Massachusetts, and even broader scales. Thus, we look for opportunities for **Regional Collaboration** as a guiding principle to exchange insight and plan collectively with other communities, particularly in addressing global climate change.

These guiding principles guide the Resilience and Regeneration Plan.

# 4

Turning unloved pavement into beloved public spaces create a more walkable city. The strategies in this plan seek to include “co-benefits” like economic and cultural vitality and supporting the creative economy.

*Image credit: Planning & Sustainability*



## SECTION FOUR

# Action Plan: Resilience & Regeneration Strategies

Northampton started to track its progress using the US Green Building Council (USGBC) rating system LEED for Cities and Communities, which replaced the former STAR Communities program. LEED for Cities is a third party rating system designed to help communities compare themselves to a norm and to peer communities and promote honest reporting and minimize green-washing. The Resilience and Regeneration strategies are broken down by the categories defined in the rating system to help us track how our actions help us make progress towards the LEED for Cities and Communities goals.

# ALL CATEGORIES 1

## ALL CATEGORIES 1

### Integrate resilience and regeneration principles into the development of all city and public school outreach, projects, plans, budgets, and processes

Systematically apply the Resilience and Regeneration Framework to the development of city projects, programs, and plans. The framework helps to integrate resilience and regeneration thinking into work across departments, ensures investments and planning supports Northampton’s resilience and regeneration goals, and amplifies the potential of the city’s work in creating co-benefits. Most specifically, develop specific internal policies to:

- Set a long term and annual City of Northampton carbon budget. Such a budget would establish allowed carbon emissions allocated to each city department to integrate carbon reduction as part of each city department’s core mission.
- Evaluate the impact of all proposed city capital improvement projects on greenhouse gas emissions to understand how projects may hinder or advance progress towards the city’s goal of being net-zero by 2050 and city operations being net-zero by 2030.
- Integrate climate change projections into all future capital projects, ensuring new infrastructure can withstand current and projected impacts.
- Using socio-economic data, integrate an equity-based prioritization factor in the process for capital improvements project selection that adds priority to projects that will benefit neighborhoods with higher proportions of people with low incomes, people of color, or people living with physical or mental disabilities.
- Ensure that the next revision to the Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan incorporates the Resilience and Regeneration Plan as a key unifying theme.
- Include resilience and regeneration principles as a cross cutting strategy (in addition to specific strategies that follow) in all city education and outreach efforts.

- Provide adequate City staff, resources, and commitment to achieve these targets.
- Creating a biennial action plan with specific actions, metrics, and political consensus to move forward.
- Integrate education and curriculum on climate resilience and regeneration in public schools, with students co-producing such curriculum. Foster a culture of ecological stewardship, resource conservation, and climate preparedness.
- Focus on high impact practices that provide the greatest resilience and regeneration Return on Investment (ROI), that is the least cost (financial and other burdens) to achieve success.

**Type:** Policy

**Lead:** Mayor’s Office; Planning & Sustainability, Central Services, Public Works; School Department; Smith Voc; Youth Commission

**Time-frame:** Short-term launch- Ongoing process

**Cost:** \$\$\$

## ENERGY 1. RENEWABLE & RESILIENT ENERGY SUPPLY

Electricity is 20% of our energy load. It will grow as we electrify our energy sources.

### ENERGY 1A

Launch a regional entity to coordinate regional strategies, including a Community Choice Aggregation 3.0 (CCA 3.0) Program for electricity aggregation

Northampton, with Mayoral and City Council (2020) approval, is working with Amherst and Pelham (with the hope that more communities will join in the future) to create a regional Joint Powers Entity for regional renewable and resilient energy supplies.

A key first step is forming a Community Choice Aggregation program to become the default electricity provider and aggregate demand with GHG reducing electricity supply systems.

Northampton received a \$75,000 grant from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) in 2019 to explore a new model for Community Choice Aggregation, CCA 3.0 optimized around greenhouse gas reductions. The resulting bulk purchasing power can allow a contract with an electricity supplier with the goal of greening the energy supply and, eventually, providing the energy storage needed for load shifting to reduce peak energy periods. This program would automatically enroll residents, unless they opt out, and would include a commitment to purchasing power from locally-produced distributed energy sources and gaining access to affordable renewable energy sources for low-income residents. This work would also have a strong focus on reducing GHG emissions.

Program goals also include incorporating energy storage and other tactics to reshape the load profile to reduce peak energy periods. Implementing CCA 3.0 as a region will reduce our collective reliance on

fossil fuels, encourage the expansion of local renewable energy sources, and amplify our ability to transition to a cleaner, more efficient energy supply.

- Formalize a Joint Powers Entity dedicated to GHG reductions.
- Apply for state approval of its CCA.
- Arrange for a broker (in the near term) and potentially a staff or consultant model in the long term for its CCA.
- Develop an aggregation business plan optimizing GHG reductions.
- Secure a competitive supplier.
- Engage and educate community members.
- Partner with community groups (e.g., Community Action and their home weatherization program).

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Central Services - Energy; Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

Research and planning underway

**Cost:** \$\$

## ENERGY 1B

### Procure more renewable energy projects on city property and through city partnerships

The City's goal is to enable an annual electricity output from renewable electricity projects that matches or exceeds municipal and

public-school electric usage and to maximize use of renewable-thermal technologies in municipal and school buildings.

Northampton has a regulatory structure and open space and pilot agreements to encourage in renewable energy systems on both public and private land (e.g., 3.3 MW solar array atop the closed Glendale Road landfill and a total of 10 MW of private sector solar arrays at Ryan Road and Park Hill Road). The City has installed smaller solar-electric, solar hot water, solar air pre-heat, geothermal and air-source heat pump systems on city and school properties. Two municipal buildings, the James House and the Senior Center, are completely heated and cooled by renewable-thermal systems: air-source heat pumps and a geothermal system respectively.

- Continue to install renewable energy projects and lead by example on city and school properties (e.g., photovoltaic canopies over parking lots, energy storage to shave peak demand). Ground-mounted installations are most cost effective, but building and parking lot canopies installations are an important part of the mix.
- Establish capital improvement plans to reduce the thermal load and replace fossil fuel heating with renewable thermal systems in public buildings.
- Expand public-private partnerships for renewables on private property.
- When feasible, use local contractors to install these projects and create educational opportunities (e.g., the 106 kW city-owned solar-electric array on Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School is used for their renewable energy coursework).
- Maintain the current zoning prohibition on commercial photovoltaic where intact forests are most critical for climate resilience and addresses the trade-off between the installation of PV systems and the ecological and carbon impacts.

**Type:** Capital Improvement

**Lead:** Central Services - Energy; Planning for regulatory

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

(Typical implementation takes 1-3 years)

**Cost:** \$\$

## ENERGY 1C

### Continue building out distributed energy resources for critical services

Northampton received two grants through the MA Department of

Energy Resources, Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative, for critical services distributed: 1) Installation of a 20-kilowatt, canopy-style array with battery storage on the Fire Department parking lot on Carlon Drive, and 2) A micro-grid to service Cooley Dickinson Hospital, the Department of Public Works headquarters, and the Hampshire County emergency shelter at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School to improve their ability to maintain operations during power failures. These investments follow an internal study begun in 2012 that assessed the resilience of the city's electrical grid.

Continue to identify opportunities and move forward with the development of distributed energy resources in Northampton, focusing on redundant systems and hybrid energy storage systems, to ensure that critical services (and potentially business centers) can continue to operate during a climate hazard and serve vulnerable populations. Perform public outreach and awareness of such distributed energy services to build support.

**Type:** Capital Improvement

**Lead:** Central Services - Energy; New CCA 3.0

**Time-frame:** Mid-term for the development of the current micro-grid project; Ongoing for continued opportunities

**Cost:** \$\$\$

# ENERGY 2. ENERGY EFFICIENCY & HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS

**Buildings generate 70% of our GHG emissions**

## ENERGY 2A

Encourage the real estate market to place greater value on building energy features, including deep energy retrofits and zero energy new buildings.

Require, by ordinance, that building owners of large buildings report energy use through utility bill disclosure. For smaller buildings, establish an incentive program for voluntary utility cost disclosure targeted to home owners and tenants. Phase in mandatory disclosure for all building types.

