



September 8, 2025

Old Bennington Village Plan Community Engagement Plan

Past Strategies and Future Plans

Project Goals



Outline strategies to protect and maintain historic character of the Village



Address updated state laws regarding housing and density requirements



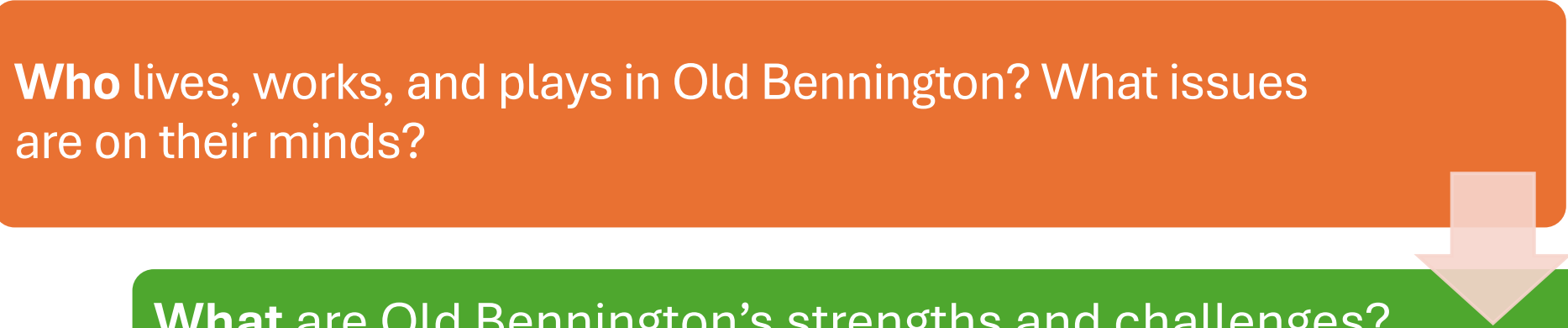
Prioritize pedestrian-scaled, climate resilient developments to protect natural and historical resources



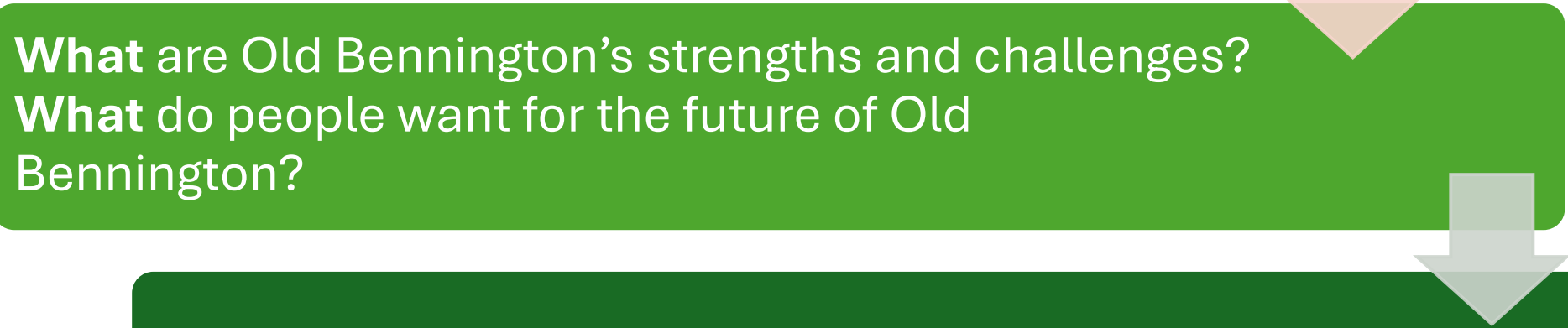
Shift from fossil fuel-based energy sources to renewable energy sources

Engagement Tells Us...

Who lives, works, and plays in Old Bennington? What issues are on their minds?



What are Old Bennington's strengths and challenges?
What do people want for the future of Old Bennington?



How do we create a plan that is reflective of the entire community?

