

REVISED Goals and Objectives

The following are the goals and objectives that will form the foundation for the action plan of the Action 2020 Comprehensive Community Plan. The goals and objectives were initially developed in Phase I of the process.¹ These were subsequently revised as a result of resident input solicited at a public workshop held on October 20, 2010.

NOTE TO THE ACTON 2020 COMMITTEE: The changes that reflect the input from the October 20 public workshop are indicated in yellow highlight (to be removed as we move forward). Thoughts regarding strategies for meeting the goals and objectives are listed under the heading "Ideas for Strategies"². Ideas regarding strategies documented in Phase I are in regular (non-italic) font. These are followed by any additional thoughts contributed at the October 20 public workshop that are listed in *italics*.

Preserve Town Character

GOAL: We feel strongly about preserving and enhancing what makes Acton special and unique, including its rural and historic characteristics and its village centers.

Objective: Preserve Rural and Historic Characteristics

Ideas for Strategies

- Define Rural and Historic Characteristics and actively preserve these
 - Meandering sidewalks
 - Protect and promote community gardens, stone walls, trees, country fairs and farmer's markets
 - *Create more formal structures for collaborating with neighboring towns to address common issues (including 40B developments, open space protection, etc.)*
 - *Explore ways of saving barns*
 - *Improve non-car oriented connections*
- Preserve and acquire open space
 - Purchase open space
 - Use zoning to protect existing open space
 - Actively support agriculture (e.g. right to farm by-law)
 - Promote natural environments
 - Preserve and promote green spaces along roads and in front of buildings

¹ In early 2008, nearly two thousand Acton residents and business owners participated in a six-month long process, which culminated in developing an Emerging Vision and Goals for the Town's future. A concerted effort was made to reach out to a broad range of participants and to include diverse points of view in the community discussion.

² In some cases these are interpretations by the Consultant of statements made by participants. This list of "Ideas" will be the starting point for developing a complete action point. It will be reviewed and further refined by the Acton 2020 Committee, the Consultant Team, and Town Staff.

Acton 2020 Goals and Objectives

- Clarify which open space is not protected and to what degree protected space is indeed protected
- Create a proactive strategy to anticipate and react to open space, water resource protection issues and opportunities
 - Propose a package of by-laws (e.g. prevention of demolition, clear cutting)
 - Provide better incentives to preserve community assets
 - Plant trees to enhance Acton streets, especially in villages and Kelley's Corner
- Develop Comprehensive Site and Design Review
 - Emphasize the importance of Design Guidelines for business and residential development to be in keeping with the goal
 - Ensure that sidewalks are in keeping with town character
- Preserve historic features
 - Expand historic districts to include older historic homes
 - Publicize and make accessible town features (historic sites, nature trails, etc.)
 - Improve town entrances / gateways to be welcoming & reflect our historic heritage
- Manage growth proactively
 - Understand how water limits growth
 - Create a visual build out plan that captures goals for the entire town
 - Consult the 1998 Master Plan
 - Encourage regional cooperation
 - Control Guide residential development
 - Improve governing structures to encourage an integrated approach to problem-solving

Comment [KKA1]: FYI – We have a Demolition Delay Bylaw.

Comment [KKA2]: Not sure this bullet goes here. I'd remove it from here and put it under the "Preserve and Enhance Village Centers" objective, "Other Village Centers" strategy, under "Village Centers" (in general) and it is already under "Improve Kelley's Corner".

Comment [KKA3]: I'd put this entire bullet "Create a proactive strategy..." under the "Preserve and Protect Natural Resources" objective too.

Comment [KKA4]: The wording of this sounds a little strange to me. I don't know how to reword it.

Comment [KKA5]: Already have design guidelines for sidewalks and for non-residential development. We should probably mention those guidelines.

Comment [KKA6]: The historic districts or the Cultural Resources List (historically significant structures) or both?

Objective: Preserve and Enhance Village Centers

Ideas for Strategies

West Acton Village Center

- Develop West Acton into the Town's "center."

Comment [KKA7]: We need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive).

