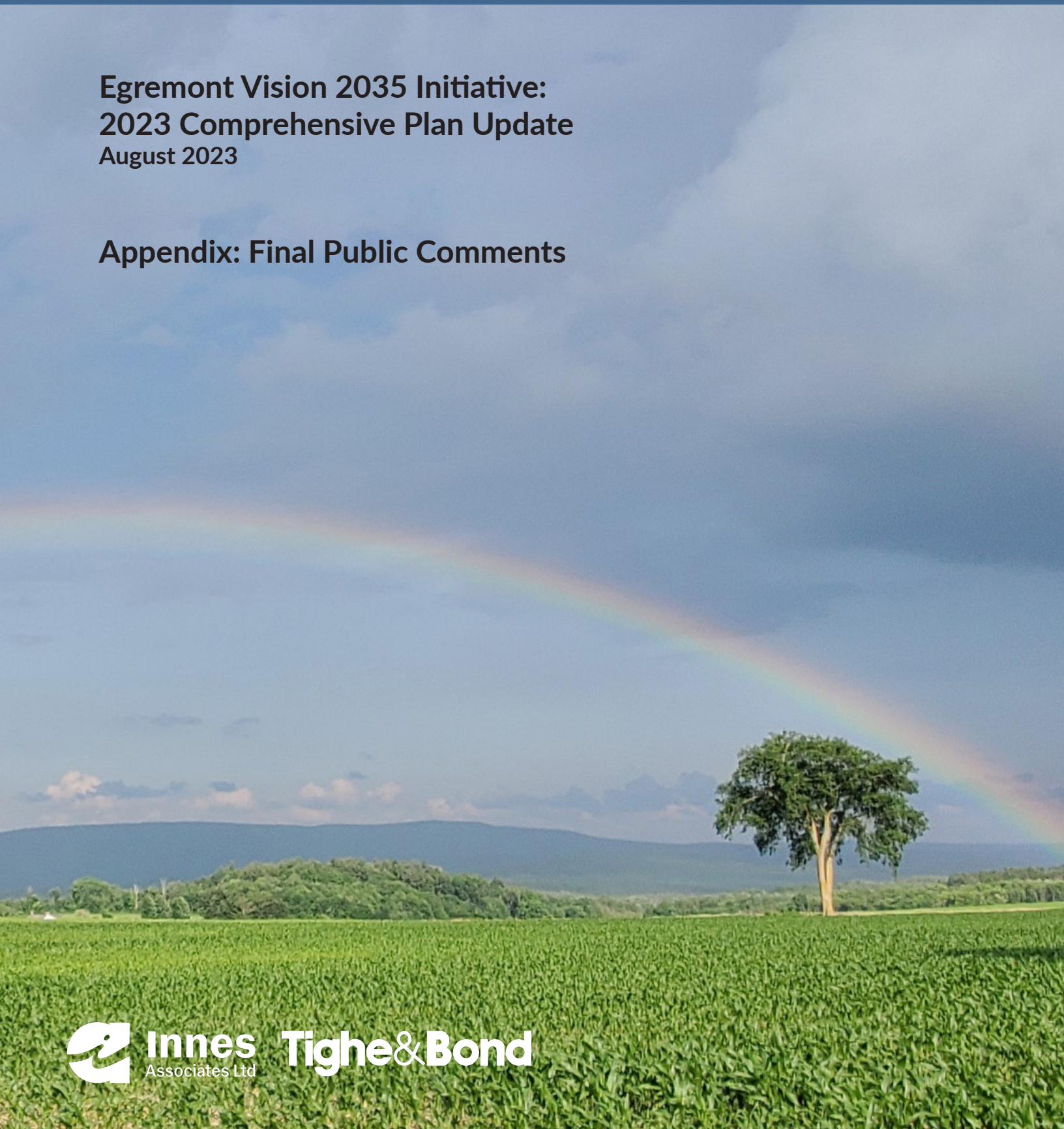




**Egremont Vision 2035 Initiative:
2023 Comprehensive Plan Update
August 2023**

Appendix: Final Public Comments



FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Egremont Planning Board sponsored a final online questionnaire to collect public comments on the final draft.

