

FY2020-FY2021 Select Board Goals

Adopted: August 20, 2019

1. Maximize the use of Town assets and ensure that Town and School services are housed in buildings that provide suitable and effective environments.

Continuing Strategies

- Conduct an environmental assessment to facilitate discussion about the future use of Ridge Hill/Nike; determine the future use or disposition of Ridge Hill buildings.
- Evaluate options for funding a DPW facility on Dedham Avenue.

Monitoring & Oversight

- Monitor Progress of Public Safety Building, Fire Station #2, and Jack Cogswell Building.

2. Ensure appropriate Regulation and Assessment of, and Investment in Infrastructure.

Continuing Strategies

- Establish a working group to gain a better understanding of the impact of commercial and residential growth on the Town's infrastructure, including but not limited to traffic, transportation, water, sewer, drains, roads and bridges, and school facilities, and to identify options for managing that impact. (N2025)
- Develop a plan for NPDES compliance including Stormwater Regulations and a Stormwater Stabilization Fund.
- Evaluate options for participation in the MassDOT Complete Streets Program & implement pedestrian safety initiatives.

New Initiatives

- Investigate the potential impact of Small Cell and 5G Technology on the Town and formalize a policy for considering Grant of Location Requests.
- Evaluate the feasibility of creating a shared use path from Needham Heights to Wexford Street.
- Develop options for refreshing landscaping at public facilities.
- In conjunction with the Transportation Committee, review bus routes in Needham Crossing.
- In conjunction with the MBTA, explore options for increasing commuter parking.

Monitoring & Oversight

- In conjunction with the City of Newton and MassDOT, monitor progress toward the renovation of Highland Avenue from Webster Street to the Charles River.

3. Maintain and improve the vitality and economic success of the Town.

Continuing Strategies

- In conjunction with the Planning Board, evaluate options for the redevelopment of Chestnut Street and Industrial Zones along Route 128.

New Initiatives

- Work with the CEA to develop priorities for economic development.

4. Expand energy efficient and environmentally sound operations for the Town and its residents and businesses.

New Initiatives

- Develop a report of the Town's climate resiliency efforts and discuss next steps.
- Evaluate options for becoming a Green Community.

Monitoring & Oversight

5. Maintain and develop amenities that contribute to the desirability of Needham as a place to live and work.

Continuing Strategies

- Establish fishing areas at ponds and on the Charles River.
- Evaluate options to reduce train horn noise.
- In conjunction with the Planning Board, evaluate the possibility of recommending accessory dwelling unit zoning.
- Revitalize the Property Tax Assistance Program.
- Work with the Park & Recreation Commission to create recreational opportunities in the downtown.
- In conjunction with the Planning Board, develop an overall strategy for review of housing projects that are proposed.
- Evaluate ways to improve parking at the Needham Center Post Office, on Hillside Avenue, and at other locations.

New Initiatives

- Consider a plan for increased public support of community celebrations and festivals.
- Explore opportunities for increasing the amount and diversity of public art.
- In conjunction with the Park & Recreation Commission, evaluate options for creating a park ranger program.
- In conjunction with the Park & Recreation Commission, explore options for improving access to the Rosemary Camp property.

- Explore the possibility of sponsoring a summer beer garden event.

Monitoring & Oversight

- Discuss multi-modal transportation on the greenway between Newton and Needham.

6. Maintain and enhance the Town's Financial Sustainability.

Continuing Strategies

- Evaluate local option means-tested senior property tax relief programs.
- Evaluate stabilization fund targets.

New Initiatives

- Discuss the impact of annual tax levy increases.

7. Evaluate Town Operations and Administration.

Continuing Strategies

- Develop and implement a policy guiding the use of banners on poles in the business districts.
- Investigate options for moving permit application and inspection processes to electronic and/or web-based platforms.
- Consider criteria for reviewing proposed zoning changes.

New Initiatives

- Review and make recommendations for changes to polling locations.
- The Board will meet regularly with community stakeholders.
- The Board will establish a schedule of meeting with appointed and elected boards on a regular basis.
- Review liquor license regulations with respect to compliance issues.
- Review the composition, structure and charge of committees.

Monitoring & Oversight

- Develop a funding strategy to meet the staffing needs of the Police and Fire Departments in the context of the current and planned growth in Needham Crossing.

In developing its statement of goals for the coming fiscal years, the Board identified both initiatives that may be addressed in future years, and general guiding principles that guide the goal setting process. This list will continue to be updated and refined:

Future Initiatives

- Work with the Planning Board to consider a street naming policy.
- Consider a plan for snow removal in the business districts.

- Evaluate the concept of constructing a hockey rink in a public/private partnership.
- Evaluate options for locating alternative transportation options (e.g. ZipCar and bike share services) in Needham.
- Evaluate options for locating information kiosks in Needham Center.
- Consider the merits of a tree preservation by-law.

Guiding Principles

- Targeted options for property acquisition will be explored.
- The Town will work to develop a consensus with Newton regarding transportation options along the Highland Avenue/Needham Street corridor.
- Appropriate coordination of all the major road projects affecting the Town is a priority.
- Town policies and regulations will be reviewed and updated on a periodic basis.
- The Town will prioritize the reconstruction and repair of existing sidewalks before embarking on new sidewalk construction.
- Opportunities to install community art will be explored.
- The Town should be an age friendly community.
- The number of pedestrian accidents is concerning and should be addressed.
- The Town will conduct a Capital Facility Summit on a biennial basis.
- Emergency preparation and planning is a high priority.
- Opportunities for departmental consolidation and efficiency improvement will be identified and implemented.
- Opportunities to enhance communication with the public will always be considered.
- Opportunities to collaborate on additional programs and services that will benefit Needham's veterans will be explored and implemented.
- Opportunities for streamlining the permitting process will be explored and implemented.
- Opportunities to expand the distribution of notices of public hearing will be explored and implemented.
- Opportunities to address trash concerns Town-wide will be explored and implemented.
- The Town will work to keep the pools at Rosemary Recreation Complex open from Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- The Board will continue to review the policy implication of the allocation of liquor licenses.