

Town of Tiverton
Adopted Town Council Vision, Principles, and Goals
28 August 2017

1. The Council's Vision. The Council adopts as its long range aspiration to guide this and future goal setting the following:

- a. A beautiful place to live with diverse physical areas and a thriving cultural environment.
- b. A place with a strong sense of community working together to solve problems with innovative solutions.
- c. A business friendly place with a balanced economy.
- d. A regional leader for innovation, cultural attractions, tourism and economic growth.

2. Guiding Principles. In order to help create an environment where town government works well, the Council adopts several guiding principles to be practiced at all levels of the municipality.

- a. A customer service focus by all employees and officials where tasks are tracked, followed through to completion, and regular updates are provided to residents and elected officials.
- b. The development of town policies are based on thorough benchmarking with other communities and jurisdictions to adopt solutions that are proven to work.
- c. The Council seeks to represent all residents in its deliberations and decisions.

3. Proposed Goals. The Council adopts these long range goals and near term actions in order to make progress towards its vision:

- a. ***Improve the Business Environment.*** The Council will strive to improve the business environment in Tiverton by pursuing the following near term actions:
 - i. Approve the Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) by the end of 2017.

- ii. Complete a thorough zoning code overall to be in conformance with the CCP.

b. *Improve the Effectiveness of Boards and Commissions.* The Council will continually seek to ensure that our Boards and Commissions have the tools to execute their prescribed missions by pursuing several near term actions:

- i. Provide adequate administrative support and subject matter expertise when required.
- ii. Develop and execute a thorough orientation program for all board members to include at a minimum Open Meeting law requirements and the rights, duties and limitations of the respective boards.
- iii. Explore changes to the structure of Boards to appoint alternate members to ensure quorum, permit and encourage joint Board and Commission meetings to address complicated issues.

c. *Sustain Town Finances.* The Council will take several actions to sustain and improve municipal finances. Specifically:

- i. Reduce debt as defined by outstanding bonds, unfunded pension liabilities, and known deferred infrastructure investments.
- ii. Investigate potential economies of scale within Town government for common services.
- iii. Adopt information technology improvements to provide better customer service at less cost.
- iv. Develop a five year financial plan to better guide annual budget development and provide a predictable roadmap for financial management.
- v. Explore a dedicated and restricted Capital Improvement Fund to address known and future Town infrastructure improvements and capital investments.
- vi. Develop a long term waste management strategy for post landfill closure.

d. Strengthen the Community. The Council will seek to strengthen the Tiverton community and increase their trust in municipal government by pursuing the following actions:

- i. Improve communications with our citizens through:
 - 1. Improving the Town website layout and its content to better inform our residents.
 - 2. Developing an action tracking system to provide better accountability of Council/government tasks.
 - 3. Developing and publishing a series of periodic reports on the status of Town government initiatives and major issues to serve as a “Town Cryer”.
- ii. Engage outside/third party evaluations/studies of major policy proposals and critical issues facing the Town in order to provide objectivity.
- iii. Encourage more community events designed to bring all members of our community together.