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		August			September			October			November			December		
Kickoff Meeting	Public meeting to introduce PC and community to the project					Sept. 8th										
Village Walking Tour	Public walking tour of the village to highlight important attributes and encourage place-based visioning										Oct. 25th					
Community Visioning Meeting	Engage community members on questions of how they envision Bennington in the future through idea boards, dot voting, other interactive activities												TBD			
Survey	Specific questions about a variety of topics															
Activity Cards	"Postcards" that ask people about their likes and dislikes regarding the Village															
Student Engagement Activity	Modified postcards for students to write/draw what they like about Old Bennington															

Old Bennington Walking Tour



(most likely) Saturday, October 25th, morning/midday, Monument Ave



BCRC will be partnering with the Bennington Historical Society to provide a walking tour throughout Old Bennington this upcoming fall



Give people a sense of the character of the Village, and how land uses have changed over time; highlight place-based assets such as historic and scenic features; and engage people in identifying areas of pride and concern



BENNINGTON
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Community Visioning Meeting



Late October/early November, Weeknight evening,
Location TBD (Monument Elementary or The Barn)



Include entrance card, dynamic visioning and
discussion-based activity, and exit card to
facilitate community conversation, imagine the
village's future, and determine top priorities



“Spectrum” Activity, Dot Voting



Example: Manchester Village Community Visioning Meeting, June 2024

Postcard Activity



Distribute postcards to various locations and organizations around Old Bennington



Use postcards as feedback cards at other community engagement events



Postcards as a form of both active and passive community engagement

A Vision for the Village of Old Bennington



What is a change you would like to see in the Village?

What is something you hope future generations will be able to enjoy about the Village?

Where would you like to see postcards distributed?

Student Engagement Activity



Monument Elementary to engage their students

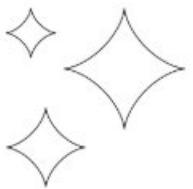


This partnership will act as an educational tool to emphasize the importance of civic engagement



Better understand student hopes and wishes for the future of their community

My wish for Old Bennington is...