Work with local lenders, appraisers, realtors, and the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) to encourage greater valuation and transparency of building energy features by mandating listing of attained energy performance credentials including verified Home Energy Rating System (HERS rating). Tools and initiatives to further promote energy performance consideration in building valuation:

- Mandate building energy assessments at time of sale
- Popularize Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing for existing buildings
- Develop local Green Financing and streamline EEM/EIMs (FHA's Energy Efficiency/Improvement Mortgages) to enable and encourage home buyers to invest in energy upgrades at time of purchase or major renovation.
- Lead by example by disclosing municipal school building energy consumption and targets for reduction

**Type:** Policy & Program  
**Lead:** Central Services - Energy  
**Time-frame:** Mid-term (1-3 years)  
**Cost:** \$\$

## ENERGY 2B

Expand program for building electrification to convert from oil and natural gas heat to heat pumps or other electric sources

Expand efforts to encourage building energy retrofits and building electrification, including replacing on-site fossil-fuel powered heat with far more efficient electrically powered heat pumps (mini-splits and centralized heat pumps) for residential, commercial, and institutional buildings

- Establish strong partnerships with rate-payer supported programs (Mass Clean Energy Center and MassSave) and financing programs (PACE, future CCA 3.0, potentially CDBG Housing Rehab).
- Focus on ease of participation and incentives.
- Subsidize the cost of heat pumps in affordable housing and low-income households.
- Consider ground source heat pumps for large commercial and institutional installations' thermal loads, although they are generally not cost-effective for small scale installations. The city uses ground source heat pumps for Senior Center and Smith College is assessing ground source heat pumps.
- Prepare to end fossil fuel combustion in all City buildings. The first step, currently underway, is to examine every building and create capital improvement plans to improve building envelopes and ventilation systems and decarbonize all thermal loads (heating, cooling, and hot water)

**Type:** Program  
**Lead:** Central Services - Energy  
**Time-frame:** Short-term  
**Cost:** \$ without financial incentives;  
\$\$-\$\$\$ With financial incentives

## ENERGY 2C

### Apply Resilience and Regeneration point system in site plan review process

Apply a Resilience and Regeneration point system in site plan approvals to encourage lower transportation needs, higher passive survivability, no on-site fossil-fuel combustion, net-zero energy buildings, and walkable zoning densities in urban core areas.

Developers earn points for adopting specific resilience and regeneration measures, with a minimum point requirement. Points can be awarded for prescriptive (a list of approaches) and performance-based approaches to reduce carbon emissions and/or improve site and building resilience. For example, minimum HER ratings, net-energy zero, passive house, passive survivability, increased free-board heights, continuous insulation, renewable and redundant energy sources and battery storage, minimum R-values or air-tightness levels, among other measures. Certification systems such as PHIUS's Passive House Standard and USGBC's Resilience Pilot Credits and/or Reli Rating System could be drawn from in the development of the point system. All included measures should enhance the resilience of the city's building stock and/or contribute to lowering the city's GHG emissions.

**Type:** Policy

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Mid-term to develop and implement the policy

**Cost:** \$

## ENERGY 2D

### Require that all new buildings be built to Net Zero Energy standards and advocate for higher Building Code standards

Work with other Massachusetts communities to advocate for higher resilience and regeneration standards in the Massachusetts Building Code and in the International Building Code (IBC) on which the Massachusetts Building Code is based. To the extent allowed under the state building code and local zoning authority, require all new buildings to meet high performance standards and be verified as Zero Energy ready. Consider DOE Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH), Passive House Institute United States (PHIUS+) standards. A Zero Energy building has comparatively very low energy loads and is highly energy efficient. With a robust building enclosure and right sized mechanical systems prioritized, renewable energy is produced or procured to offset what the building uses on an annual basis. Zero Energy building standards should be required and market transformation incentivized through:

- Advocate for an updated Massachusetts Building Code Stretch Energy Code, if not a base building code, that requires Zero Energy performance.
- Ensure the city leads by example by ensuring all new municipal buildings and feasible major renovations meet Zero Energy building standards.
- Consider retrofit and renovation regulation and incentives to achieve high performance building certifications for existing buildings.
- Advocate for expansion of zero energy and passive house utility incentives through the Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council.
- Advocate for legislative updates to revise utility cost-effectiveness metrics to value carbon reductions with expanded Mass Save programs.
- Plant shade trees to reduce heat gains in buildings.

**Type:** Policy and Advocacy

**Lead:** Central Services - Energy; Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Medium-term

**Cost:** \$

## Encourage resilience and regeneration building and site improvements

Promote resilient and regenerative building and site improvements that property owners can make to protect properties and people against flooding, extreme weather, and heat wave. Work with existing federal, state, and local programs to expand access to and encourage use of educational and financial tools and resources, including working with utilities and existing community organizations to make these tools and resources financially and culturally accessible to all residents:

- Promote clean technology education and adoption programs that increase buildings' ability to support occupants during times of stress such as long-term power outages or heat waves, including energy efficient and high-performance building improvements.
- Promote on-site battery power backup systems, as the technology becomes cost-effective, ideally coupled with on-site renewable electricity.
- Advocate to the Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council that the Mass Save utility incentive programs expand current Passive House incentive programs to include all residential building types, new and existing.
- Plant shade trees to reduce energy demand and heat islands.
- Implement a "One Cool Room" program to support residents whose health is vulnerable to heat waves to establish access to at least one room at their residence that is cooled by a high efficiency cooling technology such as an air-source heat pump.
- Encourage lighting plans so, to the extent reasonably achievable, all lights have a clear purpose, are directed only to where needed, are no brighter than necessary, are used only when it is useful, and use warmer color lights available.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability; Central Services -Energy

**Time-frame:** Short-term for campaign development; Ongoing for continued promotion

**Cost:** \$

## Accelerate community adoption of energy efficient & high-performance building improvements with a focus on more equitable access.

Advance increased energy efficiency and installation of solar-electric (PV), solar-hot water, heat pumps, energy recovery ventilation and other high-performance building technologies. Because the city has no direct control over building improvements in the private sector, partnering with organizations that offer assistance such as free building assessments, weatherizations of 1-4 unit homes, guidance for small businesses, and bulk purchasing of renewable energy and high performance building technologies. Support residents of all income-levels and backgrounds and businesses of all sizes.

Build on the success of past City outreach programs (e.g., Solarize Northampton led to installation of 0.5+ megawatt of solar electric, HeatSmart Northampton raised awareness of minisplit air source heat pumps for high-performance heating and cooling, and the City's utility-funded partnership with the Center for EcoTechnology helps small businesses access utility energy efficiency assistance programs). Future efforts could include:

- Establish staff within the planned regional Joint Powers Entity (JPE) to run marketing campaigns and collaborate with a JPE-run intermunicipal CCA 3.0 program.
- Coordinate and partner for energy investments through Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), CDBG Housing Rehabilitation, a CCA 3.0 program, rate-payer supported programs (e.g., Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and the MassSave program), and other partners (e.g., Community Action Pioneer Valley and the Center for EcoTechnology).
- Identify barriers to entry for energy efficiency efforts and identify gaps in who participates; Create programs that will create more equitable access to renewable energy and high-performance building technologies for low-income residents, communities of color, and historically underserved and underrepresented populations. Co-develop program with underserved stakeholders that are culturally competent, effective, and address structural barriers. Develop more effective ways to provide resources to low and moderate income residents, businesses, and nonprofits, preferably in partnership with existing local programs (e.g., partner with Community Action Pioneer Valley home weatherization program and the City's housing rehabilitation program could bundle new renewable energy systems).

## Carbon offsets are critical to our carbon neutrality goals

# ENERGY 3. CARBON SEQUESTRATION OFFSETS

- Focus on ease of participation (reduce time and effort) and bundling of incentives.
- Identify subsidies for the cost of high-performance technologies in affordable housing and low-income households.
- Promote potential use of ground source heat pumps for large commercial and institutional installations, which are generally only cost-effective for large scale installations (e.g., the City uses ground source heat pumps for Senior Center heating and cooling, and Smith College is assessing ground source heat pumps for the campus's thermal load).
- Develop municipal programs to encourage landlords to improve energy efficiency and incorporate clean energy technologies into their housing units.
- Encourage rental listing agencies to highlight sustainable and resilient features of housing units in advertisements.
- Explore introducing a building energy assessment and/or supplying educational materials to building owners and developers at key decision points such as at the home point-of-sale or during building permitting.  
Identify potential residential technologies or measures that can enable renters to participate in energy efficiency, such as Wi-Fi-enabled "smart" thermostats.
- Survey local landlords to identify unanticipated barriers to landlord investments in high performance building improvements, such as a lack of access to long-term tenant's apartments, and pilot new outreach and assistance programs aimed at overcoming identified barriers.

**Type:** Program and Policy  
**Lead:** Central Services-Energy  
**Time-frame:** Long Term  
**Cost:** \$\$\$

## ENERGY 3A

### Adopt city open space management practices for soil carbon storage

Adjust or adopt new municipal landscaping, and parkland management practices to enhance the city's soil carbon storage. (The City has already eliminated its use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers on city recreation areas.) Organic amendments, in particular, can amplify the carbon storage capacity of soils. Best Management Practices for post-development soil amendments recommend the application of 7.5cm of compost for landscape beds, and 4.5cm for turf grass, with compost containing 22% carbon and 2% nitrogen. One-time applications of such amendments have shown to increase average carbon sequestration by 0.22 metric tons per hectare per year.

Additional landscaping and parkland management strategies to enhance soil carbon storage could include: emphasizing native perennials in plantings and using annuals to fill gaps; minimizing the use of pavement and unproductive mulch; eliminating synthetic nitrogen fertilizers on public and private school athletic fields; incorporating nitrogen-fixing trees and perennials into the landscape; mowing, cutting back, and/or heavily mulching over weeds instead of pulling; and using biological and mechanical controls when possible, while limiting herbicides to areas where so far there are not effective alternatives for curbing the growth of invasive plants (e.g., Japanese Knotweed). These strategies for enhancing soil health also support stormwater infiltration.

