

Select Board Goal Statement
Adopted August 17, 2021
Revised January 11, 2022

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Select Board Goals is to effect positive change, set policy direction for Town government, and guide the development of the budget.

GOAL #1: Livable Needham plans for and invests in safe, well-maintained and attractive buildings and infrastructure that accommodate a diverse set of community needs. Needham:

- Promotes and sustains a secure, clean and attractive place to live, work and play.
- Provides a variety of housing types with a full range of affordability.
- Provides high-performing, reliable and affordable public infrastructure and Town services.
- Encourages and appropriately regulates sustainable development.
- Supports and enhances neighborhood livability and walkability for all members of the community.
- Coordinates with state and federal leaders to ensure access to safe, reliable and efficient public transit.
- Coordinates major infrastructure projects and communicates with impacted members of the Needham community.
- Prioritizes the reconstruction and repair of existing sidewalks before embarking on new sidewalk construction. The construction of new sidewalks will be offset by the removal of old, under-used sidewalks.
- Explores targeted opportunities for parcel acquisition.

FY2022-2023 Initiatives	Description
1.1	Seek Funding for Ridge Hill Building Demolition.
1.2	Begin the Ridge Hill/Nike Assessment Phase 2 Project, including working with the Community Farm to make a decision on the long-term plan for the farm at the site as well as considering potential future uses of the site.
1.3	Seek Funding for DPW Facility Refresh.
1.4	Participate on the Planning Board's Affordable Housing Study Committee.
1.5	Evaluate RTS Service Delivery Model to Guide Long-term Investment and Review Operational Efficiencies in the Short-term.
1.6	Explore options for reducing amount of public litter including General By-law re: Household trash & Funding for trash removal efforts.
1.7	Work with stakeholders to manage the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Town of Needham.
1.8	Seek Funding for School Administration Building.

1.9	Identify funding for School Master Plan projects & Participate in the Planning Process.
1.10	Review Cheney St. Zoning Referred by TM.
1.11	Evaluate use of ARPA Funding for Identified Infrastructure Projects.

GOAL #2: Economically Vital – Needham has the economic opportunities and resources for residents and businesses to thrive in our community. Needham:

- Supports an environment for creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Promotes a well-educated, skilled and diverse work force that meets employers’ needs.
- Fosters a collaborative and resource-rich regional business climate.
- Attracts, sustains and retains a diverse mix of businesses, entrepreneurs and jobs that support the needs of all community members.
- Supports financial security, economic opportunity and social mobility for all.

FY2022-2023 Initiatives	Description
2.1	Evaluate Chestnut Street Redevelopment.
2.2	Identify Relief Programs for Small Businesses through ARPA Funding.
2.3	Evaluate Expansion of Snow Removal Efforts, including sidewalk plowing strategies.
2.4	Support Zoning Proposals for Outside Seating.
2.5	Develop & Implement Regulations Guiding Outdoor Seating.

GOAL #3: Accessible & Connected – Needham has a multi-modal transportation system that gets people where they want to go, when they want to get there, safely and cost-effectively. Needham:

- Offers and encourages a variety of safe, comfortable, affordable, reliable, convenient and clean mobility options.
- Supports a balanced transportation system that reflects effective land use, manages congestion and facilitates strong regional multimodal connections.
- Provides effective infrastructure and services that will encourage diverse populations to connect to nature and the larger community.
- Promotes transportation options to ensure we remain an age-friendly community.

FY2022-2023 Initiatives	Description
3.1	Seek Funding for a Parking Study that will evaluate parking needs, options, and types in the business districts and identify technology to manage parking.
3.2	Evaluate the role and composition of the TMAC, Transportation Committee, Rail Trail Advisory Committee and Complete Streets Committee.

3.3	Seek Funding for Noise Reduction/Quiet Zone Feasibility & Design.
3.4	Evaluate Future Use of the Rail Corridor between Dover and Newton.
3.5	Implement the Downtown Redesign Phase 2.

GOAL #4: Healthy and Socially Thriving – Needham residents enjoy high levels of physical and mental well-being and abundant recreational, cultural and educational opportunities in an environment where human rights are respected, diversity is celebrated, and neighbors feel connected. Needham:

- Cultivates a wide range of recreational, cultural, educational, civic and social opportunities for all socioeconomic and age groups.
- Supports the physical and mental well-being of its community members.
- Fosters inclusion, diversity and equity.
- Promotes the installation of art and opportunities for community-led art projects.

