

Tisbury Vision Plan Goals and Policies

Background on formation of this document

Steering Committee members were solicited to see who might have interest in joining a working group to work through revisions of the [Draft Goals and Purposes](#) shared by Barrett Planning Group (BPG) and partners on 5-18-23. The working group met multiple times and included Rick Homans, Susannah Bristol, Phil Hale, Lyndsay Famariss, and Cheryl Doble.

Significant restructuring of the Goals were proposed in the interest of making this document a more logical extension to the [Key Issues Report](#). That report compartmentalizes the subject matter by sections. The sections generally correspond to the Goals subject matter, shown in parentheses below. “Purposes” nomenclature was swapped out for “Policies” as the group felt this was more instructive language in guiding decision makers and town officials. Many policies were retained, some deleted, and a number of them consolidated to make the document more concise. Actions will ultimately be added beneath each Policy as part of the final report’s Implementation Plan.

A Mission / Vision statement was initiated and will ultimately involve more work.

The working group recommends BPG include a matrix of sorts that shows the subject matters / disciplines that correspond to each policy. Even though Policies are found under their respective subject matter Goal, the matrix will impart the interdisciplinary nature of this Plan by flagging the other disciplines relevant to that specific policy (ie. *Policy 3.1: Update the zoning by-laws and other regulations to ensure they are easy to use and aligned with the Town’s Master Plan and its goals* intersects clearly with Housing and Economic Development)

The Goals & Policies below underwent further revision following extensive discussion at the June 6, 2023 Joint Planning Board & Master Plan Steering Committee meeting. Where language could not be ironed out during the meeting, additional work ensued that attempted to address the ranging input provided by participants at that meeting.

On June 20, 2023 the Steering Committee put their final touches on the Goals and Policies. This included the input of two Planning Board members, along with Barrett Planning Group. The following night the Planning Board reviewed and approved this document, following some very limited revisions. The final work product is found below.

Mission / Vision statement (placeholder language): Sustain a strong, resilient, healthy, forward-looking, year-round community.

Goal 1 (Governance): Ensure the Town's governance structure and policies are aligned with and support the implementation of the Master Plan and its goals.

Policy 1.1

Modernize the structure and organization of town government to provide effective leadership, equip Town staff with the authority and resources to do their jobs, and support for volunteer committees.

Policy 1.2

Ensure accountability, transparency, and broad participation of year-round and seasonal residents in the implementation of this Master Plan.

Policy 1.3

Ensure that all residents and visitors have access to Town government through online communication channels and physical facilities.

Policy 1.4

Engage & collaborate with other island municipalities on priorities where coordinated planning may prove both more effective and efficient.

Policy 1.5

Establish and abide by prudent financial management policies and provide adequate professional capacity to implement them.

Policy 1.6

Improve and update annually the Capital Improvement Plan process to account for all costs and benefits associated with municipal projects, including sustainability, construction, planned preventive maintenance, project timelines, and funding. Institute a prioritization process that includes participation by Town departments and the Town's major policy boards.

Goal 2 (Natural Resources and Open Space): Act as responsible stewards for our natural environment and partner with other island towns whenever possible.

Policy 2.1

Preserve and enhance biodiversity of the natural environment, open space, parks, and scenic views throughout the town, including downtown and commercial areas.

Policy 2.2

Use multiple approaches, including zoning bylaws, BoH regulations and public education, to protect the health of our environment, water supply, wetlands, water quality of our estuaries and other waterbodies, and reduce nitrogen loads in Lake Tashmoo and Lagoon Pond, and other areas as required.

Policy 2.3

Use the best available data and science on the projected impacts of climate change to make decisions on land use, infrastructure, public health, and delivery of services.

Policy 2.4

Set pollution reduction targets across controllable sectors, reduce and control waste, and monitor and reduce emerging chemical pollutants and plastics.

Goal 3 (Zoning and Land Use): Foster a beautiful, enduring and sustainably built environment.

Policy 3.1

Update the zoning by-laws and other regulations to ensure they are easy to use and aligned with the Town's Master Plan and its goals.

Policy 3.2

Support the efforts of property owners, using both incentives and code enforcement, to improve unmaintained properties and keep them in good condition in the future.

Policy 3.3

Ensure that public and private investments in the built environment account for projected impacts of climate change and sea-level rise, support managed retreat, and prioritize our vulnerable areas and the safety of our residents and visitors.

Policy 3.4

Improve wastewater management, including sewer expansion & installation of Innovative Alternative septic systems to reduce nitrogen impacts (in Lagoon Pond, Lake Tashmoo watersheds, and other areas as required), and allow development, along with the expansion of existing businesses to accommodate community needs.

Policy 3.5

Improve and secure our drinking water system.

Policy 3.6

Protect the architectural character of the town and the environment by developing regulations regarding the preservation and demolition of public and private buildings within a building's useful life.

Goal 4 (Economic Development): Encourage private investments and improvements to the town's business districts (Waterfront Commercial, B-1, and B-2) to drive the economy, while maintaining the character of the town and its harbor and being responsive to the impacts of climate change.

Policy 4.1

Foster a business-friendly town government that encourages creation of sustainable jobs for year-round residents, prioritizes islander-owned year-round businesses and offers a transparent regulatory environment.

Policy 4.2

Encourage and incentivize businesses that build on the town's current year-round services to create a strong service and retail economy serving the island community.

Policy 4.3

Strengthen the economy by enhancing the visitor experience, creating a coherent and connected pedestrian network, and improving harbor services and access.

Policy 4.4

Embrace the Blue and Green Economy.

Policy 4.5

Prepare for the impacts of climate change by protecting the water dependent economy, helping to relocate non-water dependent businesses, and preparing a workforce to fill new jobs created in response to climate change.

Goal 5 (Transportation): Develop a multi-modal transportation system that reduces congestion and dependence on automobiles and creates a safer environment for residents and visitors.

Policy 5.1

Develop a comprehensive traffic, parking, pedestrian, bicycle, and transit strategy to accomplish multiple goals that include: reducing congestion and automobile dependence; increase use of public transit; minimize truck impacts; encourage bicycle and pedestrian activity through increased use of bike paths and sidewalks.

Policy 5.2

Work with the Steamship Authority and other port towns, to develop a strategic plan that identifies infrastructure improvements that must be made to ensure continuity of service in the face of climate change and anticipated Sea Level Rise.

Policy 5.3

Develop and implement a strategy to improve the safety of key intersections including Five Corners, the State Road intersection with EVH Road and Look Street, and the full Mass DOT-owned corridor that runs through Tisbury.

Policy 5.4

Implement a more efficient network of roadways and pathways, pathways that strengthen multimodal connections with other island towns and reduce traffic congestion, including a corridor connecting the EVH (Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Rd) to State Road.

Goal 6 (Housing): Increase equitable and sustainable housing choices.

Policy 6.1

Maximize the use of regulatory (including zoning bylaws), financial, and other strategies available to the Town to provide attainable, and quality housing promoting adaptive reuse of existing housing stock whenever possible.

Policy 6.2

Ensure energy-efficient design and use of sustainable materials in construction, to maintain long-term affordability and a safe residential environment.

Goal 7 (Community Health): Ensure our year-round residents, including our under-resourced populations, seasonal residents and visitors have access to quality health services.

Policy 7.1

Support local and island-wide initiatives that build equitable access to essential public health services for year-round and seasonal residents.

Policy 7.2

Collaborate with local, state and federal programs to mitigate hazards and support efforts to address the effects of climate change on residents.

Policy 7.3

Support the efforts of the community in educating, preventing, and treating residents with substance use disorder, mental health, and other community health concerns.