**Type:** Program  
**Lead:** School Dept, Central Services, city land managers.  
**Time-frame:** Short-term for new management practices  
**Cost:** \$\$

## Protect, grow, and enhance the city's forestland and public lands and their capacity to store carbon

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Continue the City's efforts to conserve forestland in the City and in the City's drinking watersheds and aquifers outside the City, particularly large blocks of mature and contiguous forestland and urban tree cover. Continue open space acquisition, per the city's Open Space, Recreation, and Multi-Use Trail Plan and drinking watershed management strategies. Identify opportunities to replant cleared areas with diverse native species in the city's conservation and watershed areas. Add public and equitably distributed urban tree canopy to serve historically underrepresented populations and those more at risk to heat waves.

Tree cover, from shade trees and larger tracts:

- Adds shade, cooler summers, and reduced heat island effect, alleviating air conditioning loads
- Increases stormwater infiltration, conserves water supplies, and reduces erosion
- Sequesters carbon
- Improves air quality, reduces noise pollution, decreases wind speed, and reduces glare
- Makes Northampton more walkable, a more sustainable and resilient transportation practice
- Enhances ecosystem and habitat creation

This work is needed in tandem with the City's existing anti-gentrification measures to ensure that, as green spaces are built up in low income communities, the City continue its emphasis on creating entry level lots and expanding affordable housing.

Consider adopting practices of public land management that prioritize carbon sequestration and storage such as long-term carbon sequestration and storage planning in forest stewardship plans, and education programs for the adoption of similar practices on private land. Further protecting and enhancing the diversity of tree species within the city's forests, will also increase forest stability, resilience, and long-term benefits for carbon storage.

Identify sites that should be kept out of permanently protected open space to reserve the ability to install solar photo-voltaic (as the City did at the two newest solar PV installation at the Ryan Road former Bill Willard, Inc and the Park Hill Road extension).

Explore recommendations of the Massachusetts Healthy Soils Action Plan (Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs), including improving farming, forestry and lawn care practices to reduce erosion, improve production, increase carbon sequestration and storage, and better withstand intensive weather events and droughts. Strategies include the application of organic matter or bio-solids (e.g., sludge, compost, wood chip mulches, or biochar) on the forest floor and strategic organic matter to build soil organic matter, maximize forest biomass, prevent erosion, and increase carbon sequestration and storage capacity.

Calculate carbon credits, using accepted guidelines, for carbon sequestration, but retire the credits so they can be used to count for the City's carbon offsets.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability; Public Works

**Time-frame:** Ongoing

**Cost:** \$

## ENERGY 3C

### Support education and training in regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, silvopasture, and urban forestry.

Identify opportunities to support education and training in regenerative agriculture, agroforestry (the integration of trees in agricultural), silvopasture (the integration of trees and livestock grazing), urban forestry, and biochar application for interested farmers. These approaches aim to minimize soil disturbance, enhance site biodiversity, maintain microbial communities to support soil health, and add to crop diversification. Trees planted along riverbanks (riparian buffers) and as windbreaks stabilize soils, prevent erosion, improve water quality, and retain carbon in the ground. Benefits can include increased landscape drought resilience.

All three practices—regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, and silvopasture— increase carbon sequestration potential of agricultural lands by 0.6 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, 1.3 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, and 4.8 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e per hectare per year, respectively. Likewise, biochar application to agricultural lands has shown to amplify crop productivity while simultaneously amplifying the long-term storage of carbon. Consider peer-to-peer learning models through collaboration with local and regional farming initiatives with the explicit goal of developing contextually-specific practices for enhancing carbon sequestration and storage. Use such collaborations as a platform for identifying adjustments to municipal policies or systems, such as aligning lease lengths with harvest rotations for longer-term perennial plantings, which can further facilitate adoption of regenerative agriculture practices.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

**Cost:** \$\$ - \$\$\$

## ENERGY 3D

### Establish Greenhouse Gas Emissions Offset Community Fund

Establish a voluntary local fund for those who want to offset their greenhouse gas emissions. Residents and businesses could track their emissions through a community-endorsed tool and pay into the fund depending on their footprint. This fund would build on the city's pilot gasoline carbon offset receipts, which currently add support to ValleyBike. It would provide funding for community mitigation/sequestration projects.

Equity can be enhanced by working with and prioritizing investments to neighborhoods historically under-served and underrepresented populations.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

**Cost:** \$



# WATER 1. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

**Stormwater and heat are our biggest climate adaption needs**

## WATER 1A

### Establish new design storm intensities and rainfall distributions

Examine the new design storm intensities and rainfall distributions when the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook is updated (circa 2021-2022) to address climate change. The new standards will likely be based on the upper confidence interval of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Atlas 14 to represent current precipitation conditions, plus or minus some factor to address climate change. This approach will produce higher design storms than the current standard (SCS- Technical Paper-40 with RCS Type III regional rainfall distribution).

- The City may want to go beyond the state standards.
- For example a 20% increase in design rainfall intensity is consistent with climate change projections for extreme precipitation in a 50- to 100-year planning horizon, based on a 50-year design life for storm drainage infrastructure, and the 50-100 year useful life.
- Alternatively, rainfall distributions can based upon updated, site-specific rainfall data.

Figure 16. 24-hour duration design storm (at City Hall)

Return Period	NOAA Atlas 141	IF increased by 20%
1 year	2.46" (2.53" NRCC value)	3.04" (NRCC)
2 years	3.08"	3.70"
10 years	4.93"	5.92"
25 years	6.09"	7.31"
50 years	6.99"	8.39"
100 years	7.88"	9.46"
500 years	11.3"	13.56"

**Type:** Policy  
**Lead:** Public Works, Planning for zoning and subdivision regs.  
**Time-frame:** Short-term  
**Cost:** \$

## WATER 1B

### Raise requirements for closed drainage systems

Consider requiring new and replacement closed drainage systems (city and private) to be designed for 10-year storm events, 25-year storm events at critical facilities. DPW could waive the requirement in specific situations (e.g., when localized pipe upgrades may affect downstream undersized pipes). In addition, the impacts of overland flow during flood conditions should be studied in the design of closed drainage systems, as surface flow is a significant component of overall flow during flood events within the city.

Update the city’s stormwater management standards for new development and redevelopment sites consistent with the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook when it is revised (circa 2021-2022).

Consider implementing changes to the city’s Stormwater Ordinances (Chapter 281) proposed by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), including to strengthen stormwater regulations and meet the post-construction stormwater management provisions of the MS4 General Permit.

**Type:** Policy  
**Lead:** Public Works for stormwater; Planning & Sustainability for zoning and subdivision regulations  
**Time-frame:** Mid-term  
**Cost:** \$

## WATER 1C

### Produce green infrastructure plans and implementation projects

Build on the Northampton Designs with Nature concept of nature based solutions to identify a range of nature based green infrastructure solutions to improve stormwater retention, detention, and infiltration, expand urban shade tree canopies, and a wide range of co-benefits (e.g., reduced heat island effect, healthier wildlife habitat, enhanced carbon sequestration, and new recreational opportunities).

The kind of projects that are relevant include:

- The restoration of the Pine Grove Golf Course, now part of the Rocky Hill Greenway, to restore its natural hydrology (Phase I completed in 2020).
- Green infrastructure in the Elm Street Brook watershed (building on the work of a Smith College Picker Engineering evaluation)
- Flood control improvements at the Route 66 Ice Pond (currently under consideration by FEMA for funding)
- Various urban tree and other shade tree canopy planting plans.

**Type:** Capital Planning

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability and Public Works

**Time-frame:** Short-term

**Cost:** \$\$\$

## WATER 1D

### Increase stormwater system conveyance capacity and storage through blue-green-gray infrastructure

Upgrade aging storm drainage infrastructure with larger-capacity pipes as pipes are replaced to provide additional in-line conveyance

capacity and storage. Simultaneously look for complementary opportunities to implement blue-green infrastructure to infiltrate stormwater, reduce runoff volumes and peak flows, and provide additional storage capacity within public rights-of-way and open space. Support the development of green infrastructure systems by defining appropriate native plant species to be used in all projects.

Apply *Northampton Designs with Nature* design principles to the design and implementation of green infrastructure projects, including identifying and prioritizing projects that can have the greatest impact on reducing stress on the stormwater infrastructure system, mitigating flood risk and damage, improving healthy ecosystems and water quality, reducing the heat island effect, and enhancing the community's accessibility to green space. Integrate environmental justice in identifying locations for green infrastructure installation or resilient infrastructure upgrades that will benefit neighborhoods with higher proportions of people with low incomes, people of color, or people living with disabilities. Include those communities in the design and evaluation.

Expand planned projects to have a larger focus on blue-green infrastructure, including an education component on the importance of these design features. If the city continues to consider daylighting portions of the downtown Historic Mill River, consider the potential to provide additional flood storage within the daylighted area to better protect other areas behind the levee from flooding. Given the significant capital cost of these upgrades, the city should take a system-wide approach to planning and implementation, including comprehensive storm drainage system modeling.

