
APPENDIX A – ACTION PLAN – SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRIORITIES



**Historic Preservation Plan
for the Town of Webster**
Appendix A - Action Plan Matrix

Number	Recommendation	Action Matrix Priority/Timeframe	Principal Management/Oversight	Notes
Chapter 2 - Historical Development and Resources				
2A	Prepare a history of Webster detailing the town's mill history as led by Samuel Slater and his family and its significance to the region and the nation. Include Dudley's mills.	Priority Three	Historical Commission and Webster-Dudley Historical Society	
Chapter 3 - Inventory, Recognition, and Treatment				
3A	Organize the Webster Historical Commission to take responsibility for the overall leadership and coordination of the Town's historic preservation program as outlined in this preservation plan.	Priority One	Historical Commission with support from Planning staff and the Board of Selectmen	
3B	Identify and cultivate potential future Historical Commission members.	Priority One	Historical Commission	
3C	Organize and advocate for the adoption of the Community Preservation Act by Town Meeting.	Priority One	Board of Selectmen, Historical Commission, Conservation Commission, and Webster Housing Authority	Highest priority short-term action
Historic Resource Inventories in Webster				
3D	Update inventory area forms for North Village, South Village, and East Village taking in account resources that have been demolished and resources that were not previously included.	Priority One	Historical Commission	Requires a professional consultant and funding source
3E	Prepare inventory area forms for historic neighborhoods outside of North Village, South Village, and East Village, expanding the areas that had been inventoried previously.	Priority Two	Historical Commission	Requires a professional consultant and funding source

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3F	Prepare a history of the development of Webster Lake as a recreational destination and cottage community.	Priority Three	Historical Commission and Webster-Dudley Historical Society	Can be undertaken by local historians
National Register of Historic Places				
3G	Prepare nominations of North Village and South Village to the National Register of Historic Places.	Priority One	Historical Commission	Requires a professional consultant and funding source
Public Outreach				
3I	Implement an ongoing program of public outreach to engage and support property owners in the appreciation and appropriate treatment of their historic properties.	Priority One	Historical Commission	Potential actions listed in Chapter 3
Design Guidelines				
3J	Prepare design guidelines for the treatment of Webster's historic buildings for use by property owners.	Priority Two	Historical Commission	Short term use of Worcester's design guidelines
Local Historic Districts				
3K	Designate North Village and South Village as local historic districts in accordance with Massachusetts' Historic Districts Act.	Priority Two	Historical Commission with approval by Town Meeting	Must build public support from property owners
Neighborhood Conservation Districts				
3L	Designate historic neighborhoods outside of North Village and South Village as Neighborhood Conservation Districts.	Priority Three	Historical Commission with approval by Town Meeting	Must build public support from property owners

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Neighborhood Associations				
3M	Encourage and support the establishment and operation of neighborhood associations where there is local interest and energy.	Priority Three	Town staff and the Board of Selectmen	
Municipal Rental Property Programs				
3N	Initiate a landlord registration program and modest yearly fee to assure that contact information for absentee landlords is on file and can be accessed with regard to properties with maintenance issues.	Priority Two	Board of Selectmen and Building Department Staff	
3O	Incorporate historic preservation principles into code compliance, neighborhood revitalization, and blight remediation planning and implementation.	Priority Two	Town Planning and Building Department Staff	
Cemeteries				
3P	Undertake a long-term program of oversight and restoration of Webster's historic Town-owned cemeteries.	Priority Three	Webster Department of Public Works and Historical Commission	
Chapter 4 - Planning and Economic Development				
4A	Actively participate in the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission's development of a regional comprehensive plan, Imagine 2050. Define a targeted role for Webster within the plan taking advantage of the Town's assets and strengths.	Priority One	Town staff under the direction of the Board of Selectmen	
4B	Coordinate with the Town of Dudley on implementation of the Dudley Gateway Plan, this Historic Preservation Plan, and other Webster economic development and revitalization initiatives.	Ongoing	Town staff and Town boards and commissions under the direction of the Board of Selectmen	

