

## Comments on 2020 Goals & objectives

from Carol Holley

Overarching: a lot of these are not action items - an awful lot of considering and exploring; shouldn't goals and objectives be about DOING?

### 1.1 Manage growth proactively

Develop AND IMPLEMENT a comprehensive site and design review process.

second bullet - DEVISE ways, not consider them

### 1.2 Preserve and enhance village centers

second bullet: develop AND ENACT zoning

fourth bullet- enact impact fee bylaw (see outline of impact fee bylaw prepared by Blatman, Bobrowski & Mead, LLC in 1995 under an EOCD GRANT) - this way the town can use the fees to build amenities where they are needed and appropriate

### 1.3 Preserve rural characteristics & open space

INVENTORY and document rural characteristics

second bullet -PRIORITIZE and IMPLEMENT recommendations

Fourth bullet - Enable implementation of recommendations of OSRP by...incorporate 7th bullet here

### 1.5 Foster an understanding and appreciation..

third bullet - Scouts once had an Acton badge - do they still? if not, include that in supporting celebrations and efforts

What is in the Mass Curric. frameworks re local history? Devise curricula..

### 2.1 Protect water

Delete "make specific plans to identify..." just do it

fifth bullet - groundwater recharge from treatment plants should not be allowed in zone IIs

seventh bullet - delete "consider", insert "draft and enact"

Add: amend groundwater protection overlay by-law so that zones I, II etc. synch up with AWD protection zones - highest priority, easy to implement, and ACES and WRAC are for it

Manage stormwater - in Kelley's Corner & West Acton, it's way too late for proactivity. Say "mitigate existing stormwater issues by incentivizing appropriate retrofits/redevelopment" or something along those lines.

"Provide broad-based education" - Discovery Museums have been doing this for almost 10 years, and include school.

Re private wells - Acton's regs are among the worst in the state. There is an unenforced reporting requirement in place but the parameters you are required to test for are inadequate. Better to say "update residential private well water quality standards to match those of contiguous communities, including decommissioning of private wells according to Mass. guidelines". See outdated but still significant comparison table at [www.actonaces.org](http://www.actonaces.org)

Encourage replacement of lawns by how? Incentivize replacement/reduction of residential lawns by tax credit? Arrangements with local vendors for discounted ground covers, etc?

Objective 2.2 Reduce size of waste stream

The Life After NESWC committee developed a flyer on recycling that was mailed to all households a few years back - it was originally intended to be handed out with new dump stickers. There's a copy on the divider next to Kim's desk in Planning.

Private haulers are licensed by the BoH. It would be easy to include reporting in the licensing criteria. Why you have GAB and BoS as responsible parties here is not clear to me. Also, what does "larger" mean? Greater than x units would be better - more than 4?

Add pharmaceuticals to hazwaste collections.

Objective 2.3 reduce emissions

Be more specific "part of transfer station" means building roof? Unused covered old landfill?

Natural gas - have you done full cost accounting here? Emissions generated by line installation, including stalled traffic? what about environmental cost of generating the gas and transporting it? Strongly recommend you remove migration to natural gas. It is NOT a renewable resource.

Re carpooling - Council on Aging?

WHAT please is the difference between "inform" and "educate"?

Can a town by-law be promulgated to override bans on clotheslines? up to 10% of household energy use is dryers.

Barn-raising should be performed by NGOs, as they benefit individuals.

What is meant by "local resilience"?

## Objective 2.4 Patterns of land use

Invasive plant removal - this is becoming controversial for some species. How to prioritize? Can a community ban invasive species such as barberry that are commonly used in landscaping? "Discourage" how?

Execute, not support, Morrison plan, already.

Cluster zoning common space - conservation should not be competing with gardening and agriculture.

Goal 3: Don't CONSIDER making paths accessible, do it.

Objective 1.2 BoS should pony up and get "The Ride" to Acton. Nondrivers are extremely limited in mobility here.

Objective 3.3. Please bear in mind that there's a digital divide in town, along age and economic lines, and don't expect this to disappear. Public access cable and signage are important.

Goal 4 Provide More Opportunities...

4.2 Provide enough playgrounds. Create new playgrounds - what happened to the field that was supposed to be constructed behind Brookside mall? The issue is how to ensure follow-through on commitments to create playgrounds. Conversion to artificial turf should not be an option - environmentally questionable, expensive, not maintenance-free (footnote 2)

4.4 Non-commercial showing of movies. This would still require obtaining the public performance copy of a film, or it's a copyright violation. This objective doesn't say whether admittance charges would be involved.

Add Community Ed to libraries and Council on Aging regarding programming.

Goal 5, objective 5.1 Create opportunities for interaction - add Girl and Boy Scouts, Campfire, 4-H, etc.

Objective 5.2 - "support and expand the ability of residents who wish to subdivide their homes" - title V issues, add BoH. Perhaps limit to sewer district?

Objective 5.3 - retelling of early history supports diversity? Maybe if we had a Native American population. And this should be in the schools.

Goal 6 - 6.1, bullet 3, Implement not support, Morrison Committee plan.

6.3, bullet 8 - Support improvements in water supply infrastructure? Most of the town is AWD -how will this be implemented?

6.3, bullet 9. Delete. Several of the CWRMP recommendations for sewer expansion based on unfortunately "broad-brushed" data.

Objective 7.1 - Add "educate the public as to the functions of various town hall departments, and appropriate interactions with staff". (Such as, it is inappropriate to argue with a department secretary regarding a legal notice...)

Objective 7.2 - we had theatres and they were not economically viable. We are very restaurant-rich, particularly with those noted in 4th footnote. Please reconsider these. I'd love a health foods market, personally.