**Type:** Capital Improvement

**Lead:** Public Works and Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Ongoing

**Cost:** \$\$\$

## WATER 2. WATER SUPPLY

## WASTE 1. WASTE REDUCTION

**Water supply is a long term risk, but one that requires a very long planning period**

**Solid waste is 1% of our GHG emissions. Our supply chain (scope 3) dwarfs our scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions.**

### WATER 2A

Research long term water supply needs in light of climate change

Establish a framework for researching and long term planning of city's public potable water systems, including water quality and quantity monitoring and modeling. Proactive City and regional long term planning may identify whether new or alternative water supplies are required beyond the city's existing three active reservoirs and two wells. DPW's Drought Management Plan (2021) will help advance this planning and mitigation.

Continue Public Works existing water supply watershed land preservation and management efforts for source protection. Continue to ensure that the amount of water withdrawn equals, on a medium term average, the amount of water entering the system through precipitation and water flow (i.e., no "mining" of groundwater).

Work with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to advance data collection, and strategy development related to the impacts of climate change on water quality to a regional scale.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Public Works

**Time-frame:** Mid-term to long-term

**Cost:** \$\$\$

### WASTE 1A

Increase community waste diversion by creating and implementing a zero-waste strategy

Adopt a zero-waste framework to reduce the generation of waste and maximize material reuse. Depending on resources and consensus, actions might include, for example:

- Build on DPW's waste reduction efforts to raise awareness and foster a culture of repair and reuse by supporting community initiatives (e.g., repair cafes, the ReCenter Swap Shop, durable material exchanges, textile swap events and recycling, and other similar initiatives).
- Build on the City's existing buy recycled content to lead by example and ensure municipal entities use sustainable product purchasing practices (e.g., minimum recycled content criteria; preference for locally grown and manufactured materials, including food and compost; incentives for purchasing up-cycled and used goods and furniture).
- Educate the community and business owners about wasted food prevention strategies, encouraging food rescue, and the practice and benefits of co-composting leaf and yard waste with food scraps. Encourage all public events (e.g. fairs, festivals, concerts) to provide receptacles for source separation of trash, recyclables, and organics.
- Consider mandating commercial and residential participation in composting and require private haulers to provide organics collection and generators will have the option to utilize the curbside service or to arrange their own composting.
- Explore options for establishing a local commercial compost facility to reduce organics transportation impacts, and to keep the benefits of compost in the community.
- Eliminating petroleum-based, single-use products through phasing

out single-use plastics. The city will work toward strict use of reusable service-ware for eat-in dining, and toward requiring biodegradable, compostable or recyclable packaging and service-ware for takeout. Food service entities will be encouraged to provide accessories, such as flatware, straws, and condiments only upon request, and the city shall support third-party efforts to launch or provide a reusable takeout container service for food businesses.

- Reducing construction and demolition waste by ensuring that strong recycling and reuse requirements are met for all building-related permits. Exploring policies or incentives that would mandate or encourage property owners and contractors to choose deconstruction instead of demolition (e.g., requiring deconstruction for projects over a designated square footage, setting recycling and reuse thresholds, accelerating permitting for deconstruction projects, providing subsidies for the difference in cost between demolition and deconstruction). The city shall work

**Type:** Policy

**Lead:** DPW recycling coordinator, City Council for regulations

**Time-frame:** Medium term

**Cost:** \$\$

## WASTE 1B

### Establish comprehensive food waste prevention, donation, and composting programs in schools and large institutions

A comprehensive wasted food management program in public schools will reduce the solid waste stream, address local food insecurity, value the cafeteria as a classroom, and leverage the power of school children to serve as ambassadors of best practices. A campaign could include, for example:

- Training cafeteria staff
- Using share tables and establishing partnerships with food rescue organizations.
- Maximize use of durable trays and service-ware, basic source-separation equipment (e.g., additional receptacles), and organics hauling services.
- Encouraging on-site composting and gardening programs in schools for demonstration and educational purposes.
- Developing educational programming and signage templates.

**Type:** Policy

**Lead:** School Department with community support

**Time-frame:** Medium term

**Cost:** \$

# TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE 1.

## LOW CARBON & EQUITABLE TRANSPORTATION

### TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE 1A

#### Advance equitable transportation access

Ensure that transportation opportunities are available, safe, and desirable for all. This includes sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, street trees, bike share (micro-mobility) and other investments.

- Transportation options with the lowest carbon footprint and the highest equity should have the lowest cost to end users.
- Expand equitable access transportation to address gaps for people with low incomes, communities of color, and individuals with disabilities. Access can refer to physical proximity of stations/stops/bike racks, frequency and location of network routes, level of safety, languages offered in announcements or posted information, affordability, and other barriers to use.
- Consider the balance between transit-dependent services for users who do not have other options and choice-ridership which generate the highest ridership and benefits all users. Create strategies to reduce cultural barriers to users of all income levels in public transportation.
- Promote access to short-term car rental and car sharing, especially electric vehicle fleets.
- Encourage shared parking initiatives, parking cash-outs and decoupling parking costs from the cost of housing.

**Transportation is 26% of our GHG emissions. Land use is a portion of the 70% of building GHG emissions.**

**Type:** Policy

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability and Public Works

**Time-frame:** Long term

**Cost:** \$\$\$

## Expand bicycling options, including the ValleyBike share program

Promote bicycling as a safe, efficient, inexpensive low-carbon travel option. Expand our multi-use path network and its connections to the roads and sidewalks. Ensure that the trail is available for year-round use. Advance bicycle education at safety village and schools.

Celebrate our shared use path network through a marketing campaign focused on green tourism, in collaboration with local business associations.

Expand ValleyBike, the regional electric-assist bike share program in collaboration with Amherst, Chicopee, Holyoke, South Hadley, Springfield, West Springfield, UMass, and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. Northampton currently coordinates the program in the eight communities, but is exploring structures to move management to a regional level. Expand the winter use of the program during fair winter weather.

Continue to add new locations in urban and denser residential areas throughout the region. Continue ValleyBike outreach and the equitable access membership program.

**Type:** Capital Improvement & Program

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability and Friends of Northampton Trails for bicycle education

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

**Cost:** \$\$

## Foster transition to electric vehicles (EV)

Encourage residents and commuters to switch from fossil fuel powered vehicles to electric vehicles (EVs). EVs are more efficient than traditional cars and will become even cleaner as Northampton's electricity is greened. Equity is a key consideration in as EVs currently require higher up-front costs for consumers. To make a city-wide transition to EVs, the city would:

- Help message efforts to increase awareness of EV, on line and at in-person events, to increase awareness of the benefits.
- Incentivize EV charging infrastructure for major new construction projects.
- Adopt an EV purchasing policy for the city fleet that requires the city to purchase or lease EVs, building on the current fuel-efficient vehicle procurement policy.
- Work to install more public charging stations in all city parking lots and encourage public or private stations in commercial areas and dense residential and mixed use neighborhoods. Charge for electricity at public charging stations to create market incentive for private charging stations.
- Explore state, federal or other subsidies to support up-front cost for shared use electric vehicles for low-income residents.
- Explore electric bus fleet to replace current public transportation buses and school buses as electric buses become affordable and/or as department's carbon budgets require offsets.
- Track the market for when the technology eventually allows heavy vehicles (DPW and fire equipment) alternatives.
- Address the equipment and training needs to maintain a City EV fleet.

**Type:** Policy & Program

**Lead:** Central Services- Energy

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

**Cost:** \$\$ to \$\$\$

# TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE 2.

## EFFICIENT LAND USE

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### TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE 2A

Encourage dense, mixed-use, and transit-oriented development. The lowest carbon form of transportation is to avoid trips.

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Incentivize development and redevelopment that cluster multi-modal transit, mixed-use amenities, and a variety of housing types to ensure healthy, vibrant neighborhoods:

- Focus community planning and regulations on people over vehicles (e.g., allow new development to contribute to active transportation infrastructure rather than parking).
- Work with regional partners to advocate for improvements in the regional public transit system.
- Increase the percentage of the population living within walking distance of downtown, Florence Center, Bay State, Leeds, Village Hill, and King Street.
- Encourage housing diversity, smaller residential units that are efficient with resources, expanded units on developed lots, and new housing development that with affordable units.
- Install community amenities (e.g., bike lanes, sidewalks, and public space) in areas that will optimize walking.
- Consider an urban growth boundary (Farms Forests and Recreation zoning) that limits development outside of areas that are appropriate for development.
- Provide park, recreation, streetscape, and other amenities to make walking desirable.

**Type:** Policy

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

**Cost:** \$\$

### TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE 2B

Protect land critical for the long-term migration of wildlife and plants due to climate change

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These areas that are critical for healthy ecosystems to thrive even with climate change include areas denoted in the Nature Conservancy's map of Resilient and Connected Landscapes that are in the "Resilient with Confirmed Diversity, Climate Flow Zones, or Climate Corridor mapped areas."

Continue existing strategies in these sensitive areas:

- Discourage or prohibit land use development and solar photovoltaic development in forested areas.
- Prioritize open space preservation efforts.
- Prohibit or severely limit future development within any mapped areas that are defined by the city, state or federal government as areas of resilient and connected landscapes with confirmed diversity or determined to be important climate corridors for climate resiliency.