This questionnaire was available from August 11-25, 2023 and included eight questions. This appendix documents the results from the seven people who responded.

The first three questions were about the draft comprehensive plan. The second three questions were about the respondents. Answers to these questions allow the Planning Board to understand who they are reaching through this type of engagement.

Q1: Did you read the draft Egremont Vision 2035 Initiative: 2023 Comprehensive Plan Update before responding to this questionnaire?

**6/7 RESPONDENTS: YES
1/7: SKIPPED.**

Q2: What thoughts would you like to share about the Comprehensive Plan? Your thoughts on the goals and actions will be especially helpful for implementation. Responses are limited to no more than 140 characters.

- Well done. Agree with zoning actions for affordable and workforce housing and economic development. Visually beautiful. Thank you.
- Promote workforce units, not market rate units. Grow slowly. Don't push for more growth. Be a hometown not a high-end vacation community.
- Realistic. Achievable. Thoughtful. Appropriately diverse.
- It has left out a few issues but is otherwise very good.
- Job well done. The housing and zoning-related-to-housing "next steps" seem thoughtful.
- There is little to no support for agriculture in this document.
- Overall, it's an excellent document, focusing on Egremont priorities.

Q3: Did you attend either the January or the March workshops?

7/7 respondents

Response	January	March
Yes	2	4
No, I had a conflict.	1	2
No, I didn't hear about it.	0	1
No, I would have preferred an evening meeting on a weeknight.	0	0
No, I would have preferred a virtual meeting.	0	0
No, I was not interested.	0	0

ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS

The following five questions were chosen by the Planning Board at the beginning of the process and used for all four questionnaires sponsored by the Planning Board. Responses to the first four questions are below, with the results from each questionnaire (see notes on page 7). The fifth question allowed respondents to provide their contact information to receive updates about the process. The answers are not included in this summary.

What is your Relationship with Egremont? (Choose all that apply.*)

Response	1	2	3
How long have you lived in Egremont as a year-round resident?			
0-5 years	64	25	2
6-10 years	30	11	0
11-20 years	32	17	1
21-30 years	35	13	0
30+ years	33	21	4
N/A: Former	4	0	0
N/A: Never	19	10	0
How long have you lived in Egremont as a summer resident?			
0-5 years	18	9	0
6-10 years	12	3	0
11-20 years	12	8	2
21-30 years	14	7	0
30+ years	13	8	0
N/A: Former	11	5	0
N/A: Never	96	46	4
How long have you been a business owner in Egremont?			
0-5 years	16	8	1
6-10 years	8	4	1
11-20 years	7	1	0
21-30 years	6	1	0
30+ years	7	8	0
N/A: Former	3	1	1
N/A: Never	126	67	2

Appendix: Final Public Comments

Response	1	2	3
How long have you been an employee of a business or organization in Egremont?			
0-5 years	11	5	0
6-10 years	2	2	0
11-20 years	3	2	1
21-30 years	2	0	0
30+ years	2	3	0
N/A: Former	6	1	0
N/A: Never	138	76	4
How long have you been a Town employee?			
0-5 years	8	4	1
6-10 years	2	1	0
11-20 years	1	1	0
21-30 years	0	0	0
30+ years	1	1	0
N/A: Former	0	1	0
N/A: Never	149	77	4
How long have you been a Town official -either elected or appointed?			
0-5 years	33	13	2
6-10 years	5	5	1
11-20 years	8	6	1
21-30 years	5	4	0
30+ years	2	0	0
N/A: Former	4	3	0
N/A: Never	114	58	2

***If you used to belong to one of these categories, please use the “N/A:Former”column. If you have never belonged to one of these categories, please use the “N/A: Never” column.**

How old are you?

Response	1	2	3
Under 18	0	0	0
18-24	1	0	0
25-34	1	1	0
35-44	12	4	1
45-54	29	8	0
55-64	47	14	0
65-74	84	41	4
75+	40	25	0
Prefer not to answer	8	5	0
Total	222	98	5

What is your ethnicity? (Please select all that apply.)

