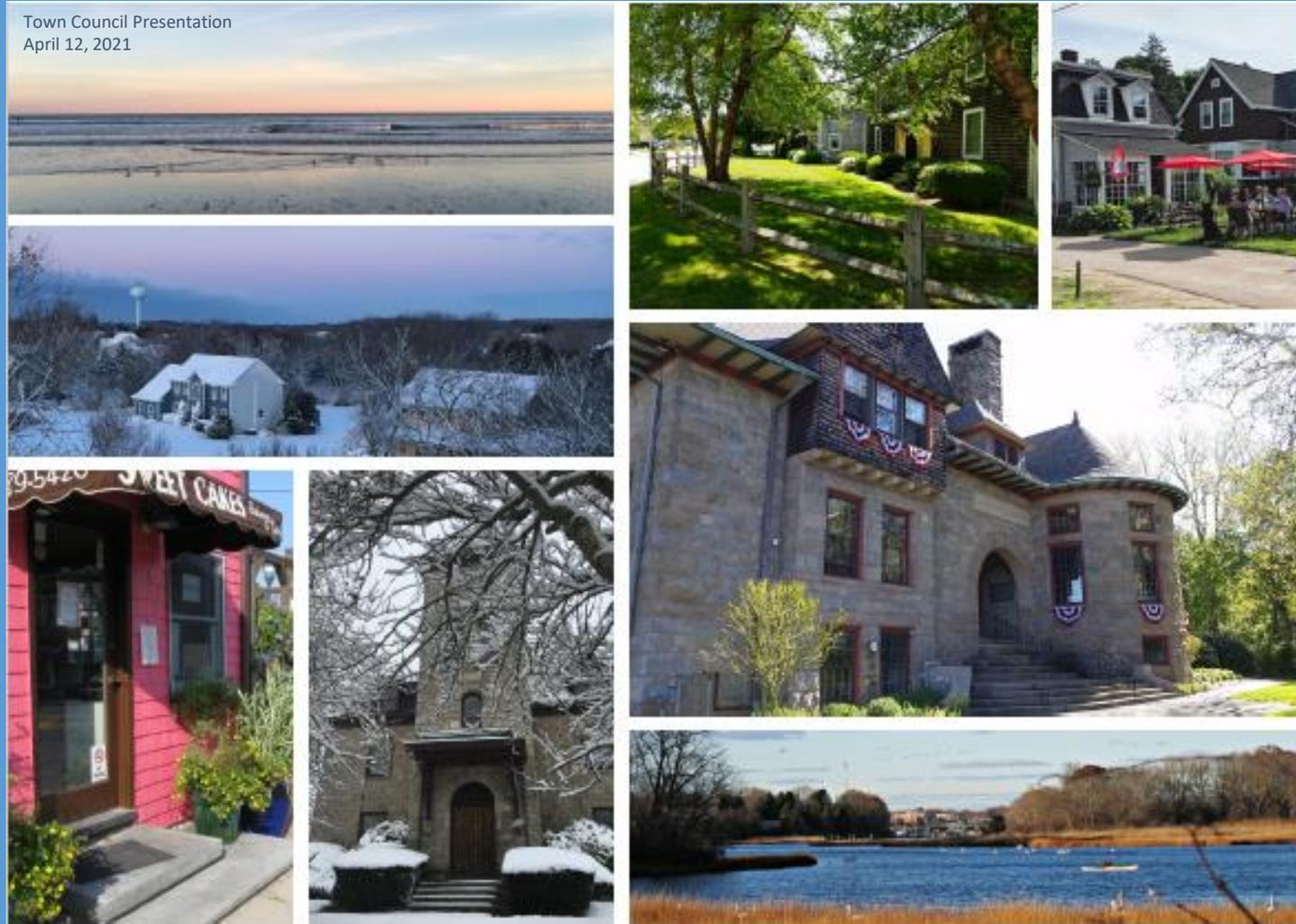


Town of South Kingstown

DRAFT 2021 Comprehensive Community Plan



Town of South Kingstown

DRAFT 2021 Comprehensive Community Plan

THE LAW: Every municipality in Rhode is required to adopt a Comprehensive Community - Rhode Island General Laws Chapter 45-22.2, the “Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act.”

- A Comprehensive Community Plan is a valuable community tool, which can be used to:
- **Guide** local decision-making on important topics,
 - **Provide** direction to private development, and
 - **Encourage** economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable community growth.

A good plan with its thoughtful and comprehensive goals, policies, and actions, protects the community’s vision and strengthens its every step.



Town of South Kingstown

DRAFT 2021 Comprehensive Community Plan

THE LAW: Rhode Island General Laws Chapter 45-22.2, the “Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act.”

