

Town of South Kingstown Comprehensive Community Plan Five-Year Update*

Consulting Services provided by:

**Edwards and Kelcey
95 Cedar Street
Providence RI 02903**

Submitted to:

**Town Council
Planning Board
Town of South Kingstown
180 High Street
Wakefield, RI**

May 2005

(Approved by the State of Rhode Island, June 20, 2005)

*(Includes the "South Kingstown Affordable Housing Production Plan" prepared with consulting services provided by Sokoloff and Associates, 101A Dyer Avenue, Providence, RI)

**South Kingstown, Rhode Island
Comprehensive Community Plan
Five Year Update**

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Introduction

Elements of the Plan

The Town of South Kingstown last updated its Comprehensive Community Plan in July 1992 with approval by the State of Rhode Island on March 11, 1996. The Town of South Kingstown has routinely amended the Comprehensive Community Plan as warranted. This update has been prepared in accordance with the Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act including Part VII: Local Maintenance of the Comprehensive Plan (adopted by the State Planning Council on May 22, 2000).

This update includes the following elements mandated by state regulation:

- Land Use
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Natural and Cultural Resources
- Services and Facilities
- Open Space and Recreation
- Circulation

For this update, the Town of South Kingstown has added an eighth element to address the importance of the University of Rhode Island to the Town. The Goals and Objectives element has been incorporated into the discussion for each of the elements addressed above.

Format of the 2004 Update

The Town of South Kingstown recognizes the success of the Comprehensive Community Plan completed in 1992. That document included extensive data gathering for each of the elements identified above. The 1992 plan remains a component of this Community Comprehensive Plan Update by reference. People looking for detailed information on the community are directed to that document for further data.

The 1992 plan reflected an exhaustive community participation process which included the input of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee and public meetings. The Town of South Kingstown Planning Board has sole responsibility for the update of this Community Plan. This update was prepared under their direction, with technical assistance from the South Kingstown Planning Department staff and by Planning Consultants Edwards and Kelcey. Public participation included a survey distributed to registered voters and a two-day planning visioning process, described below. A joint public hearing held by the Town Council and Planning Board on March 29, 2004 also provided a public forum for review of the update.

This Comprehensive Community Plan Update has been prepared to be a user-friendly document that presents data in a concise and understandable fashion without a redundant discussion of issues that could result in conflicts in interpretation. Each element includes the following:

- Introduction
- Town achievements in the past decade in meeting the goals and objectives of the 1992 plan
- Survey findings



- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of each element to the Town's future, as discussed during the two-day Visioning process
- Vision-this is a statement defining the overall image and generalized goal the community would like to see for each plan element.
- Goals
- Policies
- Implementation Measures

Based on discussions with Town department heads, input from the Planning Board and community input through both the survey and the two-day Visioning Process, key issues for the community remain the same in 2003 as they were in 1992. The Town of South Kingstown remains focused on managing growth, protecting its natural resources and establishing a regulatory environment that encourages economic development, employment opportunities and production of housing for our diverse population. The Town has made key strides in these areas over the past decade and this will remain an ongoing objective through coming years. The goals, policies and implementation measures contained in this Five-Year Update are intended to replace those contained in the 1992 Plan. The 1992 Plan, as amended through December 16, 2003, is also specifically incorporated by reference into the Five-Year Update.

Survey Summary

Introduction

In February 2003, the Town of South Kingstown Planning Department mailed a 32-question survey to 19,000 registered voters in town to solicit community input for the update process. A total of 5,622 surveys were returned and analyzed. Response was an impressive 30 percent, yielding a statistically valid return. A copy of the survey is presented in Appendix 1.

The 2003 survey was designed to replicate a community survey conducted in the early 1990's in order to identify any trends within the past decade. The 2003 survey was improved by eliminating midrange and statistically ambivalent responses such as "neither agree nor disagree" or "not applicable." When comparing 1990 data, responses to the "neither agree nor disagree" category were distributed evenly into the adjacent "slightly agree" and "slightly disagree" categories. To eliminate "not applicable" responses in the 1990 survey for comparison to 2003 responses, the 1990 percent distribution was recalculated based on the distribution of remaining categories.