Other Village Centers

- Encourage more activity through the provision of parks and outdoor areas to congregate, and by promoting a variety of uses including grocery store, family restaurant, benches, a variety of businesses, parking in the back of buildings, places to go at night, pleasant lighting.
- Support walkability in the centers
- Program events
- Encourage unique and fun window-shopping
- Support locally owned shops; develop "buy local" campaign
- Identify anchor with "pulling power"

Acton 2020 Goals and Objectives

- Define desired character (e.g. “quaint, but not cute”). Each village should have its own distinct character.
- Slow traffic
- Plant flowers and trees
- Encourage mixed-use development
- Invite ethnic communities to contribute vitality through celebration, food, etc.
- Develop a non-profit semi-government organization to revitalize village centers
- Use West Acton and West Concord as models
- Improve Kelley’s Corner
 - Encourage wide range of shops and restaurants
 - Redevelop area with pedestrian orientation (including sidewalks, benches, signage, etc.)
 - Develop design guidelines to control “look and character”
 - *Plant trees to enhance streetscape, especially in the villages and Kelley’s Corner*

Comment [KKA8]: This is also listed in the 5th bullet below for Kelley’s Corner. Is there a way to consolidate?

Plan for Sustainability

GOAL: Increase Awareness Regarding the Need to Plan for Sustainability, and continue current efforts at being mindful of sustainability issues, and develop a plan to proactively address our future sustainability.

Comment [KKA9]: I’d remove this statement because it is an objective and listed below (shouldn’t be in the goal statement in my opinion).

We value taking responsibility for our actions and planning for the future. We are mindful of our actions today because we are considerate of future generations living tomorrow.

Objective: Increase Awareness Regarding the Need to Plan for Sustainability

Ideas for Strategies

- Define and discuss sustainability (*include issues of water, air, land use, quality of life, green house gases; define where we are and where we are going*)
- Adopt a proclamation supporting greenhouse gas reduction
- Increase awareness and educate people on the need to be more sustainable
 - Provide education in schools
 - Promote greater public awareness town-wide
 - Develop massive energy conservation drives

Comment [KKA10]: I’m not sure what this is. We need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive).

Objective: Continue and expand current sustainability efforts

Comment [KKA11]: I would merge this objective with the next objective somehow and move this strategy under the second strategy underneath it. See below.

Ideas for Strategies

- ~~Continue and expand Acton’s current sustainability efforts including recycling, low level street lighting fixtures, low fuel vehicles, protecting water resources, etc.~~

Acton 2020 Goals and Objectives

Objective: Continue current sustainability efforts and develop a plan and action steps to expand these efforts and proactively address issues of sustainability

Ideas for Strategies

- *Identify Acton's current sustainability efforts including recycling, low-level street lighting fixtures, low-fuel vehicles, protecting water resources, etc.*
- *Identify specific steps needed to develop a plan that would help in meeting the goal of sustainability; consider the following:*
 - *Continue and expand Acton's current sustainability efforts*
 - Explore the use of renewable energy sources
 - Involve the ethnic communities; many come from cultures that have a history of sustainability
 - Re-think how Town staff works and commutes.
 - *Review the town's high tax rate; it discourages people from staying long term*
 - *Explore ways to make the Town more financially sustainable*
 - *Relate to transportation goals*
 - *Relate to development, type, amount and location and reflect in zoning*
 - *Change bylaws, rules and regulations (water, air quality, land use, green building, smart growth, mixed use development, etc.)*
 - *Water Resource Protection*
 - *Change zoning to restrict residential growth*

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Comment [KKA12]: We need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive). I don't like the word "restrict".

Comment [KKA13]: I'd say all of this again in the strategies of the objective below ("Support Land Use and Life Style...")

Objective: Support Land Use and Life Style Changes that promote long-term sustainability

Ideas for Strategies

- Provide public transportation/walking/biking facilities
- Provide incentives to home-owners and businesses to build green and save energy
- Retrofit public buildings to be energy efficient
- Eliminate idling vehicles
- Organize web-based car pooling
- Start a "Transitional Town Project" toward self-sufficiency and energy autonomy
- Turn the transfer station into a renewable energy power plant (also use yard waste)
- Use the transfer station as a model for sustainable development, including exhibiting trash as art
- *Create a central, multi-use, multi-generational community center for social sustainability (important features include location and determining feasibility of existing facilities)*
- *Encourage denser zoning close to South Acton train station*
- *Maintain the schools*
- *Winterize homes*

Comment [KKA14]: Should get feedback from staff and BOS first. A lot of legal, positive, and technical considerations.

Comment [KKA15]: We need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive).

Comment [KKA16]: We need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive).