Key features of the Act include:

- All municipalities are to prepare and adopt a single comprehensive plan that are to be updated and re-adopted not less than every ten years;
- Each plan is to include certain standard content, and that forecasts, goals, and policies must be formulated looking at a minimum 20-year planning horizon;
- Public input and comment is required during the comprehensive planning process;
- Comprehensive plans are to serve as the foundation for municipal zoning;
- Plans are to be reviewed by the State to assure they are consistent with the provisions of the Act; and
- State agencies are to conform their programs and projects to municipal plans that have State approval.



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Efforts have been underway since January of 2017.

Over this time period, the Planning Board worked to prepare an update to the plan achieve the following:

- ❖ **Develop** new elements relative to the topics of natural hazards and climate change, and energy in accordance with new state guidelines;
- ❖ **Refine** the goals, policies and implementation actions identified in the 2014 Plan in order to identify new priorities, refine existing language, and remove completed actions;
- ❖ **Update** data points used throughout the old Plan with current information; and
- ❖ **Improve** the usability of the document by reformatting the document, standardizing the information including in each element, and identify themes.



DRAFT 2021 Comprehensive Community Plan

Components of a Plan: 2014 - Comp Plan

- Introduction
- Land Use
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Natural and Cultural Resources
- Services and Facilities
- Open Space and Recreation
- Circulation
- University of Rhode Island
- Implementation Schedule



Components of a Plan (Elements) : 2021 Draft - Comp Plan

- Introduction
- ***Citizens***
- Land Use
- Housing
- Economic Development
- **Natural Hazards & Climate**
- Natural Resources & Open Space
- Cultural & Historic Resources
- Recreation
- Services and Facilities
- **Energy**
- Circulation
- University of Rhode Island
- Implementation

Each element now contains the following sub-sections:

- Vision Statement
- Goals
- Guiding Principles
- Current Practice/Baseline Information
- Needs and Opportunities
- Policies
- Action Plan



DRAFT 2021 Comprehensive Community Plan

Comparison: 2014 verses 2021 Draft - Comp Plan

- Introduction
- Land Use
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Natural and Cultural Resources
- Services and Facilities
- Open Space and Recreation
- Circulation
- University of Rhode Island
- Implementation Schedule

- Introduction
- ***Citizens*** (Demographic, social/economical profile)
- Land Use
- Housing
- Economic Development
- **Natural Hazards & Climate**
- Natural Resources & Open Space
- Cultural & Historic Resources
- Recreation
- Services and Facilities
- **Energy**
- Circulation
- University of Rhode Island
- Implementation



New Components: Elements/Chapters

Three new elements were created as part of the 2021 Update:

- Citizens
- Natural Hazard & Climate Change
- Energy



New Components: Elements/Chapters

Citizens:

- Provides a picture of the people who live within South Kingstown.
- Details demographic data which affects how we assess the needs of the community, and what policies and actions are needed to make progress toward our goals.
- The chapter does not contain goals, policies, or action items and instead gives a summary of who makes up the community.
- 2017 population of South Kingstown was approximately 30,712 persons.
- Future projections developed by the RI Division of Planning anticipate the population to grow to approximately 38,573 persons by 2040, or nearly 25% percent.
- Population of South Kingstown is aging, that employment rates are relatively stable, and that the median household income in South Kingstown is significantly higher than that of the Rhode Island as a whole, and also modestly higher than surrounding Washington County towns.



New Components: Elements/Chapters

Natural Hazards and Climate Change:

Assesses South Kingstown's vulnerability to storm events and natural hazards

- Increased precipitation,
- Sea level rise,
- More intense and frequent storm events, and other symptoms of our changing climate and
- Designed to work with the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

This element establishes high level priorities for improving resilience and reducing the impact of events upon the people and resources of the Town based upon a community vulnerability assessment process.

Goal 1: South Kingstown will be resilient to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change.

Goal 2: Carbon emissions generated within the municipality will be reduced through reduced energy consumption associated with heating, cooling and transportation.



New Components: Elements/Chapters

Energy:

- Evaluates South Kingstown's municipal energy uses and opportunities to reduce energy consumption and utilize more sustainable energy sources.
- Vision for responsible and well-planned energy generation, including through renewable energy systems.

Goal 1: Well-planned, diverse and economically viable renewable energy production facilities will exist in appropriate areas of Town.

Goal 2: The energy consumption of municipal buildings, vehicles and equipment in South Kingstown will be reduced.

Goal 3: The understanding of Town staff and community members on energy efficient practices and renewable energy development will be increased.

