

## From One Citizen to Another

### **Why I got involved in updating Canton's master plan (and why you should too)**

*By Tonja Mettlach*

When I first applied to be a citizen representative on the Canton Master Plan Steering Committee, I'll be honest, I didn't really know what the work would involve or really what a master plan could do. But I was relatively new to the town, had a son who had just entered kindergarten at the Luce, and I felt a strong desire to be more engaged locally.

At my first or second meeting, a fellow committee member put everything into perspective when he said, "Think about the places you love, the cities or downtowns that stand out to you. Those great places, they didn't just appear. It did not all happen by accident. There was a plan."

And then it clicked. For those of us who love Canton, feel invested in its success for ourselves and our children, and who want to play a role in what the future of Canton could be, there really is no better way than getting involved

in the master plan.

By updating our master plan, we have an opportunity to think strategically, creatively, and boldly about what Canton is and what it could be. We all have a vision for Canton. There are things we love and would never want to change. And there are improvements we would all support (traffic — believe me I know). What it boils down to, what I think about the most, are my two kids. What type of town do I want them to grow up in?

Great places, great cities and towns, don't happen by accident. Dedicated people came together and created a vision and roadmap for how to get there. Right now, we have an opportunity to do the same for our town. But we need your ideas, your voice, your commitment to Canton to have a master plan that really reflects a diversity of opinions and a shared vision for our future.

I hope you will join us on this journey as we think about what is possible and what the future of Canton could be.

*For more information about Canton Master Plan 2035, visit [www.cantonmasterplan.com](http://www.cantonmasterplan.com).*