Objective: Preserve and Protect Natural Resources

Ideas for Strategies

- *Preserve and protect natural resources, including surface and ground water (e.g. streams, ponds, drinking water, and wetlands etc.)*

Acton 2020 Goals and Objectives

- Identify and define Town's water capacity
- Pay attention to pollution threats and environmental threats
- Develop a long-range planning for water, power, and agricultural resources (include food and energy sheds in plans).

Comment [KKA17]: Is "pollution" an "environmental threat"? I think of it as one.

Comment [KKA18]: Need to consult with Acton Water District on this. I'm sure they have one in place – or I hope so.

Comment [KKA19]: What are "food and energy sheds"? We need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive).

Improve Connections

GOAL: We recognize that a community that is connected is safer, stronger, and provides more opportunities for meaningful interaction. We envision supporting these connections through physical means including sidewalks, bike paths, trails and public transportation to connect people and places, and to support independent and safe travel for all. We also envision open communication as a means to further connect residents (e.g. through the web, cable TV, community bulletin boards, etc.).

Objective: Improve Walking and Biking Experience

Ideas for Strategies

- Improve safety
- Create and extend connections, system of sidewalks, trails, bike paths, bike racks where feasible and where they will be utilized.
- Explore North American and European models and incorporate relevant elements and become a model for a walkable and bikeable community
- Extend sidewalks
- Provide additional bike paths/lanes (and increase awareness regarding sharing the road issues)
- Improve communication regarding paths
 - Keep maps current showing sidewalks and bike paths
- Walking and biking should be considered separately (they can potentially be in conflict)
- Ensure that provision of sidewalks does not conflict with protecting town character
- Identify and pave woody shortcuts where appropriate so bikes, wheelchairs and strollers can use them

Comment [KKA20]: I merged this in bullet 2 above.

Comment [KKA21]: We need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive).

Comment [KKA22]: We need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive).

Objective: Explore Ways to Improve Circulation In and Around Town

Ideas for Strategies

- Provide free town-wide shuttle
- Improve the train station
 - Provide more parking
 - Town shuttle to and from parking
 - Build train station building
 - More overhang on canopy for weather protection
 - Provide safe bike lane to station
 - Develop train station as mixed-use center with shops, etc.
- Address traffic congestion (e.g. enforce lower speed limits, plow wider shoulders in winter, speed bumps, etc.)

Comment [KKA23]: In my opinion, not sustainable and possibly not feasible. We need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive).

Comment [KKA24]: Hot issue right now. We need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive).

Comment [KKA25]: Now in operation.

Acton 2020 Goals and Objectives

- Add train station in West **Acton**

Comment [KKA26]: We need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive).

Objective: Improve Communication

Ideas for Strategies

- Keep town web site up-to-date
- Create community bulletin board
- Use multiple languages (both staff and written materials should reflect the town's population)
- Create a centralized reference guide of existing Town resources
- Improve communication between the Schools and the Town
- Improve communication with businesses
 - Provide information for business owners
 - A more friendly approach from Town **Hall**
 - Acknowledge business owners for their participation in Town (donations, etc.)
- Attract more volunteers
 - Publicize and promote more
 - Use website
 - Provide information
 - Outreach, recruit
 - Provide incentives
 - Scheduling/timing
 - Provide and advertise opportunities for one time volunteering (as a trial)
- ~~Improve communication regarding existing resources and events (signs, website, community bulletin board in multiple languages)~~
- ~~Use Acton TV or Radio Station for better town-wide communication~~
- ~~Better town wide opt-in email communication system~~
- Create neighborhood email lists
- Provide better social connections for newcomers
- Provide options for voting at Town Meeting (on-line, offsite, etc.)

Comment [KKA27]: Hot issue. How about rephrasing it to something like "Town Hall should work more closely with businesses"?

Comment [KKA28]: Redundant I think.

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Comment [LU29]: What does this mean? Does it mean re: Town website notifications? If not related to the Town website, who does this?

Comment [LU30]: Are the options in parenthesis legally possible? If not, they shouldn't be included here.

Provide More Opportunities for Community Gathering

We value the small town feeling and appreciate the sense of community that results from frequent opportunities for interaction. We support providing places for casual social interaction and organized events that bring members of the community together. We believe in offering opportunities for intergenerational experiences, and for sharing of inter-cultural celebration (e.g. community/senior center, park, farmer's market, cultural venues, community garden).

Objective: Expand Senior / Community Center

Ideas for Strategies

Community Center

Comment [LU31]: The community center and senior center "ideas for strategies" should probably also go under "Support Inclusion and Diversity" – "Support All Ages".

Comment [LU32]: We need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive).

