

TOWN OF JAMESTOWN
ADOPTED
TOWN COUNCIL GOALS
2008-2009

I. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Goal: Landfill Closure – Close out the landfill in accordance with state-approved plans.

Actions:

1. Develop, submit, and obtain final DEM approval for closure of the landfill.
2. GZA and the Town will prepare project cost estimates based on use of in-house staff to perform work within the Town's capacity and availability.
3. Review benefits and costs of alternative funding options including Town bonding and State Revolving Fund.
4. Initiate closure action with Town forces in FY2008/09.
5. Obtain full bond funding or State loan financing to complete the closure by June 30, 2010.

Goal: Recycling - Expand residential, school, and commercial recycling to limit the volume and cost of solid waste tipped at the Central Landfill.

Actions:

1. Hold work session with Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation staff in May, 2008 to review alternative recycling programs.
2. Evaluate the feasibility and costs/benefits of model programs including No Bin, No Barrel, pay-as-you-throw, and automated collection.
3. Submit a recycling plan for a public hearing in FY2008/09, adopt a recycling program, and include a funding request in the FY2009/10 Budget.
4. Begin expanded recycling by July, 2009.

Goal: Promote Green Technology and Practices in municipal operations and at the household and commercial level.

Actions:

1. Continue to work with Wind Energy Committee to determine technical and financial feasibility and assess community impacts of wind power.
2. Examine the feasibility and cost to use biofuels for heating of Town buildings and as an alternative to gasoline in Town vehicles.
3. Develop a comprehensive Green Technology Environmental Master Plan to identify opportunities to integrate environmentally-friendly practices throughout Town government operations.
4. Conduct public education workshops to disseminate information about resource conservation and reduction of negative impacts on the environment.

Goal: Jamestown Shores environmental regulations - Revise High Groundwater Ordinance to promote environmental objectives and improve regulatory decisions.

Actions:

1. Review the effectiveness of the High Groundwater Table Ordinance regulations and develop recommendations for revisions.
2. Work with DEM to develop a presentation to the Town Council on cumulative impacts. Summarize current State and Town efforts to develop methods for improving environmental and regulatory information sharing between DEM and Town staff.

Goal: Tax sale lots - Continue to seek ownership title to tax sale lots.

There are 100 vacant lots in Jamestown shores that have gone to tax sale. To date, the Town has petitioned the Superior Court to gain full title to 52 of these properties. The Court has granted title for 42 lots; 3 have been redeemed by the owner; and the status of 7 lots is currently pending.

Actions:

1. The Town will continue to retain legal counsel to prepare title work and petitions on the remaining 50 tax sale lots.

Goal: Round Marsh Project – Implement *Phragmites* eradication through NRCS WHIP grant.

Actions:

1. Conservation Committee to develop and carry out a monitoring plan for vegetation, groundwater, fish, birds, and mosquitoes in restoration and reference site within town-owned portion of Round Marsh (Spring/Summer 2008).
2. Review engineering designs and restoration plans provided by NRCS (Summer / Fall 2008).
3. Secure necessary permits (Fall 2008).
4. Carry out restoration activities as dictated by NRCS, likely to include cutting and mulching *Phragmites* & marsh channel excavation with the use of RIDEM Mosquito Abatement equipment and Town public works staff assistance (March 2009).
5. Continue to carry out post restoration monitoring activities (2009-2012).

II. PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS/ENHANCEMENTS

Goal: Downtown Village Improvements.

The Town received funding in the amount of \$500,000 from the RI Department of Transportation through the RI Transportation Improvement Program which is funded by The Federal Highway Administration for streetscape improvements to Narragansett Avenue from East Ferry to Grinnell Street. We have finalized the 90 % design and are awaiting approval from the DOT to proceed with bidding the project. We also received \$690,000 for the second phase of the project which will run from Grinnell Street to past the Post Office. We are working closely with DOT to get Phase II caught up to Phase I so that they may be bid together. The Town will be responsible for bidding and construction of the project once authorization to proceed from DOT is received. DOT's funding has been severely cut over the last 5 years and this is extending the length of time it takes projects to proceed to construction.

Actions:

1. Determine the feasibility and cost to bury overhead wires and explore funding opportunities through Town and/or other sources.
2. Sign Contract and complete design of Phase II. Bid project.
3. Select contractor and complete construction.

Goal: Fort Getty Master Plan

The Fort Getty Master Plan was completed and approved by the Town Council in May 2005. The Ft. Getty Master Plan Committee is currently in the process of implementing the Plan, which will be completed in phases.

