

**ARTICLE \_\_\_\_\_**  
(Majority vote)

**ACTON 2020 COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN  
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following Goals and Objectives of the Acton 2020 Comprehensive Community Plan (Master Plan):



**Comprehensive Community Plan  
Goals and Objectives:**

The Acton 2020 Plan is based on seven major goals that were developed through listening to nearly 2000 residents. Care has been taken to weave all of them together in a well thought out Implementation Plan. Many of the recommended action steps serve multiple goals. For example, vital centers like the future Kelley’s Corner permit more sustainable transportation to be effective, they provide the kinds of gathering places Actonians have asked for, they serve the goal of diversity and inclusion by increasing the stock of less expensive housing, and as analysis of the Plan Roadmap shows, they promote fiscal stability.

**GOAL 1: Preserve and Enhance Town Character**

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

Objective 1.1: Strengthen tools to manage growth pro-actively.

Objective 1.2: Preserve and enhance village centers.

Objective 1.3: Preserve rural characteristics and open space.

Objective 1.4: Preserve historic buildings and landscapes.

Objective 1.5: Foster an understanding and appreciation for what makes Acton unique, including its history.

**GOAL 2: Ensure Environmental Sustainability**

**As Acton residents, we recognize that our health and well-being depend on protecting the web of life of which we are a part. Therefore, it is vital that we live and work here in a manner that supports that web and the well-being of people everywhere, including future Acton citizens.**

Objective 2.1: Protect the quality and quantity of Acton's water.

Objective 2.2: Reduce waste and the accumulation of toxins.

Objective 2.3: Reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Objective 2.4: Move toward patterns of land use and land protection that support broad biodiversity, soil preservation, and healthy local agriculture.

### **GOAL 3: Improve Connections**

**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 3.1: Make walking and biking easier and safer.

Objective 3.2: Improve transportation around town.

Objective 3.3: Promote communication among town government, citizens, schools, and the business community.

Objective 3.4: Support and strengthen neighborhoods.

### **GOAL 4: Provide More Opportunities for Community Gathering and Recreation**

**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, and we aim to provide recreational opportunities for all ages.**

Objective 4.1: Provide a community facility large enough to accommodate a variety of uses and a wide range of programming.

Objective 4.2: Provide more playgrounds, fields for team sports, parks, and conservation lands.

Objective 4.3: Create new gathering spaces and make better use of existing ones.

Objective 4.4: Support additional cultural activities.

### **GOAL 5: Support Inclusion and Diversity**

**Our community values our diversity in all of its forms. We welcome citizens of all ages, socio-economic, cultural, and racial/ethnic backgrounds. We strive to foster respect and appreciation, promote interaction, and actively encourage a wide variety of individuals to live, work, and play in Acton.**

Objective 5.1: Support residents of all ages.

Objective 5.2: Support households of all income levels.

Objective 5.3: Embrace cultural diversity.

Objective 5.4: Support citizens with disabilities in participating fully in the life of the community.

### **GOAL 6: Preserve and Enhance Town-Owned Assets & Services**

**We value our Town assets and wish to preserve and enhance them. These include our open spaces, schools, municipal properties and facilities.**

Objective 6.1: Protect Town-owned open space.

Objective 6.2: Support excellence in schools.

Objective 6.3: Manage the Town's facilities efficiently.

Objective 6.4: Provide high quality services that are responsive to community needs.

Objective 6.5: Provide excellent public health and safety services.

### **GOAL 7: Maintain and Improve the Financial Well-Being of the Town**

**We believe it is critical for us to sustain and strengthen our town's financial well-being. This includes commercial and economic development that reflects the long-term goals of both businesses and residents of the community. This also includes promoting vigilance in controlling town expenses and continual evaluation of the balance between reasonable taxation and providing quality town services.**

Objective 7.1: Promote fiscal responsibility.

Objective 7.2: Promote economic development that supports other Acton 2020 planning goals.

Objective 7.3: Improve existing commercial areas.

Objective 7.4: Support the ability of all residents to stay in Acton for a lifetime.

## **SUMMARY**

The Acton 2020 Comprehensive Community Plan represents the culmination of several years of hard work, including thousands of volunteer hours, and most importantly thousands of community

members providing valuable inspiration, ideas, and feedback. As Acton residents, we all cherish our town for its beautiful landscapes, strong community values, and excellent schools. Much of the input we gathered focused on retaining and strengthening these assets as well as a general desire for an increased sense of community. In addition, there was also concern expressed regarding the future resilience of the town both financially and environmentally. As Acton 2020 committee members, we believe the Comprehensive Community Plan responds effectively to these desires and concerns and creates a path to making Acton an even better place to live.

The seven goals and corresponding objectives listed above serve as the foundation to the Comprehensive Community Plan and if approved, will serve as a guide to Acton planning policy for many years in the future. Underpinning these goals and objectives are many detailed strategies and action steps, some of which form a “roadmap” for Acton’s future in terms of how it manages any future growth and development. This roadmap focuses on three key areas: guiding growth to Kelley’s Corner and other centers; protecting and acquiring open space; and promoting employment-oriented economic development. It also focuses on helping to encourage empty-nesters and seniors to stay in Acton as well as building up a town center that can be a vibrant, walkable, community-gathering place. View the Plan at [www.acton2020.info](http://www.acton2020.info).

A vote to approve the above-cited goals and objectives sets the direction of the town; however, many of the strategies and action steps—including those that would put key elements of the roadmap in place such as zoning changes—will require further research as well as subsequent town meeting approval before they are implemented.

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Selectman assigned: –

**Board of Selectmen:**  
**Finance Committee:**  
**Planning Board:**