

Town of South Kingstown Rhode Island

Comprehensive Community Plan

July 1992

(Amended through 12/8/08)



Submitted to:

Town Council
Town of South Kingstown
180 High Street
Wakefield, Rhode Island

*Approved by the
State of Rhode Island:*

March 11, 1996

Prepared by:

Town of South Kingstown
Planning Department

TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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SOUTH KINGSTOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

- I. GOALS AND POLICIES ELEMENT**
- II. LAND USE ELEMENT**
- III. HOUSING ELEMENT**
- IV. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT**
- V. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT**
- VI. SERVICES AND FACILITIES ELEMENT**
- VII. OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ELEMENT**
- VIII. CIRCULATION ELEMENT**
- IX. IMPLEMENTATION ELEMENT**

ADDENDA

Technical Appendices*

* Technical Appendices are in a separate document.

SOUTH KINGSTOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

LIST OF MAPS

II. LAND USE ELEMENT

- Map 2.1 Existing Land Use - 1990
- Map 2.2 Vacant Developable Land
- Map 2.3 Land Use Plan Map - 1999
- Map 2.4 Wakefield Detail - Land Use Plan Map - 1999
- Map 2.5 Kingston Detail - Land Use Plan Map - 1999
- Map 2.6 Kingstown Road Special Management District - 1999

V. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

- Map 5.1 Wetlands
- Map 5.2 Watersheds and Subwatersheds
- Map 5.3 Critical and Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Map 5.4 Cultural Resources
- Map 5.5 Agricultural Resources

VI. SERVICES AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

- Map 6.1 Public Facilities
- Map 6.2 Sewer Service Areas
- Map 6.3 Water Service Areas

VII. OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ELEMENT

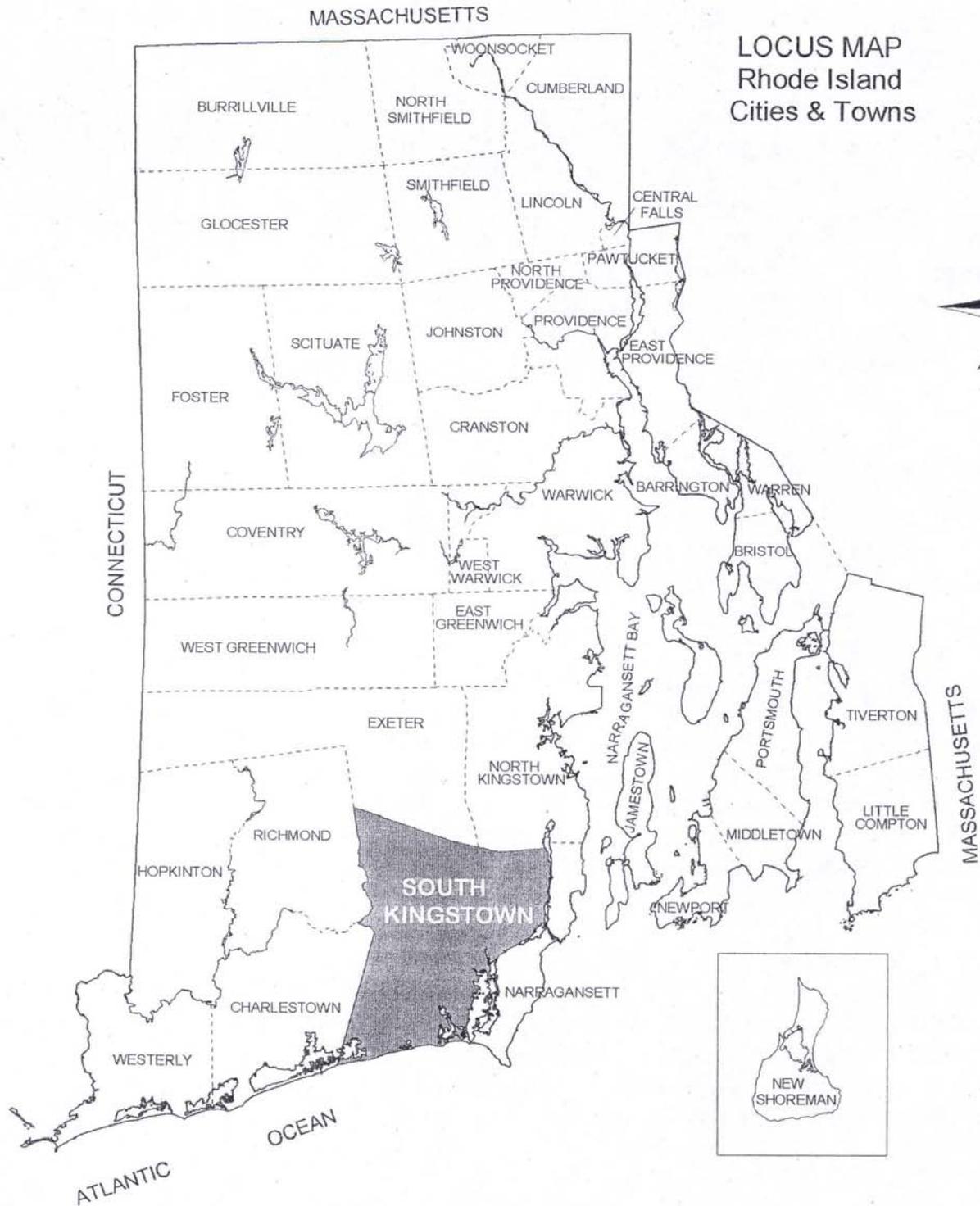
- Map 7.1 Open Space and Recreation System

ADDENDA

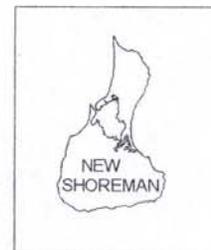
- Map 2.7 Route 1 Special Management District**
- Map 2.8 Route 1 Special Management District, Conceptual
Design of Development**
- Map 2.3 Land Use Map – 1999 (Revised 4/02)**
- Map 2.6 Kingstown Road Special Management District - 1999
(Revised 4/02)**

TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN

LOCUS MAP



LOCUS MAP
Rhode Island
Cities & Towns



**SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RHODE ISLAND
COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN
1992**

A. Introduction

The Comprehensive Plan is a planning document which is designed to guide the future growth and development of the Town of South Kingstown.

