

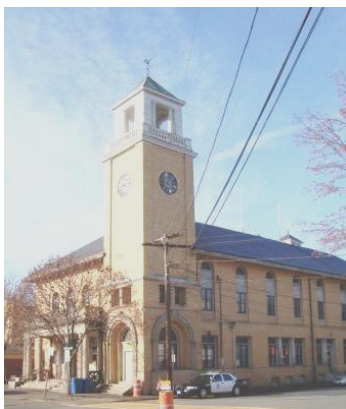
OVERVIEW OF THE TOWN HALL REUSE STUDY

Warren received technical assistance funds from the Mass. Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to conduct a preliminary reuse study of the old Town Hall in Warren Center. The DHCD program, known as the Mass. Downtown Initiative Technical Assistance Program, assists communities seeking to revitalize downtowns and town centers. The application provides an overview of the history of the building, its architecture, and current condition. The Town Hall is on the National Register of Historic Places. [[Click here](#) to view a copy of the Town's application.]

DHCD assigned the project to FinePoint Associates, LLC. Peg Barringer was the principal planner on the project. The scope called for a broad public participation process to provide Warren residents with a voice in determining the outcome of the study. Warren's Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) coordinated the study for the Town. FinePoint completed the study in June 2010.

[Click here](#) to view a copy of the "Town Hall Reuse Study" final report.

The study contains a detailed market analysis of Warren Center and identifies opportunities for new business growth based on unmet market demand. Ms. Barringer interviewed over a dozen local officials and business leaders to obtain a sense of the building's potential for development as well as constraints that hinder reuse. The report contains the results of a citizen survey that asked residents for their opinions about the Town Hall. Ms. Barringer examined the pros and cons of eight potential reuse options for the building. Finally, with valuable input from the CAC, the report contains detailed recommendations for achieving a productive use of this signature building in Warren's history.



While the Police Department continues to occupy the first floor, the Department is in dire need of new space that will meet the needs of a modern police force. The second floor of the building contains a beautiful auditorium that once held Town Meetings and a variety of plays and other cultural events. The Town continues to maintain the Town Hall to prevent further deterioration, but the building is underutilized. Given its historic significance and impressive architecture, it holds a great deal of promise to be a vital community asset and contribute to the revitalization of Warren Center.

Some of the key results of the survey include:

- ❖ 72% of respondents felt it was very important to preserve the Town Hall.
- ❖ 68% felt it was very important for the Town to continue to own the building.
- ❖ 62% felt it was very important to retain the auditorium for community functions.
- ❖ The uses that received the strongest support by respondents include Town offices, Library, Police Dept., professional office space, and community center.

Completion of this report is an important first step for determining a feasible strategy for bringing the Town Hall into the mainstream of community life. The Selectmen will consider the report's recommendations and oversee a process to restore this vital community asset.

For more information, you may contact the following individuals:

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