Sincerely,

Old Bennington Survey



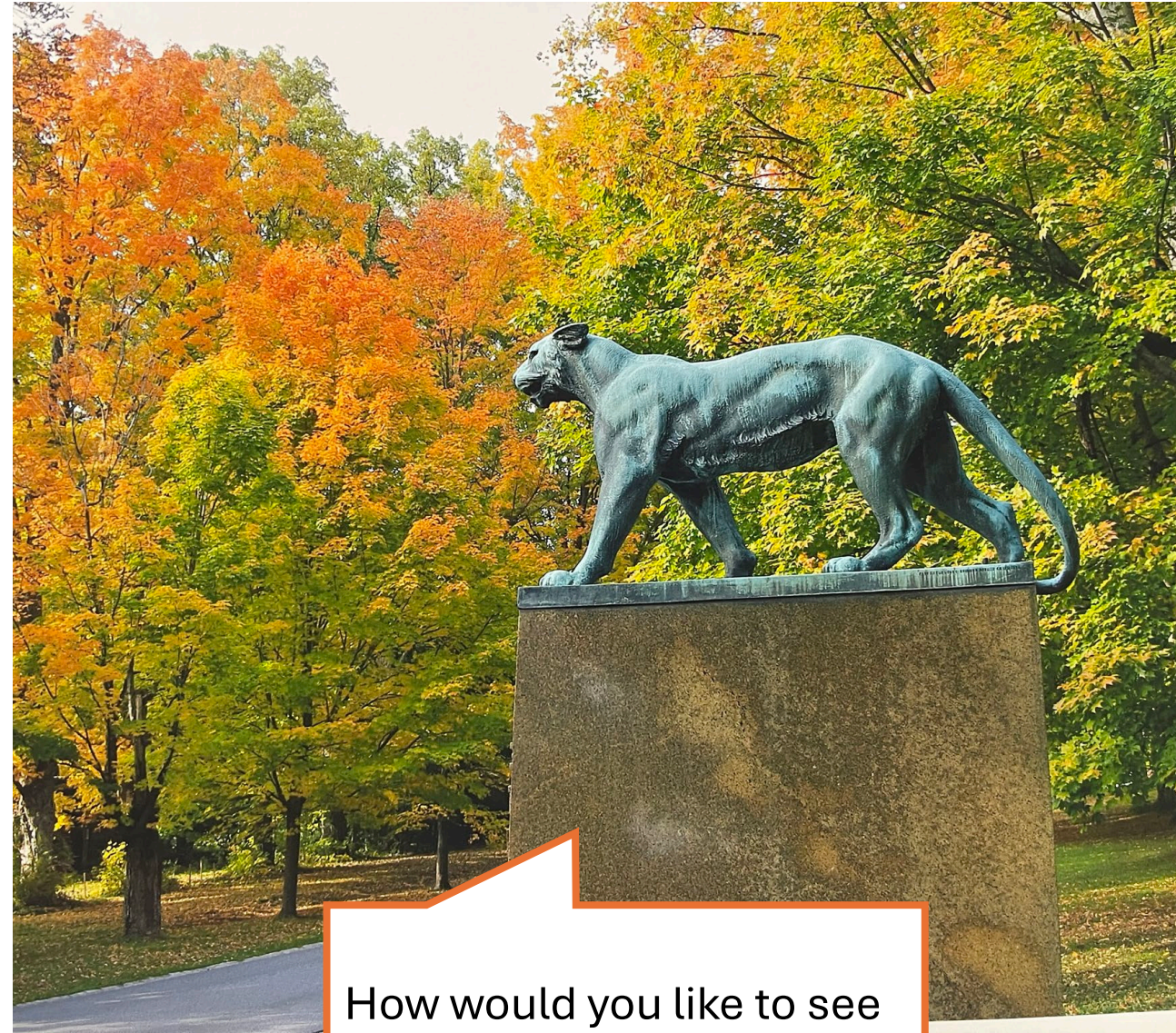
Online and in hard copies throughout town



Hopes and concerns for the future of those who live, work, and play in Old Bennington



Topics include: General information, Community, Size and Scale, Arts, Culture, and History, Environment, Demographics



How would you like to see surveys distributed?

Old Bennington Village Plan Engagement Strategies

OUTREACH METHOD	TYPE OF ENGAGEMENT	WHERE	WHO	PARTNERS	ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION
Kickoff Meeting	Public meeting to introduce Planning Commission and community to the project	Planning Commission Meeting - Barn at Monument Circle	Planning Commission, members of the public		Virtual option
Village Walking Tour	Public walking tour of the village to highlight important attributes and encourage place-based visioning	Monument Avenue	Members of the public	Old First Church, Bennington Historical Society	Weekend date, partnership with local organization
Community Visioning Meeting	Engage community members on questions of how they envision Bennington in the future through idea boards, dot voting, other interactive activities	Monument Elementary School	Members of the public		Weekday evening
Survey	Specific questions about a variety of topics	Online; paper copies available at select locations in the Village	Members of the public; businesses, developers		Online and in-person
Activity Cards	"Postcards" that ask people about their likes and dislikes regarding the Village	Cards available at select locations in the Village: Bennington Museum, Old First Church, Barn at Monument Cir, Four Chimneys	Members of the public		Available at key locations
Student Engagement Activity	Modified postcards for students to write/draw what they like about Old Bennington	Monument ES/Barn Daycare	Students	Monument ES/Barn Daycare	Partnership with local institution, outreach to specific age group

Old Bennington Village Plan Engagement Strategies

Community Engagement Strategies & Important Dates to Note

		August				September		October			November			December		
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We've Engaged, Now What?

Timeline

- January–March: Prepare and present our findings
- March–June: Draft and present the plan

Incorporation of Engagement

- Synthesize survey responses, activity cards, community visioning feedback and student engagement cards to propose themes and structure for the plan
- Circle back to Monument Elementary to present student findings



Thank you!

