

I. INTRODUCTION/VISION STATEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

In 2015 and 2016, the Salem Planning Division engaged the services of two Planning Interns to assist with updates to this important planning document. As a result of these efforts, seven chapters were substantially updated to include the most recent census data, and information from numerous federal, state and local studies and reports. Reformatting was also a part of the update process.

We are pleased to provide this updated portion of Salem's Master Plan to the Planning Board, Salem officials, and other Salem departments.

VISION

Per RSA 674:2, master plans must at minimum contain a vision section and a land use section. The vision section serves to direct the various sections of the plan and contain a set of statements which articulate the desires of the citizens affected by the master plan. The last Master Plan updated and adopted by Salem was completed in 2001 and contains goals that are spread throughout the chapters. The goals established in the 2001 Master Plan, along with the updates contained herein, were reviewed for current and future relevancy. The following serve as future planning directives for the Town of Salem to carry forward as vision concepts.

Population and Housing

- Encourage development of more affordable housing to support the local labor force.
- Control the rate of residential development in relation to the Town's ability to provide facilities and infrastructure.
- Continue to educate the public about affordable housing needs and programs.
- Provide opportunities for housing that incorporates supportive services to address the needs of Salem's older population.
- Maintain compliance with statutory requirements for providing reasonable opportunities for the siting of manufactured housing.
- Provide more opportunity for the development of townhouses or other attached housing for both the ownership and rental markets, for both elderly and non-elderly households, and at both affordable and market rates.

Economic Development

- Encourage the redevelopment of obsolete, abandoned, and underutilized commercial and industrial properties, with particular attention to the Depot and South Broadway areas.
- Promote a more diverse economic base with lesser emphasis and dependence on the retail sector.
- Encourage education and training to develop workforce skills needed by local businesses.
- Improve the local infrastructure (roadway, sewer, and water capacity and other utilities) to accommodate future economic development and redevelopment.

- Provide for efficiency in commercial-industrial land development through density, coverage and building height allowances to provide for an adequate land supply for future growth, and to enhance the assessed value per acre of developed properties.
- Provide for a reasonable range of home occupations for uses that do not impact on the residential character of neighborhoods.
- Support the improvement of regional highway capacity, and improve the local roadway capacity in order to accommodate future economic development and redevelopment.

Natural Resources and Conservation

- Preserve, protect, and promote the wise use of the Town's natural resources.
- Promote habitat diversity.
- Manage the Town's public open spaces in order to maximize multiple use and public access to the extent possible without causing adverse environmental impacts.
- Promote flood hazard mitigation through the adoption of regulatory measures, as well as the acquisition of land which is flood prone or acts as flood storage.
- Provide connections between protected open spaces within Salem and linkages to regional greenways.

Historic Resources

- Foster public appreciation and civic pride in the Town's historical resources.
- Promote the use of the Historic Museum for the education, pleasure, and welfare of the citizens of Salem.

Recreation

- Promote long-term development of adequate recreation opportunities for the residents of Salem.
- Promote an extensive variety of recreation opportunities for both current and future citizens of Salem.
- Assure that recreation facilities are provided for all geographic areas in Salem.
- Assure that recreational opportunities and facilities are designed and provided for persons of all ages and all abilities.
- Encourage the expansion of private recreation facilities in the Town.
- Coordinate local efforts to acquire and develop recreation resources in the Town.
- Continue to improve and expand Salem's community-wide recreation programs.
- Create a network of greenways, trails, pedestrian paths and bikeways which link residential areas to recreation facilities and schools.
- Continue to provide educational opportunities for adults and children.

- Provide adequate recreation facilities in accordance with accepted standards, recognizing that the Town is deficient at present with regard to certain facilities, and that additional facilities will be needed to accommodate future growth.

Transportation

- Provide a transportation system that affords accessibility for all and provides good access to employment, housing, services and recreation areas.
- Manage, maintain, and enhance the existing transportation system in order to maximize safety and efficiency and reduce the need for new roadway and bridge construction.
- Minimize the impact of traffic on Salem neighborhoods, commercial areas, and the town street system by maximizing the use of regional highway facilities and transit for such trips.
- Reduce the need for roadway construction by developing viable alternatives that reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled and reliance on the automobile as a mode of travel.
- Improve the integration of land use and transportation planning.
- Continue to participate in the regional transportation planning process established under Federal and State law.