Acton 2020 Goals and Objectives

- *Make a commitment to a community center; accessibility is key*
 - *Community Center must be centrally located (Kelley's Corner?)*
 - *Consider reuse of the Kmart into a Community Center*
 - *Ensure that center is located within walking distance for kids access after school*

Other Considerations

- *Offer place for connections with various ages and interests*
- *Expense may compete with other goals*
- *Create a virtual community center (but defeats the purpose of seeing friends and neighbors so would still need a place to meet).*
- *Create a Danny's Place for adults. Consider bring Danny's Place together with senior center*

Senior Center

- *Utilize senior center by different groups after hours (like schools)*
- *Given demographic trends, current senior center inadequate, location not ideal, should be a bigger resource for intergenerational connections*
- *Make it a community center with an emphasis on seniors*
- *Consider bring Danny's Place together with senior center*
- *Center should be central and versatile*
- *Should be multi-generational*
- *Increase use of current Senior Center*
- *Identify responsible party to lead effort (e.g. form a committee that plans programs)*
- *Need community's consensus*
- *Ensure infrastructure and interests are in place*
- *Provide non-auto ways to access*
- *Ensure careful design*
- *Foresee traffic impacts*

Comment [LU33]: Bringing Danny's Place together with a senior center creates a "community center" so I moved it up to "community center" (last bullet – which already had the idea).

Comment [LU34]: Design of what? I think it needs to be more specific.

Comment [LU35]: What does this mean? I think it needs to be more specific.

Objective: Support Additional Cultural Activities

Ideas for Strategies

- *Encourage development of a Movie Theater (including independent art films, armchairs and food)*
- *Support Community Theater (including capacity to show film)*
- *Support creation of more music venues (including classical music)*
- *Theater (drama, concerts, dance)*
- *Increase number and variety and location of community events*
- *Make the library more youth-friendly*
- *Look for ways to make existing community gatherings more multi-cultural and inclusive, e.g. Oktoberfest could be more diverse*
- *Would be nice to have a town-wide group like the current Neighborhood Forums*

Objective: Provide Additional Opportunities to Gather

Acton 2020 Goals and Objectives

Ideas for Strategies

- Maintain Memorial Library; it is an important community gathering place
- Need to develop a real town center (maybe West Acton?) to reduce driving/energy use
- *Emphasize small outdoor gathering spaces (other than NARA Park)*
- *Promote and support Acton Yard Sale or Flea Market (in Kmart parking lot)*
- *Encourage the development of a diversity of places*
- *Increase collaboration – e.g. Community Education, Recreation Department, and Town Boards should get together to offer programs*
- *Protect open space; it provides opportunities for community gathering (enhanced by Community Center)*
- *Ensure that zoning and budget are consistent with community gathering goal*
- *Identify development opportunities (partner with private sector)*
- *Utilize existing resources (identify potential)*
- *Identify accessible location(s) for gathering places*
- *Ensure security, safety, and accessibility (walking, parking, shuttle)*
- *Zone for infill development where density is desirable so as not to gobble up our open space*
- *Ensure infrastructure and interests are in place*
- *Foresee traffic impacts*
- Increase Amount and Variety of Restaurants
 - Provide indoor/outdoor seating
 - Increase number of mid-level, family, casual, but not pizza places to eat
 - Increase availability of ethnic foods
 - Increase number of fine dining establishments
 - Address lack of sewers in key locations such as West Acton

Comment [LU36]: We need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive).

Comment [LU37]: Don't know whether to include this phrase re: community center here – already covered.

Comment [LU38]: Not sure this idea should be under this strategy.

Support Inclusion and Diversity

GOAL: We value a diverse population and wish to foster respect, promote interaction and actively support a wide variety of individuals to live, work, and play in our community. This includes a range of ages and socio-economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Objective: Support All Ages

Ideas for Strategies

Seniors

- Provide housing affordable to those on a fixed income (e.g. elderly)
- Provide transportation
- Improve/expand senior center
- Provide health, fitness/wellness (classes, sidewalks, promote walking)
- Provide inter-generational opportunities for interaction and learning (e.g. utilize seniors in the schools)
-

Acton 2020 Goals and Objectives

- Include all seniors in outreach (e.g. including new immigrant groups)
- ~~Utilize seniors in the schools.~~

Teens

- Provide more accessible activities for teenagers
- Consider creating a club (e.g. like Danny's Place) for older kids, another park, or other gathering place for teens
- Extend sidewalks and increase access to public transportation to help teens get around
- *Increase number of community events to include biking – kids learning together to bring community together*

