

I. GOALS AND POLICIES ELEMENT

TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

A. Introduction 1

B. Overall Goal of the Comprehensive Plan 1

C. Overall Goals of Each Element of the Comprehensive Plan 1

D. Major Goals and Issues 2

For revised Goals & Policies
Element F - Section E
See amendment dated 10/28/96 in
addenda

For revised Goals & Policies
Element - Section D
See amendment dated 10/6/97 in
addenda

For revised Goals & Policies
Element I - Section F
See amendment dated 10/9/07
in addenda

A. Introduction

This element is a summary of the goals and policies which appear in each individual Element of the Plan. Each Element of this Plan is organized so as to present a statement of the goals, objectives and implementation action for each recommendation made within that element. For the purposes of this Comprehensive Plan the following definitions are used:

A goal represents the ends or results towards which the planning process is directed.

A *policy* is the course or method of action which direct the Town's decisions toward reaching the stated goal.

Implementation is a specific action taken to carry out a policy.

B. Overall Goal of the ComPrehensive Plan

The overall goal of the Comprehensive Plan is to create, maintain and improve a high quality of life for all the citizens of the Town.

C. Overall Goals of Each Element of the Comprehensive Plan

For a detailed discussion of the Goals and policies of each element, refer to the individual sections.

Land Use: To promote orderly growth patterns based upon the natural, cultural and historic character of the Town, the land's suitability for use and the aspirations of its citizens.

Housing: To encourage a range of housing choices in order that the Town can continue to be home to a vital mix of people.

Economic Development: To promote quality economic and employment opportunities while protecting the natural and cultural resources of the Town.

Natural Resources: To preserve, to protect and to enhance the Town's natural resources, many of which are not renewable.

Cultural Resources: To preserve, to protect and to enhance the Town's historic and cultural resources and to integrate these into planning for the future.

Services and Facilities: To provide the Town with basic public services and facilities in a prompt and efficient manner.

Open Space and Recreation: To encourage the provision of recreational services and facilities and the preservation of open spaces and natural habitats in order to enhance the physical and mental well-being of the Town's citizens.

Circulation: To integrate safe transportation modes in the Town without disrupting the aesthetic, environmental and cultural resources of the community.

D. Major Goals and Issues

This Comprehensive Plan establishes the most important goal facing the Town in the future as being the management of growth while maintaining the high quality of life in Town. Throughout the planning process, citizens of the Town, as voiced through the CPAC and as evidenced in public opinion questionnaires and surveys, have identified growth management as the primary issue that should be addressed in the Plan. Citizens of the Town believe that the Town's rate of residential and commercial growth over the past two decades exceeds the Town's ability to maintain a high quality of public services, facilities and other necessary infrastructure. This rate of growth is adversely affecting the rural character of the Town, its natural resources and the quality of life in the Town of South Kingstown.

The following major issues were identified by the CPAC, and endorsed by the Planning Board in adopting the Plan in 1991 and Town Council in adopting the Plan in 1992, and underlie the policies and implementation measures of this Plan:

1. Control Development
2. Preserve Environmental Quality
3. Maintain the Identity of the Town
4. Create a Balanced Transportation System
5. Provide Housing Choice
6. Expand the Economic Base

There are of course many additional issues discussed in more detail throughout this Plan. However, the overall vision which has been identified during the planning process is of a future South Kingstown which maintains its identity as a small New England seaside community with a stable economy and high environmental quality. The Town wishes to avoid the suburban sprawl development patterns which have overcome many communities located on the outer fringes of metropolitan areas. It wants to continue to be an area offering economic opportunity and a wide range of housing options, but it does not want to encourage urban sprawl fostered by high-speed highways and suburban shopping centers.

For revised Goals & Policies
Element I - Section D
See amendment dated 10/6/97
in addenda

For revised Goals & Policies
Element I - Section E
See amendment dated 10/9/07 in
addenda