Actions:

1. Work with FAST sailing organization to determine feasibility of sailing school at Ft. Getty.
2. Coordinate with RI Department of Environmental Management to have funds released for 2005 Historic Park Grant Funds for improvements to Ft. Getty Parks' south shore.
3. Prioritize improvements and begin spending Town capital funds set aside for Ft. Getty Master Plan implementation.

Goal: Wind Energy – Promote the application of wind energy to supply local power needs.

Actions:

1. Work with Wind Energy Committee to complete the feasibility study.
2. Work to implement the recommendations of feasibility study including siting of wind generators.

Goal: North Road Bicycle Path

The North Road Bicycle Path was a RI State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project applied for in 2002 and listed on the TIP. Because of budget cuts over the last few years, projects have been stretched out/cut. Town officials met with DOT in June 2008 to discuss options to expedite planning and design of this project. The new DOT Director expressed support for development of a final design plan with the inclusion of DOT staff. The bike path project, which is listed in the TIP as bicycle access on and off the bridge at North Kingstown and Jamestown, is currently funded at 4 million dollars and slated for construction in 2010.

Actions:

1. Establish a Jamestown Bicycle Route Planning Committee to include a representative of the RI Department of Transportation.
2. The Committee will develop design and route recommendations for a bike path the North Kingstown side of the Jamestown bridge to the village.

Goal: School Land Use Plan

The objectives of this plan are to comprehensively study the school campus and the surrounding neighborhood and identify problems and opportunities for the best use of land that will encourage safe routes both to and from the schools for bicyclists and pedestrians as well as to best integrate the school campus and its many uses together. Campus uses include recreation facilities, ballfields, play grounds, town forest, outdoor classroom space, parking and circulation.

Actions:

1. Complete School Land Use Plan with Rolling Agenda.
2. Prioritize improvements in Land Use Plan.
3. Coordinate with Rolling Agenda in their fundraising campaign for school grounds improvements.
4. Implement priority items in Land Use Plan through regular town budget when feasible. ie: sidewalks and crosswalks.

Goal: Safe Routes to School

Actions:

1. Coordinate with DOT to have funds released to implement the \$251,000 Safe Routes to School Grant awarded in 2007.
2. Engineer project improvements.
3. Prepare bid documents.
4. Hire Contractor to complete improvements.

Goal: Pedestrian Off-Road Trail Access - Determine location of priority trail improvements.

Actions:

1. Work with Division of Forest Environment to reallocate DEM \$50,000 grant for Rt. 138 Cart Path to the center island pedestrian path.
2. Work with Conservation Commission and volunteers to construct a center island path from the Sanctuary, across the Marsh, running along the east side of the Neale Farm, west on Weeden Lane to North Road, and north on the west side of the Dutra Farm to the northwestern farm property boundary.
3. Develop parking area and access to conservation trails between the Water Treatment Plant and South Pond.

Goal: East Ferry Public Access - Expand dedicated space on the wood pile pier for fishing, passive recreational use, and a touch and go dock for transient boaters.

Actions:

1. Restrict boat leases on the pier in order to maintain 120' of free space on the north side and 40' on the south side. Allocate 40' at the end of the pier on the north and south sides for public fishing. Allocate 80' on the north side for installation of a touch and go dock.
2. Evaluate options to extend the wood pile pier to provide a seaward facing fishing pier

Goal: New East Ferry Public Pier – Increase public access to the waterfront at East Ferry one or more new piers.

Actions:

1. Explore the regulatory requirements, engineering feasibility, and costs to create additional piers. Two potential locations include the concrete finger pier and the area south of Conanicut Marina.

III. TOWN FACILITIES

Goal:– Highway Barn - Construct the new Highway Barn next to the Newport Bridge

Actions:

1. Award a contract for construction to a qualified bidder by May 19, 2008.
2. Hold a work session with the Town Council, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Review no later than June 1st.
3. Meet with RI Turnpike and Bridge Authority to review the Barn design plan at their regular monthly meeting on June 4th.
4. Submit application for development plan review to be heard at the June 4th Planning Board meeting.
5. Submit application for special exception and setback variance for Zoning Board public hearing on June 17th.
6. Begin construction in July 2008 with a projected completion date of November 2008.
7. Submit application for special exception and setback variance for Zoning Board public hearing on June 24th.
8. Begin construction in July 2008 and complete the project by February 2009.

Goal: 44 Southwest - Identify alternate uses and convert this public property to private purposes. The Town has a purchase and sales agreement with Church Community Housing Corporation to build affordable housing units at this location. They are awaiting the results of the recently completed archeological investigation.