Objective: Support Socio-economic Diversity

Ideas for Strategies

- Provide housing affordable to empty nesters, Town staff, and young families (ensuring that the design of the “affordable housing” is in keeping with Town character)
- Coordinate with the school system *and Town Community Services Coordinator* to identify those in need and match them with volunteers and agencies willing and able to help them.
- *Consider allowing people to subdivide their homes to allow parents and family members to live more economically*
- *Support home-based businesses*
- *Improve communication between the Selectmen and the Housing Authority*
- *Increase supply of affordable housing³*
- *Identify and serve the needs of the Town's low income residents*

Comment [LU39]: The Town has a staff person doing this now.

Comment [LU40]: Subdivide their homes or subdivide their property? FYI – the Town already allows them to subdivide their homes for this purpose (but maybe they want the rules even more lenient?!?).

Comment [LU41]: Might need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive).

Comment [LU42]: FYI – Town already does this in the zoning bylaw.

Comment [LU43]: Seems like this is already covered in bullet 1.

Comment [LU44]: FYI - As mentioned in bullet 2, the Town has hired a Coordinator that has been working on this.

Objective: Embrace Cultural Diversity

Ideas for Strategies

- Provide space for celebration and cultural activities
- Support and encourage all people to participate in Town government such as the *recent* policy that any Acton resident can participate on Town board or committee (regardless of whether or not they are a U.S. citizen)
- Provide more English as a Second Language classes
- Provide organized welcome (contact people, welcome committee, reference guide to existing resources)
- Increase access to public transportation (often only have one car, older generation cannot drive and/or do not have driver's license)
- Provide easily accessible contact information for various ethnic and cultural communities (including Brazilian, Chinese, Latino, Russian, and Indian communities)
- Provide recognition of holidays in the schools (and maybe allowance for time off)

³ While Massachusetts has a statutory definition of affordable housing, participants may have defined this term in other ways.

Acton 2020 Goals and Objectives

- Hire multi-lingual staff and materials at Town Hall and Memorial Library
- Include Chinese languages and Portuguese as foreign language options at the schools
- *Promote Native American history as well as European history of the town.*
- *Break out information regarding the Town's Latino populations (obtain information from the schools)*
- *Increase the dialogue between multi-cultural groups*

Objective: Support the Disabled Community

Ideas for Strategies

- Apply Universal Design principles to provide physical access benefits to all
- Provide more transportation options
- Increase job opportunities and **training**
- Provide accessible public spaces
- *Provide housing for the disabled*
- *Make town buildings, activities and trails accessible to decrease isolation*
- *Explore possibility of paving trails (e.g. Morrison Farm)*
- *Identify and ~~p~~ave key woody shortcuts where appropriate so that bikes, wheelchairs and strollers can use **them***

Comment [LU45]: How can the Town increase job opportunities? Maybe "Increase" should be changed to "Encourage".

Comment [LU46]: We need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive).

Additional Ideas for Strategies for supporting inclusion and diversity

- *Increase number and variety and location of community events*

Preserve and Enhance Town Assets and Resources

GOAL: We value our Town assets and wish to preserve and enhance them. These include our open spaces, schools, historic sites, municipal properties, commercial areas, recreational areas, and our neighborhoods, including the people who live in them. **Our natural resources are also considered among our most important assets.**⁴

Objective: Protect Existing and Acquire Additional Open Space

Ideas for Strategies

- Purchase open space (use Community Preservation **funds**)
- Use zoning to protect existing open space
- Apply perpetual conservation easements
- Require playgrounds for kids in developments as part of approval process
- Convert open municipal property to conservation **status**
- Promote National Wildlife programs
- Support bio-diversity education
- Encourage cluster development
- Limit **development**
- Prevent clear cutting, preserve wooded areas

Comment [LU47]: I thought I heard on 10/20 that research needs to be done re: other ways to purchase open space...but maybe it was another time I heard it (not 10/20) or no one ever recorded it on 10/20. Can you check on this? If so, it needs to be added.

Comment [LU48]: We need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive).

Comment [LU49]: Where? I like the term "guide" development.

⁴ Natural Resources are discussed under the sustainability goal.

Acton 2020 Goals and Objectives

- Raise awareness in the public at **large**
- Provide tax incentives to protect open space
- *Consider the value and quality of water resources when evaluating open space*
- *Protect agricultural land*
- Reduce **growth**

Comment [LU50]: About what?