The Plan has both long and short-range goals and objectives designed to be implemented by the Town. More immediate and detailed policies are designed to be implemented within a five year period. Longer range goals are based on a 20-year vision of what the Town character and development pattern should be. In order to maintain its validity, the Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act requires the Plan to be updated at least once every five (5) years.

B. Purpose of the Comprehensive Plan

The purpose of this comprehensive plan is twofold: to bring South Kingstown's 1986 Comprehensive Plan into conformance with new State requirements and to update the Town's existing Comprehensive Plan.

In 1988 the State of Rhode Island adopted Title 45, Chapter 22.2 of the Rhode Island State Laws, known as the "Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act", hereafter referred to as "the Act". The Act requires that all comprehensive plans in the State of Rhode Island be brought into conformance with its provisions by December 31, 1991. Thus, South Kingstown was required to review its Comprehensive Plan and make the necessary revisions and amendments. At the same time, these revisions and amendments serve to update the data, policies, and implementation strategies of the Town's 1986_ Comprehensive Plan.

C. Adoption Procedure

According to the provisions of the Act, the South Kingstown Planning Board has sole responsibility for preparation of the Town's comprehensive plan. The Planning Board was assisted in this preparation by the Town's Planning Department and their consultant Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. (LBA).

in order to ensure citizen participation, the Act specifies that the Planning Board may adopt the Plan only after soliciting and considering public input. Section 45-22.2-8(b) of the Act states:

In order to encourage citizen participation in the comprehensive planning process, Planning Boards ... are directed to adopt comprehensive plans only after soliciting and considering public input.

Public input was sought via the creation of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) as a citizen's advisory committee to the Planning Board. The original process for selection of the CPAC started with the publication of a newspaper advertisement in October 1989 requesting any citizen who wished to serve on CPAC to submit an application. The Town received approximately 63 applications, which were initially screened by the Planning Board. The goal was to select a committee which was truly representative of the Town as a whole, with as much diversity as possible. This diversity was based on age, sex, race, income, background, education, and geographic location in the Town. From the Planning Board's recommendation, the Council made several revisions to ensure as broad a mix as possible, and an initial Committee of 27 citizens was appointed, plus an additional 11 representatives from Town boards and commissions, making it one of the largest such Committees in the State. It is important to note that those applicants who were not appointed to CPAC by the Council were sent a letter inviting them to serve as nonvoting alternates. As time went on, some members resigned or decided not to participate and the Council appointed 9 additional members from among those citizens who had expressed an interest and who had attended CPAC meetings on their own. The total number of CPAC appointments is 47. See Technical Appendix I.A1.0 for a list of all CPAC members.

Numerous meetings were held by CPAC during the period 1989-1991, resulting in the preparation of a preliminary draft Plan in May 1991 and a final draft in September 1991. Two public informational workshops were held on the draft Plan by the Planning Board on September 26 and October 29, 1991. After more revisions had been made based on public comments, the Planning Board held a public hearing on the Plan on November 19, 1991. The Board adopted the Plan on December 17, 1991.

The Town Council held a public hearing on the Plan on March 2, 1992. Numerous comments were received from local citizens and organizations at that hearing, and the Council made further extensive revisions. After a work session with the Planning-Board the revised Plan was made available for public review and comment. A second public hearing was held by the Council on July 16, 1992. The South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan was officially adopted by the Town Council on July 27, 1992.

Copies of all CPAC and Planning Board minutes, and relevant correspondence are included in Technical Appendix I.2.0.

D. Public Opinion Survey

A consultant for the Town, Greg Lessne, Ph.D., conducted a public opinion survey for the South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of the survey was to collect information to use in developing a new comprehensive plan. A questionnaire was developed and mailed to all registered voters during July of 1990. The total sample was 3,403, an approximate 30 percent response from the 11,000 surveys mailed. The format of the questionnaire was close-ended questions, with one final open-ended question, which provided the residents an opportunity to discuss their "greatest concerns ... for the future of South Kingstown." A total of 55 percent, or 1890 persons, of the total respondents answered the open-ended question.

A final report was prepared and submitted to the Town (see Technical Appendix II.A4.0). In addition, a computer printout to provide greater detail was submitted, and it is available from the Planning Department.

E. Organization of the Comprehensive Plan Document

In accordance with the provisions of the Act and with the Handbook on the Local Comprehensive Plan- (Division of Planning, June 1989) the South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan contains the following elements:

<u>Element I</u>	Goals and Policies Statement
<u>Element II</u>	Land Use Element
<u>Element III</u>	Housing Element
<u>Element IV</u>	Economic Development Element
<u>Element V</u>	Natural and Cultural Resources Element
<u>Element VI</u>	Services and Facilities Element
<u>Element VII</u>	Open Space and Recreation Element
<u>Element VIII</u>	Circulation Element
<u>Element IX</u>	Implementation Element