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Promoting Historic Webster				
4C	Continue to provide leadership in establishing Town policies that recognize and enhance the historic character of the built environment and allocate the necessary resources toward their realization.	Ongoing	Board of Selectmen	
4D	Adopt Samuel Slater and the Slater family's mill history and story as Webster's identity and brand to be prominently used in marketing and economic development.	Priority One	Board of Selectmen and Webster's economic development stakeholders	
4E	Use Webster's adoption of the Community Preservation Act and resulting projects as demonstration of the Town's commitment to quality of life initiatives.	Priority Two	Board of Selectmen and Webster's economic development stakeholders	
4F	Encourage the use of context sensitive design that helps new construction to relate positively to its historic surroundings.	Ongoing	Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Webster's economic development stakeholders.	
Downtown Webster				
4G	Continue to focus on the phased revitalization of Downtown Webster.	Ongoing	Board of Selectmen and Webster's economic development stakeholders	
4H	Consider the use of federal and state rehabilitation tax credits in the rehabilitation and improvements to historic Downtown commercial buildings.	Priority Two	Board of Selectmen, Historical Commission, and Webster's economic development stakeholders	
4I	Consider establishing Downtown Webster as a Local Historic District to guide future rehabilitation and change.	Priority Two	Board of Selectmen, Historical Commission, and Webster's economic development stakeholders	
4J	Implement a Business Improvement District (BID) as envisioned in the 2023 study prepared for Webster.	Priority Two	Downtown property owners in coordination with the Town	

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4K	Implement a full Main Street program in Downtown Webster with a Main Street Manager coordinating programs.	Priority One	Downtown property owners in coordination with the Town	
4L	Design and implement a wayfinding system for Webster reflecting the Town's proposed Slater brand and graphic identity.	Priority Two	The Town in coordination with businesses, attractions, and property owners	
			French River Mill District	
4M	Actively engage with and support private sector developers interested in and capable of undertaking mill rehabilitation revitalization projects.	Priority One	Board Selectmen, Planning Board, and economic development staff	
4N	Prepare a master plan for redevelopment of the French River Mill District including the historic industrial areas of South Village and North Village.	Priority One	Board Selectmen, Planning Board, and economic development staff	
4O	Take the next steps in planning and implementation for extension of the Riverwalk from Downtown Webster through North Village.	Priority One	Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and economic development staff	
			East and South Main Streets	
4P	Enact policies and planning initiatives to prevent the further loss of historic buildings along the Main Street corridor.	Priority Two	Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and economic development staff	
4Q	Establish upgraded design standards for new commercial development along South and East Main Streets.	Priority Two	Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and economic development staff	
			Webster Lake	
4R	Recognize the importance of Webster Lake residents and visitors as a market for services provided by a revitalized Downtown.	Ongoing	Board of Selectmen and economic development staff	

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Zoning and Growth Management				
4S	Incorporate preservation language into Webster's Zoning Bylaw and Rules and Regulations Covering the Subdivision of Land to encourage the preservation and appropriate treatment of historic buildings.	Priority Three	Board of Selectman, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals	Requires approval at Town Meeting
4T	Consider enactment of a Scenic Road Bylaw in Webster in accordance with MGL Chapter 40, Section 15C to provide review and protection for the scenic character of historic local roads.	Priority Three	Board of Selectmen and Planning Board	Requires approval at Town Meeting
Chapter 5 - Public Engagement				
History of Webster				
5A	Strengthen and revitalize the Webster-Dudley Historical Society to enable it to actively undertake research and programming.	Ongoing	Webster-Dudley Historical Society with support from the Webster Historical Commission	
Townwide Interpretive Presentation				
5B	Undertake phased implementation of a Townwide interpretive presentation as an economic revitalization strategy to strengthen identity, raise public awareness for residents, and help position Webster as a destination and attraction for visitors.	Phased	Board of Selectmen in partnership with Webster's economic stakeholders	
5C	Actively support and promote the Samuel Slater Experience as a key attraction in Webster and the hub of its Townwide interpretive presentation.	Ongoing	Board of Selectmen in partnership with Webster's economic stakeholders	
5D	Prepare a Community Interpretive Plan for conceptual design of a Townwide interpretive presentation of the Slater mill town story of sufficient quality that it can be marketed to visitors.	Priority Two	Board of Selectmen in partnership with Webster's economic stakeholders, Samuel Slater Experience, Historical Commission, Historical Society, and others as appropriate	
5E	Use Outdoor Exhibits at sites throughout historic Webster in realizing a Townwide interpretive presentation.	Priority Two	Interpretive Commission under direction of the Board of Selectmen	

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5F	Use Public Art at appropriate sites throughout historic Webster in realizing a Townwide interpretive presentation.	Priority Two	Interpretive Commission under direction of the Board of Selectmen	
Community Programming and Events				
5G	Develop a set of annual community events to attract visitors and residents, support local businesses, and showcase Webster's Townwide interpretive presentation.	Priority Two	Webster's economic development stakeholders under the direction of the Board of Selectmen	
Website and Orientation				
5I	Create a promotional website with visitor information and educational and interpretive content to engage, attract, and orient visitors.	Priority Two	Webster's economic development stakeholders under the direction of the Board of Selectmen	