Comment [LU51]: I don't think this idea belongs here. Also – the town doesn't really have control over this.

Objective: Support Excellence in Schools

Ideas for Strategies

- Keep the facilities well maintained and updated (they are the Town's biggest asset)
- Address divisiveness in community caused by financial burden schools place on Town resources.
 - Have students provide community service to the Town (e.g. years ago Acton teens helped to conduct the Town census)

Objective: Improve Commercial Areas and Promote Economic Development

Ideas for Strategies

- Improve the aesthetics of shopping areas
- Provide more **parking**
- Increase safety, especially at entries of commercial areas
- Connect strip malls, especially along Great Road
- Encourage an increase in development of shopping and eating options
- Promote economic development to enhance the commercial tax base (in order to pay for needed **services**)
- Expand Acton Day
- Reduce traffic congestion
 - Make improvements to transportation – walking, shuttle, interconnect paths
- Be more business friendly
 - Improve the permitting **process**
 - Include business owners in events and notices
 - Be more welcoming to new businesses
 - Increase flexibility on sign **allowances**
- *Redevelop economic development **areas***

Comment [LU52]: Need to identify where...needs to be slightly more specific.

Comment [LU53]: We need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive). Some citizens don't agree with this statement.

Comment [LU54]: Need to acknowledge the legal limitations.

Comment [LU55]: Not sure exactly what this means. Can it be reworded?

Comment [LU56]: As you know, the Town can't really do this unless it is an EDIC area or the Town spends a lot of money to buy property and redevelop. The Town can try to put rules/regs in place to encourage and support this idea.

Objective: Maintain and Increase Recreational Opportunities

Ideas for Strategies

- Provide more indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities
- Provide recreational opportunities for all ages
- Create small parks in **neighborhoods**
- Protect NARA
- Make maintenance repairs including to the tennis courts, providing bathrooms, parking, and lighting where needed
- Expand focus beyond school sports

Comment [LU57]: We need to make sure there is Town consensus on this (potentially politically sensitive) because people want to know who is going to maintain or pay for the maintenance of it.

Acton 2020 Goals and Objectives

- Provide more recreational opportunities for teens (possibilities include swimming pool, teen center, bike trails, etc.)
- *Provide an indoor community facility*

Objective: Support and Strengthen Neighborhoods

Ideas for Strategies

- Improve walkability with the provision of sidewalks
- Provide activities such as playground, neighborhood swimming pool, etc.
- Ensure safety
- Provide aesthetically pleasing features including public art, open space, parking behind stores, architecture in keeping with town character, meandering sidewalks
- Provide benches and opportunities for outdoor eating
- Support both formal and informal communication and interaction among neighbors
 - Block parties
 - Neighborhood newsletter
 - Create neighborhood email lists, create and maintain database of residents by neighborhood
 - Promote neighborhood book groups, walking groups, etc.
 - Organize competitions between neighborhoods
 - Establish community projects

☞ Promote walkability

Comment [LU58]: I think it needs to be a separate "idea for strategy".

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Objective: Preserve Historic Buildings and Landscapes

Ideas for Strategies

- Preserve both historically significant buildings and landscapes, *stone walls and roads* (see Heritage Landscape Inventory)
- Support historic celebrations
- Increase awareness of historic past
- *Conduct outreach to private historical property owners from town or preservationists to help with funding and encourage preservation*
- *Pass archaeological by-law to preserve stone walls*

Comment [LU59]: "Historically significant", I believe, is the language the Town uses related to Cultural Resource List (demolition delay bylaw), etc.

Comment [LU60]: FYI – We have a Scenic Roads Bylaw which tries to preserve the stone walls along certain roads.

Objective: Maintain Town Properties

Ideas for Strategies

- Conduct an energy audit of Town buildings and identify ways to increase energy efficiency
- Use the transfer station as a model for sustainable development
- Keep school facilities well maintained and updated
- Maintain Memorial Library; it is an important community gathering place
- Explore ways in which Town Hall can use more recent technology to provide services

Additional Ideas for Strategies for preserving and enhancing town assets and resources

Acton 2020 Goals and Objectives

- *Revisit the 1998 Master Plan goals and objectives*
- *Identify and prioritize land uses and needs for all land in town (public and private)*
- *Support and encourage the development of non-public assets*
- *Define future obligations (measure impact of development, determine maximum capacity of town services)*

DRAFT