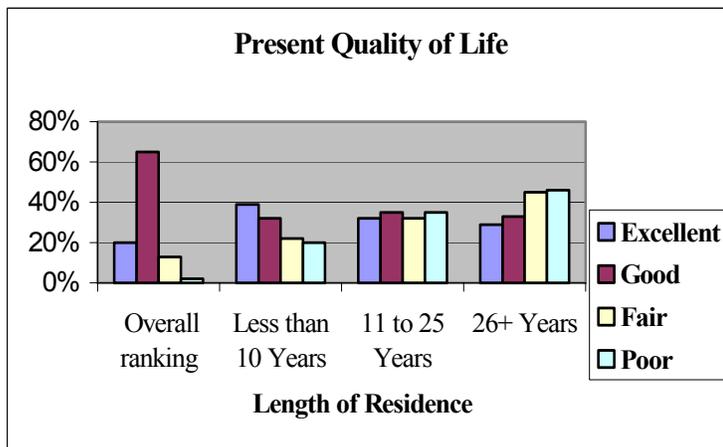
Two open-ended questions elicited a significant response. One of the benefits of an open-ended question is to generate unprompted responses. In response to the question "*Please use the space below to discuss what your greatest concerns are for the future of South Kingstown,*" 64 percent responded (compared to 55 percent in 1990). Responses to the top three concerns of each respondent were tallied against the 1990 list of concerns for comparison. In 2003 a second open-ended question was added to elaborate on the response to the question "*Looking ahead ten years to 2013, do you think that South Kingstown will be a better place to live than it is today, a worse place to live, or about the same?*" Many of the comments were addressed in the previous open-ended question.

Response was fairly evenly divided among new residents, those living in town less than 10 years (32 percent), residents living in town between 11 and 25 years (34 percent), and long-term residents who have lived in South Kingstown over 26 years (prior to 1977, 34 percent). Over 29 percent of respondents have children attending South Kingstown public schools. Of this group, 38 percent of "new" residents (10 years or less) have children in South Kingstown public schools while 42 percent of "mid term" residents

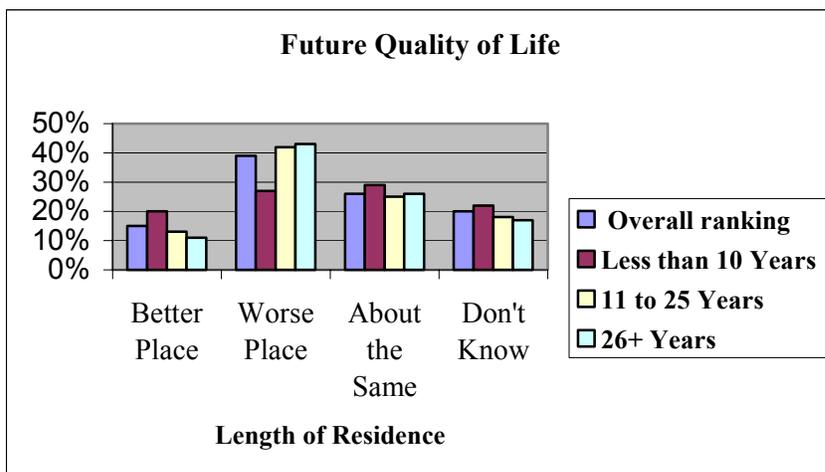
(11 to 25 years) and 21 percent of “long term” residents currently have children in the school system. (See Questions 25 and 27)

Quality of Life

The 2003 survey confirms that the majority of residents remain satisfied with the present quality of life in South Kingstown. In 2003, 65 percent of respondents felt that the quality of life was good and an additional 20 percent felt that the quality of life was excellent, as indicated in the following graphic. Upon further analysis of length of residence with this response, those living in town less than ten years were most satisfied with the quality of life, ranking it “excellent.” Those living in town between 11 and 25 years were more apt to consider South Kingstown a good place to live while “long term” residents were increasingly dissatisfied with the quality of life, with significant rankings for “fair” and “poor.” Of the “fair” and “poor” rankings, 45 percent and 46 percent, respectively, were from those who have lived here since 1977. (See Question 1)



Residents were not as optimistic about the future, indicating that many of the values important to them are in potential jeopardy. (See Question 23) When asked about the prognosis for the town in the next decade, respondents in both 1990 and 2003 expressed grave concern that South Kingstown would be a worse place in ten years. In 2003, 39 percent predicted that South Kingstown would be a worse place to live



(up from 35 percent in 1990), 27 percent responded “about the same” (down from 32 percent in 1990), 19 percent selected “don’t know,” and only 15 percent felt that South Kingstown would be a better place to live. Upon further assessment of the length of residence of the respondent, those living in town less than 10 years were more positive than those living in town longer.