**Type:** Policy

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

**Cost:** \$\$



## EQUITY. INCLUSIVE, PROSPEROUS AND ENGAGED COMMUNITIES

### EQUITY 1A

#### Support Climate Champions and Strong and Healthy Neighborhoods Programs

Support Climate Champions and strong and healthy neighborhood program to raise awareness and understanding about climate risk, adaptation, mitigation strategies, and build social resilience. Train local leaders and residents on climate change risks, adaptation and mitigation strategies, communications strategies, and identifying their own personal and professional circles to engage. Seek residents who can collectively engage a broad range of Northampton community members. Reach out to youth groups and student associations to help prepare youth for future careers in climate risk response and to empower a younger generation.

Support efforts by civic and neighborhood groups and others to connect with residents, businesses, and others to assess and strengthen social resilience and social connectivity, and to strengthen the community health and resilience (e.g., check on neighbors in climate hazards; hosting neighborhood barbecues to encourage a sense of community; holding community service events; launching a community preparedness campaign; creating an art show to highlight stories about climate change). Ensure conversations are held in culturally sensitive ways.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Senior Services (Aging Friendly Community); Health; Central Services-Energy; Youth Commission

**Time-frame:** Medium term and ongoing

**Cost:** \$

### EQUITY 1B

#### Partner with community organizations for inclusive planning

Equity cross cuts every recommendation in this plan. Visibility for this effort includes partnering with community partner organizations (e.g., those supporting this plan, community and resilience hub partners, and other community organizations that serve diverse communities in Northampton).

Conduct outreach sessions by attending community meetings or functions hosted by the partner organizations to reach community groups at familiar and accessible venues. Build the capacity of the partners to share information about climate risk and adaptation strategies with community members, and to relay the concerns, experiences, and insight of community members to city staff.

Use this outreach process to ensure that communities that may disproportionately experience the impacts from climate change directly shape the strategies intended to enhance the city's resilience.

The Massachusetts Department of Health grant to the Collaborative for Education Services to foster inclusion and empowerment can advance this work.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Central Services-Energy; Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Ongoing

**Cost:** \$

# HEALTH & SAFETY

## 1. LAND USE

### EQUITY 1C

#### Support workforce development in resilience and regeneration solutions

Support job training to support the economy and simultaneously help reach its resilience and regeneration goals. In partnership with new and existing community partners (e.g., Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, Valley Community Development Corporation, Center for EcoTechnology) expand resilience and regeneration skills development programs in tandem with demonstration projects or other municipal efforts. This could include:

- Job training/career development in nature-based resilience and regeneration solutions (e.g., green infrastructure installation and maintenance; permaculture, regenerative, and resilient agricultural practices; and climate-resilient street tree care). Perennial plantings in the floodplain, for example, could be coordinated by the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School horticulture program, simultaneously fostering career development, generating a new harvest crop for farmers, reducing erosion, and creating pathways to increase local food production and food security.
- Job training/career development in clean energy or energy efficiency technologies. Such a program could include, for example, training HVAC and building technicians on energy efficient building systems, distributed energy systems, and passive house standards, in conjunction with the roll out of municipal campaigns to encourage residents to pursue building retrofits.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Mayor's Economic Development Coordinator

**Time-frame:** Long-term

**Cost:** \$\$ - \$\$\$

### HEALTH & SAFETY 1A

#### Mitigate heat by expanding cooling opportunities at open space and streetscapes

Increase free recreation opportunities that can be used to cool off during high heat days or heat waves. This may include increasing public access to swimming areas, splash pads, or pocket parks with quality shade and vegetation. Ensure some affordable or free access to water.

Prioritize the installation of street trees, tree planting, and pocket parks in under-served neighborhoods (environmental justice areas), high traffic corridors, retail districts, parking lots, walking and biking corridors, bus stops and at community centers such as schools and health facilities.

Expanding the urban shade tree canopy reduces the heat island effect and provides shade to Northampton communities.

**Type:** Capital Improvement

**Lead:** Parks and Recreation; Public Works

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

**Cost:** \$\$

## HEALTH & SAFETY 1B

### Amend zoning and subdivision regulations for stringent flood and fluvial erosion control

Consider zoning and subdivision amendments to:

1. Amend Zoning to incorporate increase free-board requirements for new construction or substantial improvement within the flood zone, to the extent it can be done consistently with the state building code, with a minimum 1-foot free-board for residential, commercial, industrial and public buildings and a 2-foot free-board requirement is recommended for critical facilities. Continue to ban new residential housing (except replacement of existing units) in the 500-year (0.02% annual chance) flood zone.
2. Require new critical facilities be outside the 500-year floodplain with continuous non-inundated access during a 500-year flood.
3. Prohibit enlarging or extending a nonconforming use when located in a special flood hazard area and ensure property owners to redevelop and/or reconstruct nonconforming structures using more flood-resilient techniques.
4. Ensure street and parking lot design standards reduce impervious surfaces and remove barriers to the use of Low Impact Development (LID), consistent with the City's MS4 permit.
5. Update open space residential development (cluster) standards to focus on conservation development and change the review from special permit to site plan approval.
6. Adopt fluvial erosion hazard zoning along rivers and streams to limit or prohibit development in fluvial erosion hazard areas.

**Type:** Policy

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

**Cost:** \$\$

## HEALTH & SAFETY 1C

### Continue land acquisition for flood management

The city has been acquiring land in the floodplain in order to reserve land with high flood risk, as well as land near the floodplain to serve as stormwater storage before the water reaches the floodplain. Continue land acquisition for ongoing flood management in accordance with the city's open space priorities. Consider home buyouts in locations with high vulnerability to flooding.

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**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Ongoing

**Cost:** \$ - \$\$

## HEALTH & SAFETY 1D

### Assess tree, forest ecosystem, agriculture, and food systems for resilience

Seek opportunities to build on Public Works assessment of the City's water supply watershed forests and the Urban Forestry Commission/Tree Warden street tree inventories to conduct citywide assessments of trees, forest ecosystems agriculture, and food systems resilience when remote sensing technology supports such assessment at low cost.

- Develop selective harvesting, adaptive species planting, invasive species removal, and improvements to soil health to address vulnerabilities.
- Emphasize strategies that will simultaneously support carbon accumulation in forest biomass and soils, such as organic amendments and enhancing species diversity in tree stands.
- Partner in a Northampton or regional food systems and farming resilience plan (e.g., with Communities Involved in Sustainable Agriculture, Grow Food Northampton, Pioneer Valley Food Security Plan, Healthy Hampshire, Food Security Council, Agriculture Commission, and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission).
- Identify the climate vulnerabilities that Northampton farms and forests will face from increased heat, flooding, and extreme weather.
- Identify strategies to enhance the resilience of local small-scale food production and distribution.
- Identify regional food security solutions.

**Type:** Assessment/Plan

**Lead:** Public Works (for watershed land), Planning & Sustainability (for agriculture, greenways and remote sensing), Urban Forestry Commission (for tree assessments)

**Time-frame:** Medium-term

**Cost:** \$\$

## HEALTH & SAFETY 1E

### Prepare for vector and water-borne diseases

Build on the City's health assessment of climate change (Human Impact Partners, contracted by Planning & Sustainability) and vector-borne disease monitoring led by the Northampton Health Department and Massachusetts Department of Health to identify future climate change related vector and water-borne disease risks.

Strategies might include:

- More aggressive removal of tires and other debris that hosts mosquitoes
- Mosquito larvicide treatments
- Municipal land management practices
- Hunting regulations
- Permaculture practices
- Potentially enhanced water quality monitoring, (fecal coliform and/or benthic organisms) at Musante Beach, the Mill River, and the Connecticut River Greenway

**Type:** Assessment & Program

**Lead:** Health; Planning & Sustainability

**Time-frame:** Medium-term and ongoing

**Cost:** \$\$

# HEALTH & SAFETY 2.

## HAZARD MITIGATION

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### HEALTH & SAFETY 2A

Assess and upgrade the city’s flood control infrastructure and earn FEMA accreditation of the flood control levees

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Maintain existing inspections and oversight programs for repair, maintenance, and upgrades of flood control infrastructure, and strengthen drills and inspections as needed.

FEMA has commenced a process to modernize the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), which is the first update since 1978, which might potentially result in an increase in the elevation and area of the mapped floodplain. The City is assessing its flood control levees, potentially making needed improvements, to earn FEMA accreditation.

In 2019, the City completed an evaluation the flood control pump station needs and selected upgrades are underway.

**Type:** Capital Improvement

**Lead:** Public Works

**Time-frame:** Ongoing

**Cost:** \$\$ - \$\$\$

### HEALTH & SAFETY 2B

Enhance accessibility to hazard and climate change risk information

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Implement a multi-pronged hazard and resilience-based communication

- Dispatch emergency alerts, evacuation routes, warning systems, emergency responses.
- Energy and Sustainability Commission public education and outreach on a variety of climate change topics.
- Develop a messaging strategy that uses the city’s web page and social media in a more coordinated and engaging way, and that enhances accessibility for the public to climate risk
- Support communities who may not be regularly connected to city activities.
- Promote the purchase of flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), even for those located outside of the regulatory floodplain.
- Continue existing involvement in the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) program which provides discounts for flood insurance and makes it slightly more affordable.