Actions:

1. Work with affordable housing developer to assist with affordable housing development.
2. Assist with funding and acquisition.
3. If affordable housing is not financially feasible or cost-effective on this site, the Town will market the property for uses consistent with existing zoning.

Goal: Police Station Expansion and Renovations

Action:

1. Complete design for addition to the police station to replace the HVAC system, expand locker room space and offices, and perform interior upgrades.
2. Develop bid specifications and solicit bids by October 2008.
3. Complete construction by Spring 2009.

Goal: Fort Wetherill Re-use – Review options for conversion of the old Highway Barn to new public or private uses.

Actions:

1. Schedule a Town Council work session to solicit public input and review alternative types of uses for the site of the abandoned Highway Barn.
2. Establish selection criteria based on the range of acceptable uses.
3. Develop and advertise a Request for Proposals
4. Review and evaluate the community and financial benefits of alternative uses.

Goal: Golf Course Country Club space – Consider alternative private, public, or nonprofit uses for the main floor.

Actions:

1. Develop and advertise a Request for Proposals for lease of the Country Club space currently used for Recreation classes.
2. Review and evaluate the community and financial benefits of alternative uses.

Goals: Community Center Renovations – Determine building repair needs and identify potential improvements.

Actions:

1. Assess the condition of the heating and roofing systems to schedule future repair/upgrades.

2. Develop recommended improvements to consolidate and/or expand recreation programming.

Goal: Animal Shelter – Evaluate options to manage the impoundment and care of strays.

Actions:

1. Document the average number of contacts and impoundments of stray animals handled by the animal control division.
2. Identify the cost-effectiveness of housing impounded animals on the island compared to existing off-island facilities.

Goal: Maintain a Town oversight role of Beavertail Lighthouse

Action:

1. Develop memorandum of agreement with the Coast Guard and RI DEM establishing the Town's right to resume management of the Beavertail Lighthouse if DEM is unable or unwilling to provide oversight and maintenance of the facility.

IV. UTILITIES

Goal: Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Actions:

1. Complete the improvements and modernization of the Wastewater Treatment Plant infrastructure and facility by September 2008.

Goal: New Water Treatment Plant

Actions:

1. Complete construction and bring new water filtration plant on-line by April 2009.

V. PUBLIC SAFETY

Goal: Evaluate Central Public Safety Dispatch

Action:

1. Analyze dispatch workload and call demands to determine if a centralized dispatch function is feasible and cost-effective.

Goal: Review Emergency Medical Services delivery

Actions:

1. Partnering with JEMS and Newport Hospital, the Town will evaluate the adequacy of the community's volunteer-based basic life support level of pre-hospital emergency care.
2. The working group will examine alternative EMS delivery options and will issue a report of its findings to the Town Council including recommendations for any proposed service modifications.

VI. TOWN PLANNING

Goal: Affordable Housing - explore opportunities to promote the development of housing affordable to low and moderate income residents.

Actions:

1. Identify projects that will increase the supply of both ownership and rental housing units affordable to residents with household earnings between 80 and 120% of median income.

Goal: Zoning Ordinance Update - The Town is in the process of updating the Zoning Ordinance. In addition, we are implementing form based zoning.

Actions:

1. Continue to work with Don Powers Architects and Sandy Sorlien to implement the changes consistent with comments and recommendations of October 2007 Charrette.
2. Present and hold workshops with Planning Commission.

3. Present and hold hearing with Town Council.

Goal: Update Comprehensive Plan - The Town will prepare a five year update of the Comprehensive Plan by June 2009.

1. Work with Planning Commission to develop a public participation process for update.
2. Update all 7 elements as necessary.
3. Incorporate sustainability and green energy strategies into the update.

Goal: Farm Retail Sales Ordinance

Actions:

1. Work with Farm owners and public to develop a new ordinance and regulations for Farm Retail Sales ordinance.
2. Planning Board will review and make recommendations to the Town Council.
3. Town Council will hold a public hearing and adopt revisions to the Zoning Ordinance.

VII. TOWN COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATION

Goal: Charter Review Commission - A review of the Town Charter is required at least every six years. The last review was completed in 2002. The Town Council may conduct this review or appoint a commission to for this purpose. The scope of the charter review may be comprehensive or restricted to specific provisions.

Action:

1. Determine the scope of the charter review.
2. Initiate a review of the Town Charter no later than November 2008.

Goal: Paperless Town Council Packets

Action:

1. The Town Clerk will develop a report detailing options for conversion to a paperless format for Town Council agendas and supporting materials.

Goal: Geographic Information System - Expand public access to geo-based information through the Town website.

Actions:

1. The Town will develop a public access link to the GIS data base through the Town's web-site.