Based on the responses from 1990 and 2003, several positive improvements in South Kingstown were noted for the previous decade.

Of major concern in 1990, as demonstrated in the responses to open-ended questions, were issues related to environmental preservation, pollution, and water quality. In 2003, these issues were rarely mentioned as concerns. Preservation of coastal resources and the shoreline, acquisition of additional lands for open space and conservation, and protection of drinking water therefore now all earn high marks. (See *Question 14.*)

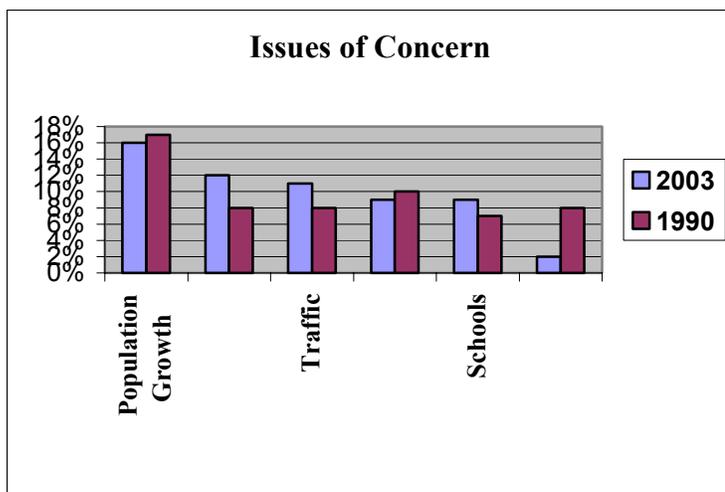
- Residents felt that the Town has succeeded in preserving coastal resources, with 15 percent more people responding affirmatively (strongly or slightly agree) in 2003 than in 1990. Those who strongly agree that the town has preserved these resources increased from 17 to 27 percent. (See *Question 6.*)
- Respondents supported the Town's efforts to protect drinking water quality. The percentage of residents who strongly agreed that the Town has protected these resources has increased from 20 to 38 percent. (See *Question 10.*)

In the 2003 survey there was a clearer mandate for the acquisition of lands for conservation and open space (89 percent) than for recreational facilities (66 percent). (See *Questions 8 and 9.*) Nearly 68 percent strongly agree that the Town needed to continue to acquire additional land for conservation and open space. In 1990, 79 percent strongly or slightly agreed that the town needed to continue to acquire land for conservation and recreational use (*Note: the 1990 survey included one question regarding conservation and recreational use while the 2003 survey asked two separate questions, one regarding conservation and open space, and one regarding recreational facilities, thereby precluding direct comparison of data.*)

Residential Growth and Development

Residential growth and traffic congestion continued to lead the concerns of the community in both 1990 and 2003. It appears that a leveling off of the growth rate to 13 percent from the 20 percent growth per decade from 1970 through 1990 may have led to more people being satisfied with the rate of growth. More people felt that the rate of growth was just right in 2003 (21 percent) than in 1990 (16 percent). However, 66 percent strongly agreed that the rate of residential development was too fast, an increase from 59 percent in 1990. (See *Questions 5, 7, 14, and 18.*)

Response to the open-ended comments enabled respondents to elaborate on the quality of life and what issues threaten this quality. In both surveys, the top issue was residential growth and development and the impact that this has had on the quality of life. A fear of becoming the next Warwick (especially a fear of becoming Bald Hill Road) or other urban/suburban communities was listed on many, many surveys. One respondent reminded us that without proper planning South Kingstown could become another Warwick and that “Warwick used to be a nice place to live, too.” Another respondent indicated that now that South Kingstown has become the “gem of Rhode Island,” residents are being priced out of the market. The lesson was that we should beware of what we wish for.