FY20-2023 Initiatives	Description
4.1	Explore use of ARPA for public Art projects.
4.2	Seek additional funding and expand services for mental and behavioral health needs.
4.3	Identify and implement strategies to hire, support and retain diverse staff at every level of the organization; measure efforts and provide quarterly updates on progress.
4.4	Continue to provide diversity, equity and inclusion professional development opportunities for all staff geared towards deepening understanding and becoming culturally responsive, anti-racist, and anti-biased members of the Needham community.
4.5	Create a framework for how community members can effectively engage in conversations around race, diversity, equity, and inclusion, to build relationships and a stronger understanding of different perspectives and lived experiences.
4.6	Make intentional efforts and identify creative ideas for community outreach to diversify the candidate pool for all appointed Boards and Committees; measure progress.
4.7	Continue NUARI meetings for FY2022, reviewing and providing guidance on recommendations, and provide support to other Boards & Committees on how to apply NUARI principles to their work.
4.8	Encourage Needham non-profit organizations, civic groups, and businesses to adopt or endorse, as appropriate, the NUARI vision statement.
4.9	Include a question in the bi-annual Town survey to gauge residents’ perceptions of how welcoming and inclusive the Needham community is.
4.10	Provide support to other Boards & Committees on how to apply NUARI principles to their work.

4.11	Work with the Human Rights Committee to develop a discrimination complaint process and provide forums where individuals feel comfortable discussing their concerns related to diversity, equity, and/or inclusion. Consult with the HRC on their role and next steps.
4.12	Gather information about appropriate acknowledgement of the history of slavery in Needham; ask HRC if this is something that they can take the lead on.
4.12	Develop a plan for use of ARPA funding to continue public health response to COVID-19.

GOAL #5: Safe – Needham is a welcoming and inclusive community that fosters personal and community safety and ensures that all residents are secure and cared for during emergencies and natural disasters. Needham:

- Enforces the law while considering the needs of individuals and community values.
- Plans for and provides equitable, timely and effective services and responses to emergencies and natural disasters.
- Fosters a climate of safety for individuals in homes, businesses, neighborhoods, streets, sidewalks, bike lanes, schools and public places.
- Encourages shared responsibility, provides education on personal and community safety and fosters an environment that is welcoming and inclusive.
- Utilizes Complete Street principles to evaluate and prioritize pedestrian safety on our roadways.
- Prioritizes emergency planning and trainings for Town staff and the community to increase our collective preparedness and resilience.

FY2022-2023 Initiatives	Description
5.1	Actively monitor progress on the law enforcement recommendations that NPD Chief Schlittler presented to the Select Board on June 8, 2021.
5.2	Work with public safety unions to reach agreement on alternatives to the Civil Service system.

GOAL #6: Responsibly Governed – Needham provides excellent customer experience, responsibly manages the Town’s assets and makes data-driven decisions that are also informed by community engagement. Needham:

- Models stewardship and sustainability of the Town’s financial, human, information and physical assets.
- Supports strategic decision-making with opportunities for engagement and timely, reliable and accurate data and analysis.
- Enhances and facilitates transparency, accuracy, efficiency, effectiveness and quality customer service in all municipal business.

- Supports, develops and enhances relationships between the Town and community/ regional partners.
 - Provides assurance of regulatory and policy compliance.
 - Reviews and updates Town policies and regulations.
 - Identifies opportunities for departmental consolidation and efficiency improvement.
 - Identifies opportunities for streamlining permitting processes.
- Provides open access to information, encourages innovation, enhances communication and promotes community engagement

FY2022-2023 Initiatives	Description
6.1	Meet regularly with other boards and committees.
6.1.a	Meet with the Park & Recreation Commission to discuss, among other items, access to bathrooms at fields and playgrounds, consideration of creating a skate park, and upgrading tennis courts and playgrounds.
6.1.b	Meet with the Planning Board to discuss, among other items, zoning to allow brewery/pub uses and tree preservation strategies.
6.1.c	Meet with the League of Women Voters to discuss their recent study recommendation and the concept of term limits.
6.2	Expand the number of boards and committees that can host hybrid meetings by investing in technology and facility improvements (potentially ARPA funded).
6.3	Seek additional package store licenses by filing a Home Rule petition to match the State quota system.
6.4	Create a Public Comment Component at Select Board Meetings as part of the formal agenda.
6.5	Develop a Select Board orientation package.
6.6	Develop a Select Board/Committee code of conduct – policy manual.
6.7	Expand community engagement efforts including growing the newsletter distribution and implementing micro-polling and restoring the citizen satisfaction survey.
6.8	Update the Town website.
6.9	Renew all three cable franchise licenses.
6.10	Discuss Goal Setting Process for future years, building in time to seek input from other boards and the community.

GOAL #7: Environmentally Sustainable – Needham is a sustainable, thriving and equitable community that benefits from and supports clean energy; preserves and responsibly uses the earth’s resources; and cares for ecosystems. Needham:

- Maintains a sense of urgency around climate change.

- Promotes sustainability, including transitioning from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy.
- Ensures the efficient use of natural resources.
- Protects and enhances the biodiversity and productivity of ecological systems.

FY2022-2023 Initiatives	Description
7.1	Develop a Climate Action Plan.
7.2	Identify parcel acquisition to comply with Land & Water Conservation Fund requirements.
7.3	Consider Tree preservation strategies.
7.4	Update Appointment Protocol (BOS-ADMIN-003)