

FY2018-FY2019 Board of Selectmen Goals
Adopted: August 15, 2017

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

- Work with the School Committee and Finance Committee to develop a plan for the implementation of full-day kindergarten. (*Critical Priority*)
- 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.
- Secure design funding for Fire and Police Stations at October 2017 STM and April 2018 ballot. (*Critical Priority*)
- Evaluate options for funding a DPW facility on Dedham Avenue and the storage facility at the RTS. (*Critical Priority*)
- In conjunction with the Memorial Park Trustees, advance the design and secure funding for the construction of a new fieldhouse at Memorial Park.

New Initiatives

- In conjunction with the School Committee, secure funding for classroom expansion at Needham High School.
- Work with the School Committee to develop a plan for the use of the Hillside School for Town-wide swing space. (*Critical Priority*)

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

Continuing Strategies

- Complete Phase 1 of the Downtown Improvement Project, and evaluate options for eliminating or improving the traffic signal at the MBTA crossing. (*Critical Priority*)
- In conjunction with the City of Newton and MassDOT, monitor progress toward the renovation of Highland Avenue from Webster Street to the Charles River. (*Critical Priority*)
- Monitor implications of the add-a-lane project and assure that Needham's interests are addressed in the final design.
- Implement parking restrictions near driveways.

New Initiatives

- Conduct an organizational study of the Building Maintenance operations. (*Critical Priority*)
- Evaluate and implement strategies for eliminating the need for mandatory non-essential outdoor water use restrictions. (*Critical Priority*)

- Evaluate housing impact on Town population to forecast town growth in 10/20 years, and the resulting impact on town infrastructure.

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

Continuing Strategies

- Adopt and implement Mobile Food Vendor Policy. (*Critical Priority*)
- Review options for streamlining the permitting process.
- Work with Newton to implement the economic development plan for the N² corridor; evaluate the relationship between Needham Crossing and the N² Innovation District and recommend a branding strategy for Needham Crossing.

New Initiatives

- In conjunction with the Planning Board, evaluate options for the redevelopment of Chestnut Street.

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

Continuing Strategies

- Explore the option of limiting the use of plastic bags at certain retail establishments.

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

Continuing Strategies

- Consider the merits of a tree preservation by-law.
- Coordinate with DCR to encourage access to Cutler Park.
- Establish fishing areas at ponds and on the Charles River.
- Expand the hours of operation of the Senior Center.
- Evaluate steps to reduce train horn noise and address train idling concerns.
- Develop a pilot program to address trash concerns Town-wide. (*Critical Priority*)
- Evaluate options for regulating private trash pick-up on public ways.
- Participate in the development and implementation of the Open Space plan.

New Initiatives

- Implement the Affordable Housing Trust.
- Evaluate the possibility of recommending accessory dwelling unit zoning.
- Present a proposal to the Town for a recreational marijuana ban in Needham.
- Revitalize the Property Tax Assistance Program.

- Work with the Park & Recreation Commission to create recreational opportunities in the downtown.

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

Continuing Strategies

- Evaluate and implement alternatives to the Town's Group Health Insurance program. (*Critical Priority*)

New Initiatives

- Explore the possibility of absorbing the RTS Enterprise Fund into the General Fund. (*Critical Priority*)

7. Evaluate Town Operations and Administration.

Continuing Strategies

- Develop and implement a policy guiding the use of banners on poles in the business districts.

New Initiatives

- Consider alternatives to the term "Board of Selectmen."
- Develop criteria for small cell antenna siting. (*Critical Priority*)
- 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. (*Critical Priority*)
- Evaluate the concept of starting Town Meeting earlier, and evaluate at-large Town Meeting Membership.
- Review the Town Manager evaluation process.
- Explore the need for additional staffing in the area of communications and compliance.
- Update the fee structure for facility rentals, and work with the Schools to consider limiting access over the summer to accommodate capital improvements and preventive maintenance. (*Critical Priority*)
- Investigate options for moving permit application and inspection processes to electronic and/or web-based platforms.

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 governing principles that guide the goal setting process. This list will continue to be updated and refined:

Future Initiatives

- Develop a plan for NPDES Compliance.
- Evaluate the benefits of participating in MassDOT Complete Streets Program.
- 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 ZipCar in Needham
- Explore the creation of a stormwater enterprise fund.

Governing 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.