Many cited traffic congestion on Routes 1 and 138, Old Tower Hill Road, Kingstown Road, and Main Street as a concern. Over 73 percent strongly agreed that traffic on local roadways would be a problem in the future (this rate was slightly lower than in 1990). Many of the written comments eloquently demonstrated that frustration with increased volume on roadways contributes to an overall decline in the quality of life.

Affordable Housing

Although there was a clear mandate for additional low-income housing, the need for moderate-income housing was less definitive. (See *Questions 3 and 4.*) Over 61 percent agreed (either strongly or slightly) that there was inadequate low-income housing and 37 percent felt strongly that more should be available. Regarding the availability of moderate-income housing, the community was more evenly divided: 45 percent agreed that adequate moderate-income housing was available while 55 percent did not agree. Over a quarter of the respondents strongly disagreed that there was adequate affordable housing for moderate incomes. In response to a 1990 survey question, 70 percent disagreed that adequate *low and moderate*-income housing was available. (Note: the 1990 survey included one question regarding low and moderate income housing while the 2003 survey asked a separate question regarding the availability of housing for each income level, thereby precluding direct comparison of data.)

Many of the written comments focused on the need to provide affordable moderately priced housing, especially for those who grew up in town. Comments indicated that the high rate of taxes makes many homes unaffordable. One woman wrote that although she is the sixth generation of her family in town, her granddaughter's family cannot find affordable housing and will be moving out. Another indicated that the price of new construction attracts only one group, the affluent, and that therefore housing options are becoming increasingly constrained. Others responded that low-income housing should be distributed throughout town and not provided in segregated developments. Crime and safety issues were also discussed at the existing low-income housing in town.

Municipal Taxes

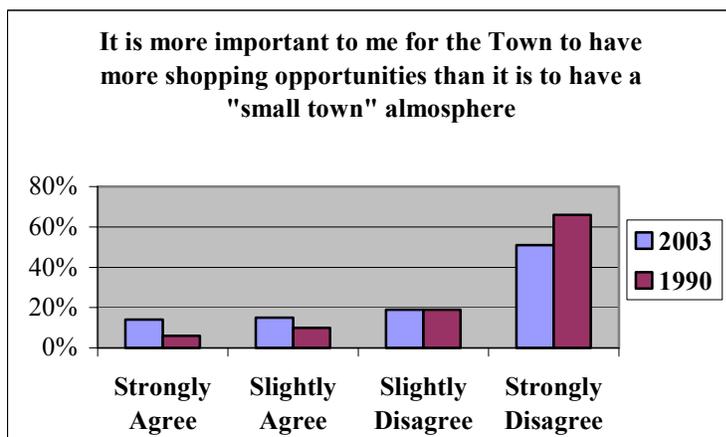
The property tax burden was a very important issue in 2003, as indicated in the Issues of Concern graphic. Many respondents cited that long term residents and retirees would no longer be able to stay in town because of taxes. The age group with the highest response to this issue was the 60 to 69 age group, followed closely by those between ages 40 to 59. This may reflect the 34 percent response from those living in town over 26 years. Others also cited that taxes are contributing to the lack of affordable housing, especially for those with moderate incomes, including those who have grown up in town. Several expressed in written comments that they are concerned that South Kingstown is becoming a less diversified community, and is becoming dominated by new residents with expensive homes and high incomes, who are willing to pay high taxes, demand more services, and commute out of town for employment. (See *Questions 14, 20, 21, and 23.*)

In 1990 people were evenly divided between those willing to pay more taxes for increased services and those not willing. This has changed dramatically in 2003. Nearly 56 percent are not willing to pay more taxes, regardless of services (up from 41 percent in 1990). Of the 29 percent willing to pay more taxes for services, 21 percent were willing to pay more for schools, 16 percent for roads and highways, and 15 percent for fire departments staffed with permanent employees, 14 percent for garbage collection, and 13 percent for police. In 1990 the priorities were for garbage collection, schools and roads followed by recreation facilities and fire.

As indicated below, many residents support diversification of the tax base with construction of commercial and light industry to broaden the tax base.