**Type:** Program

**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability; Dispatch; Energy and Sustainability; Central Services-Energy

**Time-frame:** Short-term for strategy development; Ongoing for its implementation

**Cost:** \$



## Develop a Northampton Community Resilience Hub

Develop a Community Resilience Hub, a downtown physical facility with a coordinated program for frontline communities and all residents who face chronic and acute stress due to disasters, pandemics, climate change, and other social and economic challenges. It will serve the 1% (people experiencing homelessness and those under severe chronic stress), the 15% (below the poverty line), the 40% (housing-burdened and under chronic stress) and the 100% (those at risk of acute stress, e.g., major storm), by providing access to resource, strong networks, and building social resilience.

Coordinate the Hub and its offerings with the needs and opportunities of shelters and schools to safely house people during extended periods of extreme heat, extreme weather, flooding events, and pandemics to

create a coordinated response to such event, in conjunction with the Hampshire County Emergency Sheltering Plan.

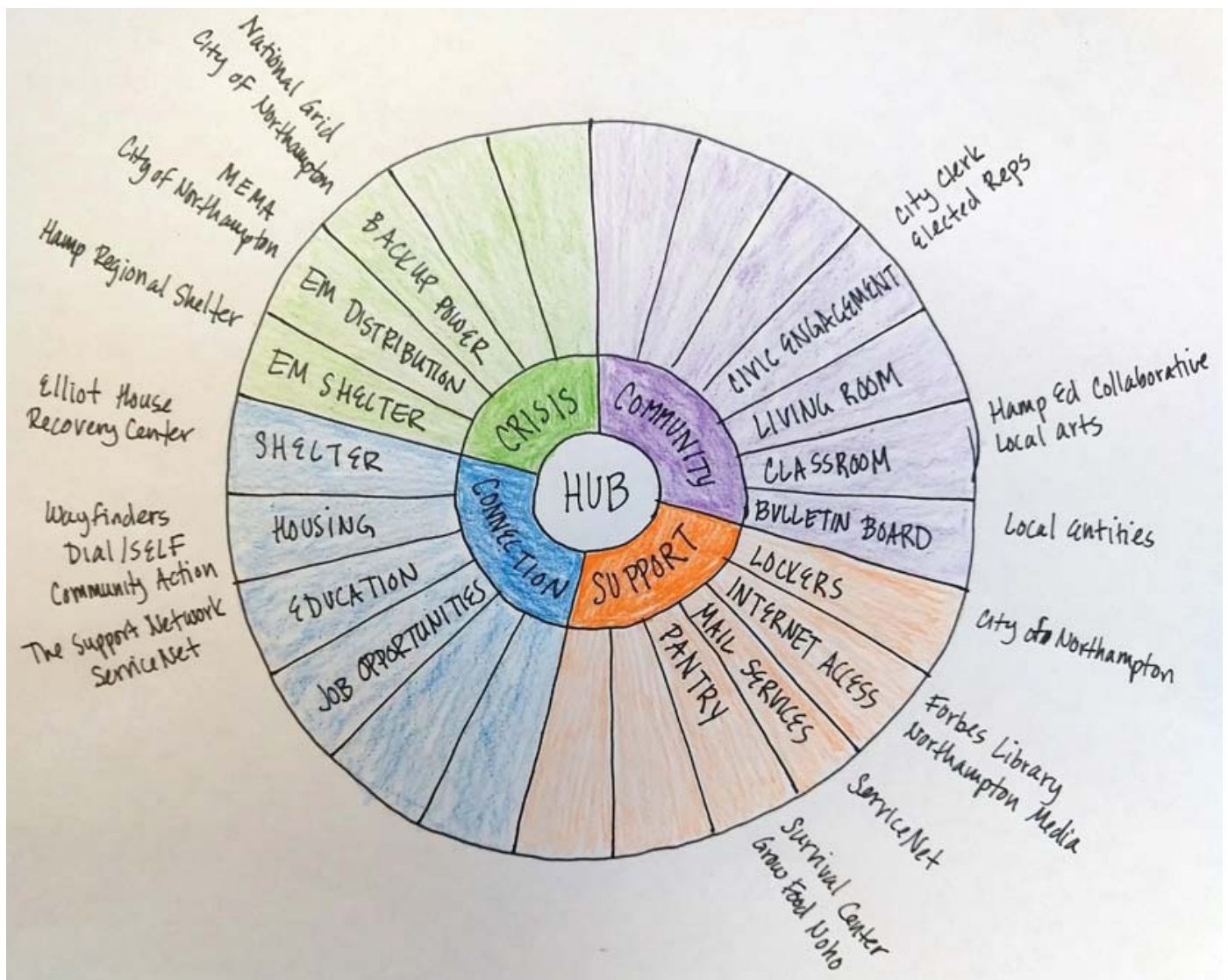
The Community Resilience Hub should be the dependable place for people to go for resources in emergencies, with continuous power, heating and cooling supported by power storage and energy islanding, information, phone charging, mental and physical health care, food and water, and/or other services.

**Type:** Capital Improvement

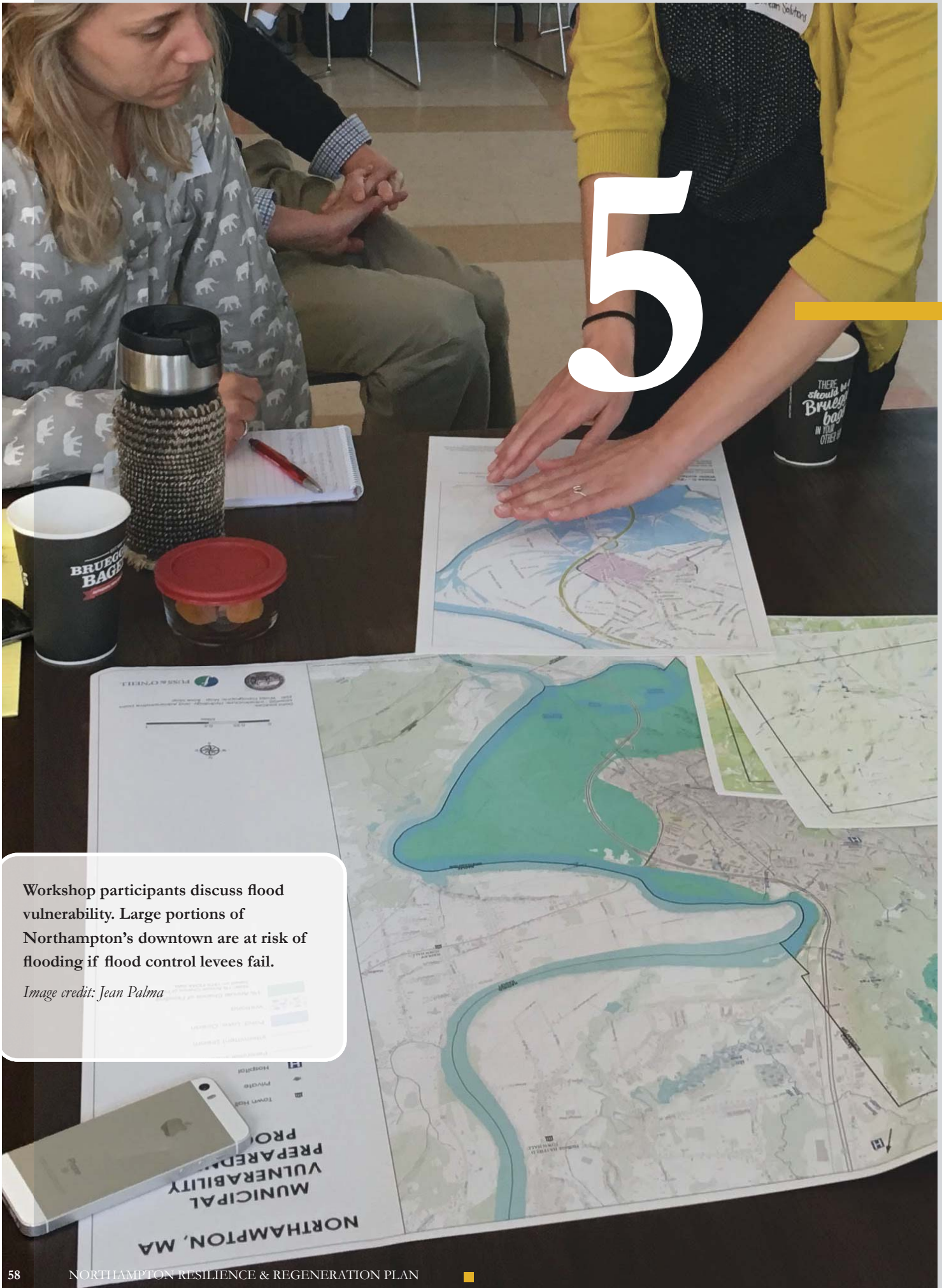
**Lead:** Planning & Sustainability; Mayor; Community Action Pioneer Valley; Central Services (if retained as a City Building)

**Time-frame:** Mid-term

**Cost:** \$\$\$



# 5



Workshop participants discuss flood vulnerability. Large portions of Northampton's downtown are at risk of flooding if flood control levees fail.

