

Select Board Combined Goals FY25



PRIORITY 1

GOAL: Plan for the town's financial future to better anticipate the availability of funds for projects and plan for challenges.

SUB-GOALS:

- 1) prepare forecasting tools including comprehensive minimum of 5-year outlook for all financial levers, including capital, budget and debt **(1)**
- 2) Eliminate reliance on one-time funds for balancing the budget **(2)**
- 3) Communicate with the community regularly on the financial status and outlook for the town **(3)**
- 4) Look at regionalization opportunities with other communities to cut cost and increase efficiency. **(4)**
- 5) Enhance educational spending to get our community to an initial goal of 10% above net school spending. **(5)**

Goal Priority Total = 5

PRIORITY 2

GOAL: Increase the town's inventory of affordable housing options for non-elderly, family and elderly residents

SUB-GOALS:

- 1) Identify potential sites for non-elderly affordable rental housing developments **(TIE 1)**
- 2) Encourage mixed-use projects on key redevelopment parcels in support of a live, work, play environment including moving 40R project forward and adjust other zoning bylaws to encourage market rate and affordable housing **(TIE 1)**
- 3) Provide more flexibility and incentive in the Accessory Dwelling Unit **(2)**
- 4) Work with SRPEDD's Housing and Community Development team to review current conditions. **(3)**
- 5) Pursue state and federal affordable housing programs and funding at the identified two-acre site off Main Street adjacent to Oxford Terrace. **(4)**
- 6) Consider adopting an inclusionary zoning bylaw to require affordable housing in any residential development that requires a Special Permit. **(5)**

Goal Priority Total = 8

PRIORITY 3

GOAL: Adopt land use, zoning, and building code policies that support healthy, sustainable development

SUB-GOAL:

- 1) Consider enhancing the Town’s zoning regulations and permitting procedures to identify opportunities to incentivize renewable energy installations (for example, waiving permitting fees for qualifying systems), and promoting such incentives. **(1)**
- 2) Adopt a Complete Streets Policy to promote a balanced transportation system that enhances the safety, health, and well-being of Town residents and visitors. **(2)**
- 3) Address in advance potential conflicts between renewable energy systems, particularly solar photovoltaic and solar thermal systems, and the establishment of local historic districts. **(3)**
- 4) Require that affordable housing be built to sustainable standards (such as LEED, the Well Building Standard, or Enterprise Green Communities) to ensure that such housing stock is healthy and promotes occupant well-being. **(4)**

Goal Priority Total = 16

PRIORITY 4

GOAL: Promote Economic Development

SUB-GOALS:

- 1) Revise business regulations and enhance programs to continue to support the incubation and growth of small businesses. **(1)**
- 2) Encourage strategic redevelopment and maintain healthy commercial occupancies along route six and in other commercial nodes and retain service-related jobs wherever possible. **(TIE 2)**
- 3) Analyze Current Conditions **(TIE 2)**
- 4) Review Opportunities for Regional Collaboration- collaborate with New Bedford and other nearby towns on issues of workforce training/regional economic development to evaluate the profile of the Southcoast. **(TIE 3)**
- 5) Build Local Presence and Fairhaven as a “destination” **(TIE 3)**
- 6) preserve the commercial viability of the working waterfront and seek balance with neighboring land uses while simultaneously exploring opportunities to make the waterfront more accessible to the community. **(TIE 3)**
- 7) North Fairhaven Benoit Square encourage projects that promote a mix of uses **(TIE 4)**
- 8) explore future economic development opportunities in and around the harbors. **(TIE 4)**
- 9) Establish local historic districts and link historic with Economic Development **(TIE 4)**
- 10) Hire a planning firm specializing in waterfront to create a plan for the working waterfront that would preserve key industrial zones, improve vehicular circulation, emphasize pedestrian access, and create a better tourist/public experience along the waterfront, when appropriate. **(5)**
- 11) work with major commercial property owners to determine potential large-scale vacancies before they occur **(6)**
- 12) explore town related functions occupying spaces in vacant commercial buildings whenever appropriate. **(7)**

Goal Priority Total = 17

PRIORITY 5 (TIE)

GOAL: Enhance Fairhaven’s resiliency to the likely impacts of a changing climate.

SUB-GOAL:

- 1) Review Climate Resiliency planning **(TIE 1)**
- 2) Invest in infrastructure improvements that will protect the Town from the impacts of natural hazards **(TIE 1)**
- 3) Engage Environmental partners/agencies (ex SRPEDD) **(2)**
- 4) Incorporate future climate conditions into emergency response and evacuation plans **(3)**
- 5) Enhance the Town’s open space and unused sites with green infrastructure (for example, rain gardens and permeable pavers) to improve the Town’s stormwater management capabilities and minimize its vulnerabilities to flooding. **(3)**
- 6) Incorporate existing and projected future climate conditions into the Town’s zoning bylaw to promote (re)development patterns that minimize exposure to known hazards. **(4)**
- 7) Establish neighborhood networks of residents and businesses that are educated on sustainability and climate change resiliency and able to communicate effectively, especially to vulnerable citizens, during periods of emergency. **(5)**

Goal Priority Total = 25

PRIORITY 5 (TIE)

GOAL: Develop Public Facilities and Improve Services

SUB-GOAL:

- 1) Develop plans and funding to rebuild, expand, or replace key public facilities, and the staff needed to support the Town operations. **(ALL TIE)**
- 2) Improve Accessibility within the town’s facilities **(ALL TIE)**
- 3) Review opportunities for Re-alignment of departmental resources within town hall to improve access to services and support employee development and cross training. **(ALL TIE)**
- 4) Develop plans for key infrastructure elements that need improvement **(ALL TIE)**

Goal Priority Total = 25

PRIORITY 6

GOAL: Improve open space, recreation, and natural resources.

SUB-GOAL:

- 1) Meet ADA required accessibility standards for access to all town, owned conservation, recreation, and athletic facilities, per the ADA transition plan. **(1)**
- 2) Provide quality, lifelong recreational opportunities for all citizens, regardless of age or ability. **(TIE 2)**
- 3) Improve access and facilities at the Livesey Park and Town Beach on West Island. **(TIE 2)**
- 4) Find more administrative and storage space for the recreation department in order to retain adequate and efficient services. **(3)**

Goal Priority Total = 26

PRIORITY 7

GOAL: Improve Town-wide transportation systems

SUB-GOAL:

- 1) Work with MassDOT to advance particularly the intersection of Route 6 and Bridge Street. **(1)**
- 2) Work with the Police Department to develop a strategic traffic enforcement plan. **(2)**
- 3) Address safety issues related to heavy truck traffic in North Fairhaven, especially traffic associated with the quarry in Acushnet. **(3)**
- 4) streets surrounding the Downtown and waterfront for possible conversion to one- way to improve traffic movements and on-street parking. **(TIE 4)**
- 5) Become a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community by expanding existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities. **(TIE 4)**
- 6) Consider the implementation of interactive Speed Indication Signage at select locations. **(5)**
- 7) educate residents on available existing and future public transit services, post schedules in public places, including public school, Town hall and the library. **(6)**
- 8) increase the use of public transit by Town residents and employees. **(7)**

Goal Priority Total = 29

PRIORITY 8

GOAL: Inventory and preserve Historic Resources

SUB-GOAL:

- 1) Research grant funds to preserve our cultural and historical places and landscapes. **(1)**
- 2) Continue to promote public awareness of the cultural and historical assets of the town and the accompanying stewardship needs. **(2)**
- 3) Inventory Town Historic places **(3)**

Goal Priority Total = 30