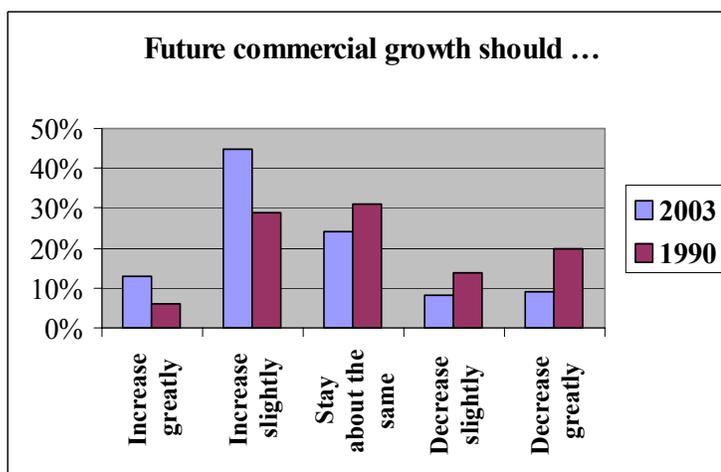
Commercial and Light Industry Development

As the demographics of the community change, it appears that an increasing portion (albeit a minority) of the community may be willing to sacrifice “small town” atmosphere for increased convenience. (See Question 13) Although 70 percent of the respondents were protective of the small town feel of the community (combining responses to “slightly disagree” and “strongly disagree”), this percentage has declined from 1990 when 85 percent indicated that they were not willing to jeopardize this quality of life issue.



Over 51 percent of respondents in 2003 strongly disagreed that it was more important for the town to have more shopping opportunities than it was to keep a “small town” atmosphere. The percentage of people favoring such development (either strongly or slightly agreeing) was nearly double compared to 1990 (increasing from 15 to 29 percent).

When informed that commercial growth may lower homeowners’ property taxes and provide more funds for Town services, 45 percent of those who responded indicated that the commercial growth rate should increase slightly (a significant increase from 29 percent in 1990), as indicated in the following graphic. Over 13 percent felt strongly that commercial development should increase (compared with 6 percent in 1990) and 24 percent felt it was about right in 2003 (31 percent were satisfied in 1990). (Note: 1990 percentages totaled 108.9%. When adjusted to reflect total 100% response, previously reported percent distributions were reduced). (See Question 19)



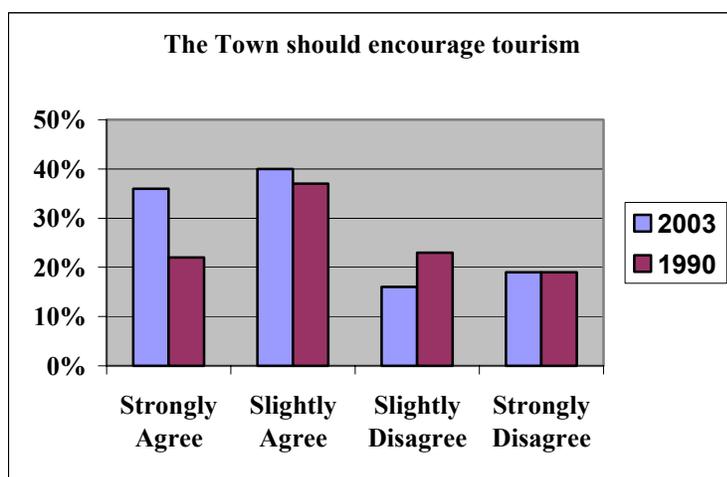
Many of the written comments focused on the character of commercial development and its role in the community. There was a distinct fear of becoming similar to Route 2 in Warwick, with national chains dominating or replacing local businesses. There also was a frustration

with residents having to take their money out of town to make purchases. The South County Commons development was cited as a disappointment with a movie theater and a chain restaurant as the first

components of the development. Others cited that increased commercial development would provide employment opportunities for local residents.

People were slightly more supportive of light industrial development in 2003 than in 1990. Over 77 percent felt that the Town should try to attract and maintain light industry. Interest in a research park was strong. Nearly 38 percent strongly favored and 35 percent slightly favored such construction, compared to 34 percent each who strongly or slightly favored such development in 1990. Nearly 40 percent would moderately or strongly favor a location in proximity to their neighborhood, a slight increase from 38 percent in 1990, although the percentage strongly favoring proximity declined less than one percent from 1990 to 2003 to 12 percent. (See Questions 1 and 15.)

