

# CHILMARK MASTER PLAN 2023 UPDATE

## SURVEY FOR CHILMARK BOARDS/COMMITTEES/DEPARTMENTS

The Chilmark Planning Board is updating Chilmark's Master Plan. The first Chilmark Master Plan was published in 1985. Supplements to the Chilmark Master Plan were developed in 1990 and 2000/2003. The generally-agreed-upon "best practice" for keeping master plans current is to revisit them every five years or so; clearly, an update of Chilmark's Master Plan is due.

A Master Plan guides a community's policy development, resource allocation and decision-making. It helps identify the community character and what's meaningful to preserve. Section 81D of the Massachusetts General Laws states "A planning board established in any city or town under section 81A shall make a master plan of such city or town or parts thereof as said board may deem advisable and from time to time may extend or perfect such a plan."

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/Part1/TitleVII/Chapter41/Section81D>

Another way to think of a Master Plan is that it is a marker in time, a way of looking at our community with consistency and vision. The 1985 Master Plan is our foundation. However, things have changed. With a new Master Plan we may ask "If we knew then what we know now, what would we have done differently?" and "What would we like Chilmark to be like in twenty years?"

We are now looking to kick off the effort again. The questionnaire here is the first step in a comprehensive process. What do we expect the process to look like? Through a series of surveys and public forums, we will identify:

- Key issues facing our community (the options and opportunities they pose);
- Goals for the future (near and long term);
- Actions to achieve those goals.

As a first step, we are asking for input from town boards, committees and departments. The Planning Board wants to understand the issues and perspectives of the variety of town entities that work to make Chilmark the special place it is. That's where you come in. Your input is essential. We want to know what is working and what is not working.

Please respond to four (4) survey questions. There are no right or wrong answers.

We ask that each entity (Board, Committee, Department) submit one set of responses.

Please provide responses to our administrative support, Jennifer Christy, at [jchristy@chilmarkma.gov](mailto:jchristy@chilmarkma.gov).

*Thank you for providing necessary input during this important Town Master Plan process.*

Chilmark Planning Board Master Plan Subcommittee

Janet L. Weidner, Chairperson

Ann Wallace

Catherine A. Thompson

Peter B. Cook

**CHILMARK MASTER PLAN SURVEY  
OCTOBER 2023**

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Dept./Board/Committee Name

**QUESTIONS:**

1. One aspect of a Master Plan is to develop a snapshot of the town government structure. Please provide a brief description of your Board, Committee or Department. What are its primary responsibilities?
  
2. Please identify key issues or challenges affecting your board, committee or department.
  
3. Please describe achievable goals and objectives that your board, committee or department could strive for in the next five years (short term) and the next twenty years (long term). Identify those areas that require local and regional collaborative efforts with other boards, committees and entities.
  
4. We are developing a broader survey for town residents and property owners in 2024. Please provide any questions or topics which you feel we should include in the wider survey.