*Image credit: Jean Palma*

## SECTION FIVE

# A Plan Crafted By Northampton

Northampton's Climate Resilience and Regeneration planning process extended from Spring 2018 to early 2021, with a pause during COVID. City staff, the project team, residents, businesses, and organizations worked together to:

- Assess vulnerabilities and strengths to climate change hazards;
- Update the inventory of the city's greenhouse gas emissions;
- Generate a framework for resilience and regeneration actions;
- Develop a strategies to move Northampton forward in reaching our resilience and regeneration goals.

## Goals for Inclusive Planning

We aim to create a resilient, regenerative, and carbon neutral community through collaboration and collective action. Climate change will affect some members of our community disproportionately, and taking action will be easier for some people more than others. A robust and implementable plan required a planning process that's inclusive of everyone in the community—especially those that have been traditionally underrepresented in city planning processes.

The city's goal was to connect with diverse community members and stakeholders throughout the development of this plan, including voices that have traditionally been under-represented in community conversations (e.g., low income individuals, people experiencing homelessness, youth, seniors, businesses, and Hispanic/Latinx communities). To connect with these groups, the project team collaborated with partner organizations and community leaders that work within these communities—such as Northampton Neighbors, Northampton Survival Center, ServiceNet, among many others. Twenty-two such organizations and community leaders participated process.

## Workshops, Trainings, In-Person Activities, and On-Line Surveys

### A. Stakeholder workshops (2018)

The city convened a group of stakeholders—city staff across many departments, representatives from partner organizations, and community members who play key roles in mitigation and adaptation efforts in the city—to participate in a series of stakeholder workshops.

The first set of workshops focused on identifying infrastructural, social, and environmental vulnerabilities to climate change hazards, strengths within the city that can help Northampton adapt, and actions the city can take to increase its resilience. The second workshop focused on generating ideas for the plan around how to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions. The third workshop on the Climate Resilience and Regeneration Framework and a list of potential actions for the plan. The stakeholder group analyzed the actions and identified ways to refine them and improve their impact using the Framework.

### B. Public workshops (2018)

Over 170 community members over the course of three public workshops joined the city and project team to discuss ideas for the Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan. The first workshop included community-led conversations around the following questions: 1) What effects of climate change make you most concerned? 2) What makes Northampton communities strong and what could make them stronger? And 3) What guiding principles do we want to follow when developing strategies for climate resilience and regeneration? These guiding principles helped to create Northampton's Resilience and Regeneration Framework.

# ■ Thanks for your time, contributions, and feedback!

## Over 650 people engaged in the Climate Resilience and Regeneration planning!

The second public workshop included round robin table discussions on ways the city and community members could work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across various sectors. The third workshop included round robin table discussions about how a set of draft actions could be improved to achieve greater “co-benefits”—that is, to meet community goals such as equity, economic and cultural vitality, and regional collaboration.

### C. Partner organizations training (2018)

The project consultants hosted a training for the plan’s Partner Organizations. Participants discussed the chronic and daily stresses felt by many Northampton community members, and how these stresses may be exacerbated by climate change. Participants developed work plans for engaging their constituents in conversations around climate change, adaptation, and preparedness, and were provided with a survey and other materials to support those conversations.

### D. Other in-person activities (2018-2019)

Residents also provided their input through:

- Interviews with individuals experiencing homelessness to understand their experiences and thoughts;
- A presentation to the Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce to engage the business community;
- A preparedness workshop at the Literacy Project, an organization that provides classes for adults completing their high school education and preparing for the workforce;
- A pop-up table at the Northampton Survival Center, an organization that provides food to low-income individuals;
- A focus group with the Northampton Youth Commission and another with the Northampton High School Environmental Club to gather youth input and perspectives.

### E. Online platforms (2018-2019)

The project team distributed two surveys through the city’s electronic mailing lists, social media, and through Partner Organizations to

gather additional input. The first survey asked residents about the climate change related hazards they had already experienced and their understandings of resilience and sustainability. The team also launched an on-line interactive survey. This tool allowed participants to select areas they were most interested in (e.g., climate and energy or health and safety), answer a series of questions about their thoughts and behaviors related to these areas, and prioritize potential actions to include in the Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan.

### F. Energy and Sustainability Commission (2020)

The Commission, with deeply engaged climate change activists, critiqued the plan, read multiple revisions, and eventually endorsed the penultimate draft going to the Planning Board for a formal public hearing and, with whatever amendments the Planning Board makes, ultimate adoption.

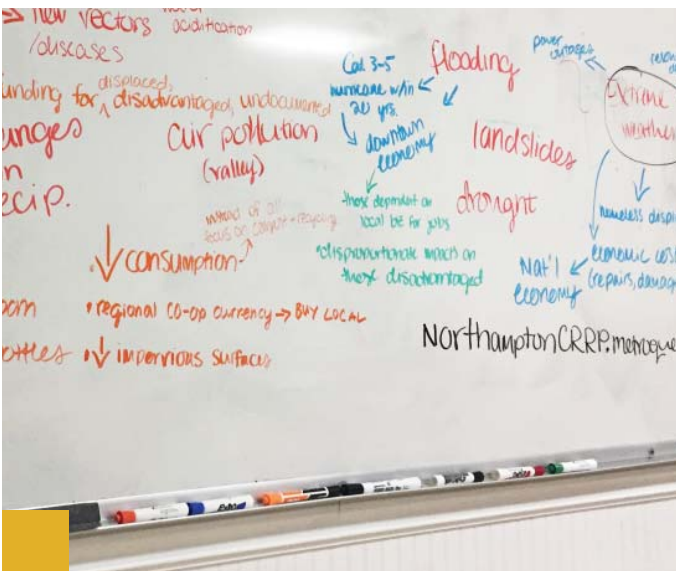
## Moving Forward

Through all of these in-person and on-line opportunities, roughly 650 community members provided ideas and input for the development of this Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan. In addition, numerous public and stakeholder comments and numerous committee conversations informed the plan.

The strategies in this plan outline ways to continue the conversation and avenues for community action and collaboration. The city continues to seek ways to include more diverse voices in shaping Northampton’s future, and looks forward to working together in implementing this plan for a more resilient and regenerative Northampton.

After the initial public process, the forum moved to the Energy and Sustainability Commission (for plan endorsement), the Planning Board and a public board public hearing (for plan adoption), and to City Council (for plan endorsement). Each step included public input.

The graphs (below) show the demographic information from our surveys (89% of survey respondents reported their age, race/ethnicity, and housing status).



- A** Stakeholder workshop discussing climate vulnerability
- B** Public workshop discussing ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- C** Preparedness workshop at the Literacy Project
- D** Public workshop discussing how strategies can achieve wide community benefits
- E** Focus group with the Northampton Youth Commission



### Stories from our community

Jason has been in Northampton since 2013. At the time of our interview, he was living in a tent. To prepare for extreme events he makes sure to tie everything down. During cold weather, he wears as much warm clothing as possible. Since he does not have family to stay with, he relies on shelters that are often full, especially the “dry” shelter that he prefers. He notes the need for more shelters and outreach.

Liz had been in Northampton for 37 years at the time of our interview. She has three sons and a daughter and is very artistic, preferring to spend her time singing and drawing. In terms of climate change, she has seen the weather change over the years, including an increase in the intensity of rain events. She mentioned how much she enjoyed an arts festival that occurred recently where the city blocked part of downtown to traffic. She said without cars the air was cleaner and safety was improved. She sees real value in pedestrian-only zones.

### Race / Ethnicity

- White / Caucasian = 92.5%
- Multiple / Other = 4%
- Hispanic / Latinx = 2%
- Asian / Pacific Islander = 1%
- American Indian / Alaska Native = 0.5%



Survey respondents by race and/or ethnicity. Minority representation was strong, given the community demographics, but not as strong as the city would like. Increasing minority representation remains a strong city goal.