A strong mandate was demonstrated to encourage tourism as a boost to the local economy.



Nearly 75 percent felt that this would benefit the community (36 percent strongly agreed and 39 percent slightly agreed). This was a dramatic increase from 1990 when 59 percent agreed that the Town should encourage the tourism industry to add to the economy and create jobs. Likewise there was a clear mandate to provide more varied employment opportunities in South Kingstown with 44 percent strongly agreeing and 38 percent slightly agreeing (an increase from 78 percent who slightly or strongly agreed with this direction in 1990). (See Questions 11 and 12)

Regarding satisfaction with current zoning regulations, 32 percent felt the regulations were just about right and 30 percent felt that they were too lenient (a decrease from 34 percent in 1990). Less than 9 percent felt they were too restrictive and 30 percent didn't know. (See Question 17.) Several of the written comments expressed frustration with the development review process and the quality of the projects.

University of Rhode Island

A new question was added to the 2003 survey to reflect the addition of a University of Rhode Island element to the updated community comprehensive plan: "What is your opinion concerning the new construction and expansion activities taking place at the University of Rhode Island?" Nearly 45 percent felt URI expansion was positive, 38 percent felt it has not affected them, and less than 18 percent felt it was negative. (See Question 22)

Overview of the Sample

The largest portion of the sample continued to be from Wakefield (35 percent) followed by Peace Dale (11 percent) and Kingston (10 percent). In 1990, 60 percent of respondents were from these three villages. In 2003, the percentage from these villages decreased 3 percent while the percentage of people who don't identify with a village increased from 5 to 7 percent. This increase, which could reflect increased subdivision development in previously rural areas, may indicate a subtle shift from residents'



sense of village affiliation to a broader, town-wide perspective with a potential erosion of the “small town” atmosphere valued by the community. (See *Question 24*.)

Increased participation by newer residents (residence under 10 years) in 2003 indicated a commitment to protect the quality of life in their town. In both 1990 and 2003 surveys, 55 percent of the respondents indicated that they had lived in South Kingstown 15 or more years with 34 percent living in town 26 or more years. Response from newer residents (less than ten years) increased in the latest survey from 29 percent to 32 percent while the response from people living in town 11 to 20 years decreased from 26 to 23 percent. A higher proportion of respondents had children in South Kingstown public schools in 2003 than in 1990 (increasing slightly from 27 percent to 29 percent). Respondents to the 2003 survey were generally older than those who responded to the previous survey. In 1990 52 percent of respondents were below the age of 50 while in 2003, 54 percent were above the age of 50. Response from those 70 years of age or more increased from 15 to 17 percent in the 2003 survey. (See *Questions 25, 27, and 28*.)

More homeowners responded to the 2003 survey than to the 1990 survey (92 percent in 2003 compared to 83 percent in 1990). More were employed, fewer were homemakers, and fewer were retired although it is significant to note that over 25 percent of respondents were retired (a slight decrease from 1990). Over 56 percent of respondents worked out of town (a significant increase from 30 percent in 1990). All income levels above \$10,000 were well represented in 2003 with 14 to 19 percent responding per category: \$10,000 to \$30,000, \$31,000 to \$50,000, \$51,000 to \$70,000, \$71,000 to \$90,000, \$91,000 to \$110,000, and over \$110,000. (See *Questions 29, 30, and 31*.)

Survey Conclusion

The high percentage of response to the survey (30 percent) is indicative of the commitment of the local community to preserving the quality of life so important to its residents. Although the Town of South Kingstown continues to feel the pressures of residential development and increased traffic, when compared to the 1990 survey, many positive strides have been made. The rate of growth remains a concern but not to the degree exhibited in the 1990 survey. Improved zoning and commitment to working with the state to improve traffic problems were recognized through this survey. Protection of coastal resources, drinking water quality, and preservation of conservation and open space were three impressive strides.

