

FY2019-FY2020 Select Board Goals
Adopted: August 7, 2018, Revised October 23, 2018

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.
- 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 funding for Public Safety Project at October 2018 STM and November 6, 2018 ballot.
- Evaluate options for funding a DPW facility on Dedham Avenue and complete construction of a storage facility on Central Avenue.
- In conjunction with the Memorial Park Trustees, complete the construction of a new fieldhouse at Memorial Park.

New Initiatives

- Consider evaluation of options for accelerating ownership of Stephen Palmer land.

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

Continuing Strategies

- In conjunction with the City of Newton and MassDOT, monitor progress toward the renovation of Highland Avenue from Webster Street to the Charles River.
- Monitor implications of the Add-a-Lane project and assure that Needham's interests are addressed.
- Conduct an organizational study of Building Maintenance operations.
- 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.
- Develop a plan for NPDES compliance including a Stormwater By-Law and Regulations.
- Evaluate options for participation in the MassDOT Complete Streets Program & implement pedestrian safety initiatives.

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

Continuing Strategies

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

New Initiatives

- Evaluate options for locating information kiosks in Needham Center.

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

Continuing Strategies

- Continue to pursue options for limiting the use of plastic bags at certain retail establishments.

New Initiatives

- Consider policy implications for including solar infrastructure in new construction.
- Consider establishing an energy committee

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.
- Evaluate options to reduce train horn noise.
- Develop a pilot program to address trash concerns Town-wide.
- Evaluate options for regulating private trash pick-up on public ways.
- Participate in the development and implementation of the Open Space plan.
- 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.

New Initiatives

- Discuss multi-modal transportation on the greenway between Newton and Needham.
- 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.
- **In conjunction with the Park & Recreation Commission, support the expansion of hours of operation of the Pools at the Rosemary Recreation Complex from Memorial Day to Labor Day, if practicable.**

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

New Initiatives

- Evaluate stabilization fund targets.
- Evaluate hours of operation at the RTS.
- Evaluate senior property tax relief options.
- Develop a staffing plan for the Memorial Park Fieldhouse.

7. Evaluate Town Operations and Administration.

Continuing Strategies

- Develop and implement a policy guiding the use of banners on poles in the business districts.
- Review the Town Manager evaluation process.
- 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.
- 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.
- Investigate options for moving permit application and inspection processes to electronic and/or web-based platforms.

New Initiatives

- Evaluate structure and efficiency of consolidated HHS Department.
- In conjunction with other stakeholders, discuss ways to streamline presentations at Town Meeting.
- Review policy implications of the allocation of liquor licenses.
- Consider the merits of joining the opioid lawsuit.
- Consider criteria for reviewing proposed zoning changes.
- **Evaluate the creation of a Public Information Officer to expand the Town's communications efforts.**

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.