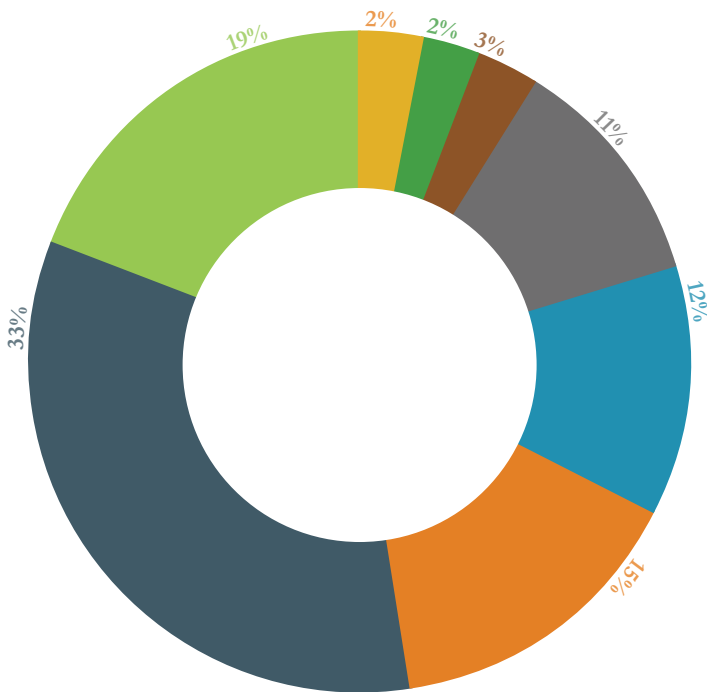
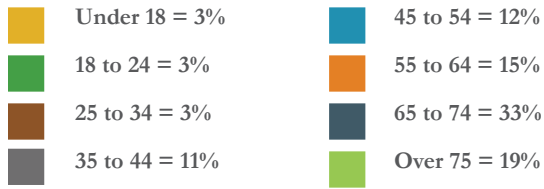
### Total survey participants

**160** participants in survey 1

**116** participants in survey 2

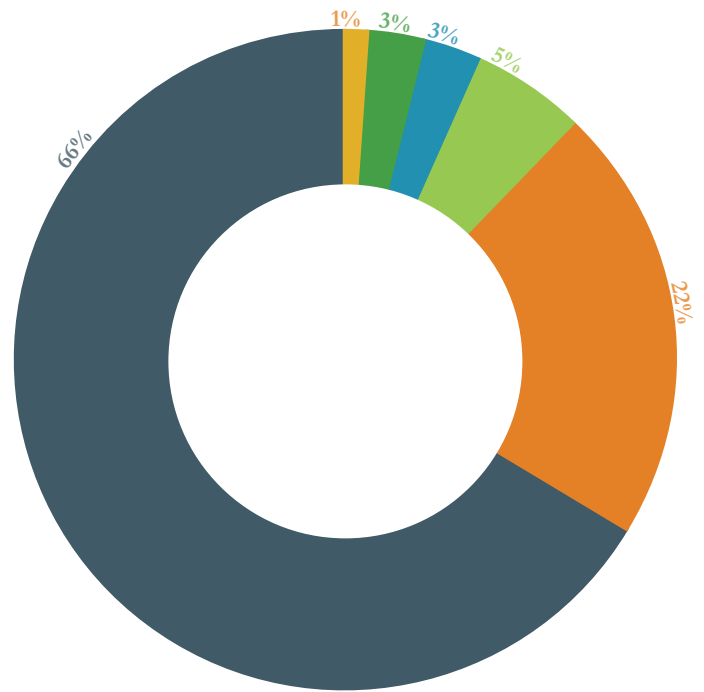
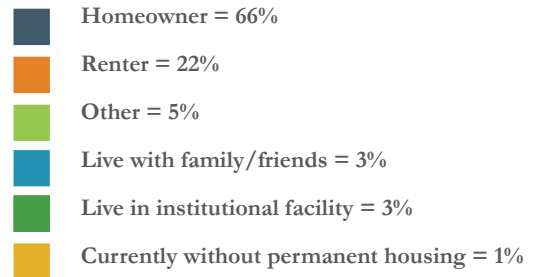
The surveys reached people from a range of demographics, The majority of respondents, however, were white, over the age of 65, and own a home. Many of the in-person activities were designed to expand the city’s reach to different demographics. Increasing minority representation in city planning processes remains a strong city goal.

## Age



Survey respondents by age. While all age groups were represented, the majority of respondents were over age 65.

## Housing Status



Survey respondents by housing status. While a variety of housing statuses were represented, the majority of respondents were homeowners.



Northampton City Hall (above)  
Main and Pleasant Streets (below)  
1936 flood.

*Image: Forbes Library*



# LINKS

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all of the documents or links to the documents below are available at [www.ResilienceRegeneration.com](http://www.ResilienceRegeneration.com)

- A. Mayor's Executive Order for Carbon Neutrality by 2050
- B. Mayor's Executive Order: Greenhouse Gas Impacts of HVAC Improvement Projects
- C. City Council Resolution Opposing the Expansion of Gas Infrastructure and Calling for Increased Development and Implementation of Renewable and Clean Energy Sources (Resolution R-18.170)
- D. City Council Resolution in Support of 100 Percent Renewable Energy (Resolution R-18.003)
- E. City Council Resolution Calling on the Massachusetts Legislature to Establish Carbon Pollution Pricing to Curb Climate Change
- F. City Council Resolution Opposing Provisions of H.3854 that "would not raise the net metering cap sufficiently to allow Northampton's solar plans to proceed" and "would decrease the net metering compensation to the wholesale rate and would allow the utilities to impose a mandatory minimum monthly charge..."
- G. City Council Resolution for Transparency and Public Representation Regarding Natural Gas Infrastructure (Resolution 15.451)
- H. Full Climate Resilience and Regeneration Framework
- I. Full Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- J. Full Carbon Neutral Pathway Analysis
- K. Full Infrastructure Resilience Memo
- L. Full Carbon Sequestration Memo
- M. Northampton's Community Resilience Building Summary Report (2018 updated 2020)
- N. The Nature Conservancy's Resilient and Connected Landscapes Map






# S U S T A I N A B L E N O R T H A M P T O N

Comprehensive Plan, January 2008

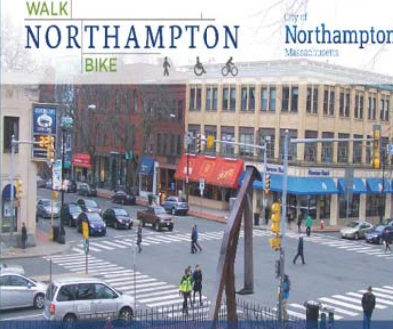
Northampton Climate  
Resilience & Regeneration Plan  
A element of the Sustainable Northampton Plan

Addressing the climate emergency by  
Regenerating a healthy community.  
ADAPTING to and MITIGATING climate change

WALK  
NORTHAMPTON  
BIKE


City of Northampton  
Massachusetts



PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

JANUARY 2017

PREPARED FOR THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON BY  
ALTA PLANNING + DESIGN WITH WATSON ACTIVE




## In the Year Two Thousand Twenty One

Upon the Recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz and Planning & Sustainability

### **21.189 AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE INCENTIVE FOR SMALLER HOUSES BY ALLOWING TWO HALF-SCALE UNITS TO COUNT AS A SINGLE-FAMILY FOR DENSITY PURPOSES**

An Ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts, providing that the Code of Ordinances, City of Northampton, Massachusetts, be amended to create an incentive for smaller residential units to be built in the URB and URC districts by allowing Half-Scale units to count as half a single regular sized unit for density purposes. Further, whereas electricity from an electric grid (which must meet state renewable energy portfolio standards and is more easily converted to renewable energy) will facilitate the City's effort to attain carbon neutrality by 2050, new projects created within this proposed zoning shall be built so all on-site systems are fossil fuel-free for thermal and electric loads.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

Add a new definition in 350 2.1 as follows:

#### **DWELLING, Half-Scale**

A unit that is no larger than 800 square feet of gross living area. Within the table of uses where allowed and for the purposes of calculating total allowable density, two half-scale units shall be treated as one dwelling unit.

Amend Attachment 7(URB) & 8(URC) as follows:

Lot Dimensional Requirements

#### **Lot Size**

Single, Two family or Two Half-Scale units: 3,750 ft<sup>2</sup>

3+ units: 2,500 ft<sup>2</sup> minimum (min) per unit or per two Half-Scale units

#### **Uses Allowed By Right:**

- Single-, two-, three-family, multifamily, townhouses with six or fewer units, or 12 or fewer Half-Scale units. Half-Scale units shall not have any on-site use of fossil fuels (natural gas, propane, oil) for any thermal (heating, cooling, water heating) or electric loads. Electricity from an electric grid and fossil fuel use limited to emergency generators, outdoor grilling, or mobile uses (cars, lawnmowers, snow blowers) are permitted.

**Site Plan Approval Required for the Following:**

- Any Construction ~~(other than for a single family home or two-family less than 3,400 sf)~~ greater than 2,000 ft<sup>2</sup> . This requirement applies to all uses except for: single family homes and up to 2 Half-Scale units. Half-Scale units shall not have any on-site use of fossil fuels (natural gas, propane, oil) for any thermal (heating, cooling, water heating) or electric loads. Electricity from an electric grid and fossil fuel use limited to emergency generators, outdoor grilling, or mobile uses (cars, lawnmowers, snow blowers) are permitted.

**Special Permit Approval Required for the Following Uses by Planning Board**

- Any multifamily or townhouse project creating seven or more units or 14 or more Half-Scale units. Half-Scale units shall not have any on-site use of fossil fuels (natural gas, propane, oil) for any thermal (heating, cooling, water heating) or electric loads. Electricity from an electric grid and fossil fuel use limited to emergency generators, outdoor grilling, or mobile uses (cars, lawnmowers, snow blowers) are permitted.