Response	1	2	3
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	1	0
Asian or Pacific Islander	1	3	0
Black or African American	1	0	0
Hispanic or Latino	4	2	0
White / Caucasian	176	80	3
Prefer not to answer	26	14	2
Other (please specify)	7	1	0
Total	215	97	5

Gender: How do you identify?

Response	1	2	3
Man	70	32	1
Non-binary	1	2	0
Woman	132	56	3
Prefer not to answer	12	6	1
Prefer to self-describe, below	0	0	0
Total	215	96	5

List of Questionnaires

- 1** First community questionnaire, February 2023
- 2** Second community questionnaire, April 2023
- 3** Final community questionnaire, August 2023

LETTER FROM THE EGREMONT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Egremont Historical Commission submitted a letter dated August 23, 2023 to the Planning Board requesting edits. The full letter is provided on the following pages.



TOWN OF EGREMONT
171 Egremont Plain Road
P.O. Box 368
Egremont, MA 01258-0368
Phone: 413-528-0182 ext. 10 Fax: 413-528-5465
Email: Tegremont@egremont-ma.gov

23 August 2023

Jared Kelly, Chairman
Egremont Planning Board
P.O. Box 368
South Egremont, Massachusetts 01258
planningbrd@egremont-ma.gov

Mr. Kelly,

Having perhaps missed an opportunity to comment on the proposed plan during its development, the Egremont Historical Commission would like to urge some corrections to the draft during the public comment phase, in order to more accurately reflect initiatives toward historic preservation in the town of Egremont.

While reference to the historic preservation guidelines of the Secretary of the U. S. Department of the Interior is welcome, and helpful to both town boards and homeowners alike, having an active link to the website on the page would be considerably more helpful than a reference to “Chapter 5.” (It was unclear from the wording whether it was referencing a chapter of the Department of the Interior’s publication, or the Egremont master plan document.)

Discussion of preservation techniques, if only at the federal level, are worthwhile; however, there are more targeted local resources and recommendations which should not be overlooked. Mention should absolutely be made of the **Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Plan, 2017—2023**, which specifically outlines the statewide goals set for this period.¹ Egremont’s progress toward the goals set forth in the plan should be mentioned, and the town’s master plan should reflect expected future progress.

In line with the recommendations outlined in the above-mentioned state plan, the Egremont Historical Commission is working toward proposal of a common sense, demolition delay bylaw, which the state plan refers to as “basic level” protection for communities (See discussion, 3-14). As of the writing of the document in 2017, the Massachusetts Secretary of State reports:

Demolition delay remains an essential tool at the local level to cope with the loss of historic resources. While over 20 cities and towns passed a demolition delay bylaw or ordinance since the last state plan, there remain 203 cities and towns without this basic level of regulatory protection. *In these communities, a significant building can disappear within a matter of hours.* [Emphasis added.]

¹ The Commonwealth is, as of this date, soliciting comments for the upcoming plan, encompassing the next eight years (2023—2031), which might also be mentioned.

Appendix: Final Public Comments

As of 2022, over 150 towns and municipalities in Massachusetts have passed demolition delay bylaws to protect historically significant structures.

Mention of this goal, as well as discussion of how Egremont's adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) might allow the town to receive funding for historic preservation projects, should be a part of the town's plan.

In sum, the Egremont Historical Commission respectfully requests that the following changes be made:

- Include reference to the *Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Plan, 2017—2023*, as well as an active link to the document.
- Mention expected progress toward meeting the goals of the state plan, including the demolition delay bylaw initiative.
- Mention the role of adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) as it relates to funding historic preservation projects in participating communities.
- Correct/clarify reference to the U. S. Department of the Interior's guidelines, including an active link on the page.

Sincerely,

The Egremont Historical Commission

Rebecca Turner, Chair
Barbara Kalish
Francis Nestor
Elisabeth Wood

Following are the links to the documents referenced above.

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/statepresplan20182022webversion.pdf>

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/secretary-standards-treatment-historic-properties.htm#:~:text=The%20Standards%20for%20the%20Treatment,rehabilitation%2C%20restoration%2C%20and%20reconstruction>

Appendix: Final Public Comments



Tighe&Bond