

Team Wachuchutrain

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Our town receives energy from the town light department. Our local grocery store is the Big Y. They gather their food from all over in my experience. For example, they sell lettuce from Chelsea, MA and I live in Holden, MA. I do remember seeing labels from far places too. As a kid my apple juice was produced by apples from other countries. Because of this, my family looked for more local beverages. The town center is filled with small buildings, but there are some green spaces and sports field, however no clear town commons.

Three sectors in my town that could be more sustainable are, solar energy, grocery store, and a town commons. Our light dept is considering agreeing to work with a solar company in our town to buy energy from it. This is something that really should happen, because it will give us local sustainable energy. The grocery store does buy some local food, however we could influence it to buy more. Lastly, the town has some land here and there, but no well-known town commons. A town commons would be helpful for community events and expanding the community garden.

Dear Town Planner,

I am a student at WRHS and the president of an environmental awareness club. I am also a participant in the 2017 Project Green Challenge. This is a month long commitment run by Turning Green, a company in California, for college and highschool students. Students can participate alone, or as a team. My team is currently in second place amongst, 678 schools, 4662 students, 50 states, and 41 countries. Each day, 3 challenges, based off of that days theme, are released, varying in difficulty, and points are awarded based off of the completion/quality of the challenges/work. All of the challenges are focused upon helping our environment and raising awareness.

One of today's challenges is to write a letter to the town planner, about sectors of our town that could be improved in regards to the environment or sustainability. The first sector I would like to delve into is energy. It is my understanding that most of the town's energy comes from the light department. According to their website, they are considering collaborating with a solar company on Shrewsbury street. This would be wonderful for our town, because it would provide us with sustainable energy. This would be a very environmentally friendly development.

The second sector that improvement would be helpful is transportation. I believe that a rotary at the Mobile intersection would be super helpful for keeping traffic moving. However, it

does not appear that there is enough space to insert one. This solution would take extensive planning, but worth consideration because there is a funeral home right near the intersection that often creates major traffic jams in the center of town. Rotaries speed up traffic movement and are known to be safer.

The third sector that improvement would make things better for our community is green spaces. We have some, like where the farmers market is hosted, but we don't have a clear green space in the center of town, besides sports fields. I think that a large green space would mean that we could enlarge our community garden, and host more community events. It would also benefit our environment in general. This change would also take planning, but in the end I think it would be a timeless improvement to our community.

Please consider my thoughts; I would love to hear your reaction to them.

Thank you,
Kevin Rissmiller