

**Select Board Goal Statement  
Adopted September 27, 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.
- Works with stakeholders to manage the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Town of Needham.
- Supports the PPBC’s recommended funding levels.

<b>FY2023-2024 Initiatives</b>	<b>Description</b>
1.1	Begin the Ridge Hill/Nike Assessment Phase 2 Project, including working with the Community Farm to decide on the long-term plan for the farm at the site as well as considering potential future uses of the site. (FY2024)
1.2	Work with the Planning Board on next steps related to the MBTA Community Housing Guidelines and the update to the Town’s Affordable Housing Plan. Review updated demographics and impact on anticipated transit-oriented development and schools.
1.3	Evaluate RTS Service Delivery Model to Guide Long-term Investment and Review Operational Efficiencies in the Short-term.
1.4	Maintain/repair the barn at Ridge Hill.

1.5	Identify funding for School Master Plan projects and participate in the planning process.
1.6	Work with stakeholders to secure funding for an arts and culture strategic plan.
1.7	Work with the Park & Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, and other stakeholders to set priorities for capital spending.;
1.7.1	Identify opportunities for expanded active and passive recreation facilities including but not limited to an action sports park and additional boat ramps.
1.7.2	Improve trailhead access to ensure clear and accessible access; consider creating a trails app. (FY2024)
1.8	Evaluate expansion of off-leash dog areas.
1.9	Evaluate next steps for use of the Stephen Palmer Building.
1.10	Upgrade Town Seal to improve graphic quality and historical accuracy. (FY2024)
1.11	Evaluate opportunities for undergrounding of electrical wires. (FY2024)
1.12	Review and implement an alternative service delivery method for weights and measures inspections.
1.13	Create a voluntary local historic district under Chapter 40C for the property of Elizabeth and Maurice Handel at 3 Rosemary Street, built by Jonathan and Jemima Kingsbury in 1779, the oldest house in 02494 and the 11th oldest in Needham.

**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.
- Evaluates ways to increase minority and women-owned business participation in construction, building maintenance projects, and other Town programs.

<b>FY2023-2024 Initiatives</b>	<b>Description</b>
2.1	Evaluate Chestnut Street Redevelopment. (FY2024)
2.2	Evaluate Expansion of Snow Removal Efforts, including sidewalk plowing strategies. (FY2024)

**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.

FY2023-2024 Initiatives	Description
3.1	Evaluate parking needs, options, types, and zoning in the Needham Center and Needham Heights business districts, 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, and construction.
3.4	Evaluate future use of the rail corridor between Dover and Newton.
3.4.1	Evaluate funding options for the Rail Trail extension from High Rock Street to Needham Junction.
3.4.2	Evaluate the feasibility of a shared use way between Needham Heights and the City of Newton.
3.5	Evaluate and make a final determination of the appropriate plan for Downtown Redesign Phase 2.
3.6	Prioritize funding for the Central Avenue/Centre Street Bridge.
3.7	Evaluate the feasibility of last mile in-Town transportation options (if earmark is not funded, explore funding sources).

**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.
- Provides 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.

- Identifies and implements strategies to hire, support and retain diverse staff at every level of the organization; measures efforts and provides quarterly updates on progress.

FY2023-2024 Initiatives	Description
4.1	Work with the Needham Golf Club to extend the lease of Town land to allow Club to finance improvements.
4.2	Explore the option of petitioning to rename Hemlock Gorge to “Nehoiden’s Grant.” (FY2024)
4.3	Identify ways to institutionalize community conversations around race, diversity, equity, and inclusion, to build relationships and a stronger understanding of different perspectives and lived experiences.
4.4	Make intentional efforts and identify creative ideas for community outreach to diversify the candidate pool for all appointed Boards and Committees; measure progress.
4.5	Explore benefits of creating a dedicated position for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion efforts.
4.6	Provide support to other Boards & Committees on how to apply NUARI principles to their work, including training opportunities and sample goals.
4.7	Conduct focus groups with BIPOC community members to identify strategies for ensuring that all members of the community feel welcome as outlined in the NUARI vision statement and guiding principles.
4.8	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.
4.9	Develop a plan for a community observance of Juneteenth.
4.10	Consider options for recognizing Indigenous People’s Day and Columbus Day/Italian Heritage Day.
4.11	Implement Valor Act and consider aligning the administrative process for both the Valor Act and the Senior Corps programs.

**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.

FY2023-2024 Initiatives	Description
5.1	Actively monitor progress on the law enforcement recommendations that the Police Chief 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; work with all stakeholders to implement alternative recruitment and promotion systems for public safety employees.
5.3	Work with the Chief of Police on updating the annual reporting and evaluating the possibility of creating a quarterly status report.

**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.
- Meets regularly with other boards and committees.  
Seeks input from other boards and the community during the annual goal setting process.

FY2023-2024 Initiatives	Description
6.1	Review the funding goal and use of all stabilization funds in conjunction with the Finance Committee and stakeholder boards and committees.
6.2	Support employee recruitment and retention initiatives.

6.3	Evaluate the possibility of developing a Community Master Plan. (FY2024)
6.4	Develop a Select Board/Committee code of conduct.
6.5	Expand Select Board community engagement efforts and ensure continuation of the Town’s communications staffing.
6.6	Collaborate with stakeholders on the development of short videos on how Town government works.
6.7	Update the Select Board’s Appointment Protocol (BOS-ADMIN-003).
6.8	Review Elected/Appointed status.
6.9	Conduct a general governance review including the role of the Personnel Board.
6.10	Work with the Finance Committee to create a working group exploring the operating budget process and other finance-related issues.
6.11	Review and recodify the non-criminal disposition by-law.
6.12	Review and update alcohol regulations.
6.13	Complete formal appointment of Town Counsel.
6.14	Update policy governing use of public outdoor spaces under the jurisdiction of the Select Board (e.g., Town Common, Avery Square, Amity Path, etc.)

**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.

<b>FY2023-2024 Initiatives</b>	<b>Description</b>
7.1	Develop a Climate Action Plan.
7.2	Identify parcel acquisition to comply with Land & Water Conservation Fund requirements.
7.3	Sponsor a tree summit.
7.4	Work with the Planning Board to explore zoning options to allow solar canopies on public and private property.
7.5	Evaluate regulations governing asbestos and lead protection/mitigation on knockdowns.
7.6	Review/establish electric vehicle charging rates.
7.7	Recommend community energy aggregation.
7.8	Evaluate adoption of net zero building code. (FY2024)

7.9	Begin development of sustainability guidelines for the construction and renovation of existing and future municipal buildings, and large commercial buildings.
7.10	Support and encourage improved access to equitable solar energy opportunities, including assessment, planning, and funding.