

BEST OUTCOMES — 10 Years

- Emergency response – adequate, state of the art, maintain level of service
- Broadband internet to households
- School/recreation properties and use in day
- Natural gas availability/viability
- Expansion of electrical storage capacity
- Continued and additional regional collaborations/inter-municipality
- Support DPW — salting/sanding/paving services
- More municipal parking
- Additional playing/sports fields
- Accessibility issues and private business challenges

MOST USED MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- Fire
- School
- Police — parking compliance, security alarms
- Animal control
- Trash/recycling
- Water
- Electricity

ADEQUATE TODAY/FUTURE . . .

- Fire and EMS/paramedic
- Overall good
- Library — but ADA challenges
 - Lift and interior
 - Construction grants
- Police — dispatch center demands/tech.
- Senior Center — 2 years old; perhaps capacity in future
- Road infrastructure challenges
- Library programming/capacity
- Master Plan needed to guide future
- Water supply challenges
 - Adequate capacity to meet demand
 - Water Management Act challenges
 - DPW and Public Works Board
- Challenge of meeting town goals, giving town structure/governance/appointed vs. elected Boards
- Is town organized to handle change?

- Status of building conditions/government response?
- No dedicated recreation/community use/co-location
- Who maintains recreation fields? DPW

HIGH MARKS

- Recycling center and curbside pickup
- Safety departments/fire/police
- Municipal light department
- Recreation department
- COA
- Library
- Town Hall staff and services
- Schools

NEEDS ATTENTION

- Technology/underfunded services/tech
- Roads
- Parent responsibilities and improved communication technology

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

- Why do people object?
- Potential loss of community with regionalization
- Loss of control. Who do you contact?
- Part-time position can merge into full-time
- Need to build community network and not always tied to services
- Who pays their fair share/loss of control
- Mutual interest — shared spaces/fields/open space

LAND USE

1. Best Outcome

- Conservation pattern
- Rt.12 is “identity” of Sterling/gravel pit first impressions/“gateway management”
- Rt.12
 - Keep identity of Sterling and not gas stations
 - Distinct town feel in Sterling
- Historic areas near rail trails/keep area precious and maintained
- Rail trail/bike trail connection/interconnection

2. What brings people/business here?

- Highway access/interchanges

- Gliding Club at airport
- Labor force
- Small/lower density town/rural environment
- Orchards/vistas
- Library
- Common
- Downtown lacks aesthetics/outsider landlords

3. Most Like

- Poor Westminster
- Bolton/Harvard? Open space/orchards
- Berlin

4. Qualities/Likes

- Northampton
- Harvard Center/General Store
- Retail/unique shops/arts...plays as a destination
- Bolton Rt.117 and specialized retail
- “Crazy Corner” needs to be fixed
- Bad municipal development choices — re: SMLD, DPW in reference to visibility and gateways
- Adherence to agricultural lands regulations, right to first refusal, establishing criteria
- Community Preservation Act funding options
- Improve appearance of private properties and revitalize downtown/infrastructure

GROWTH CHALLENGES

- Reg. tools for Rt.12/avoid development hodgepodge
- Diverse housing types/balance for generations
- Cluster zoning missing
- 2-acre zoning hurts/sprawls/loss of neighborhood
- More development in I-90 and Rt.12 corridor
 - Impediment of Zone II overlay/growth control

ENCOURAGE GROWTH

- Downtown
- Rt.140
- Rt.12
- Chocksett Rd/Champion Kennels