Challenges for the next decade include preserving open space, encouraging the development of affordable housing to serve the needs of our low and moderate-income residents, maintaining the diversity of the existing housing stock, and working to ensure that those who have lived in town can continue to reside in the community during their retirement years. A challenge will be to maintain the quality of public education, especially at the high school level. Development of tourism opportunities and the potential to expand commercial and light industrial development, in keeping with the quality of life in South Kingstown, will also be challenges in the decade to come.

The following quote from a survey was indicative of the level of concern and commitment local residents have to the future:

I like South Kingstown because of its mix of fishermen and college students, old and new families, and its dedication to preserving the environment and history. I like it for its beauty. My concern would be that we keep these things in mind and somehow consider it even as we search for ways to reduce/maintain current levels of taxes.

Two Day Charrette / Visioning Process

A two-day Charrette provided an open forum for public participation. The first session, held from 7:00 to 9:30 pm, Thursday, May 29, 2003 at the Curtis Corner Middle School, was entitled "South Kingstown Today." Handouts included an agenda; list of 1992 Comprehensive Community Plan Goals for each element; the Survey Summary; information on property tax distribution from 1993-1994 through 2003-2004; a copy of the PowerPoint presentation; and a 2003 Report Card of 1992 Community Comprehensive Plan Initiatives. The Thursday night session included a presentation by Edwards and Kelcey, the Town's planning consultant, summarizing survey findings and providing a common basis of information on the town for the more interactive facilitated workshops scheduled for all day Saturday. Information was presented to document changes that have occurred in town over the past decade on population, land use accomplishments, housing, tax rate, employment, open space, recreation, public services, library, and schools. This was followed with information on projections made by municipal departments for the upcoming five-year period. A question and answer session was held following the presentation. Some 35 attendees signed in at the Thursday evening session.



The second day of the visioning process, "South Kingstown Tomorrow," was scheduled from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm Saturday, May 31, 2003 at the Curtis Corner Middle School. Participants were randomly assigned to one of four workgroups for the morning Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis.



All workgroups brainstormed on town-wide issues during these sessions although participants were encouraged to address issues for all eight elements. Each workgroup had 11x17 color copies of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan: Town wide, Comprehensive Land Use Plan: Wakefield / Peace Dale Detail, Zoning, Aerial Photo, Undeveloped and Open Space, Groundwater Resources, Land Use/Land Cover, Population Density, Areas Served by Utilities, and Natural and Cultural Resources. Each group also had a large format orthophoto of the town for cartooning or identification of issue locations.

Each participant identified his or her top ten issues so that a ranking evolved. The top five strengths and weaknesses and top five opportunities and threats were printed on color-coded index cards and numbered by priority. These were then pinned to boards for each of the elements. During the Report Out session, spokespersons for each workgroup presented their ranking; and elaborated upon issues.

Following a lunch break, participants were randomly assigned to eight workgroups to address one of the eight comprehensive plan elements: Land Use, Housing, Economic Development, Natural and Cultural Resources, Open Space and Recreation, Services and Facilities, Circulation, and a new element for 2003, the University of Rhode Island. A planning staff person facilitated each group. Each workgroup used the board with ranked index cards for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats for their element. Participants were urged to refer to the 2003 Report Card of achievements. Small group discussion was encouraged. A recorder listed issues regarding where the Town should be in the coming five to ten year period. By each participant selecting his or her top five issues, a ranking evolved. During the Report Out,



a spokesperson for each group presented issues to be included in the vision. Open discussion followed each group's presentation to assure participation by all. Ranked issues or bullets became the basis, with input from the survey and accomplishments to date, for development of the vision statement for each element. The final session of the day was devoted to crafting a town-wide vision, to provide a concise statement of what the Town of South Kingstown is and where it wants to be in five to ten years. A volunteer recorded key points raised. The Saturday component of the Charrette was attended by 36 participants.

Town-wide Vision

South Kingstown will continue to be a village-based, rural tradition residential community with three primary assets: involved and proactive citizens with diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, a rich historic and prehistoric legacy, and abundant natural resources. The Town will endeavor to maintain a sustainable quality of life that limits growth based on the capacity of natural resources and public infrastructure. The Town will maintain its support of the economic engines of the community: the University of Rhode Island, tourism, locally owned small businesses, and agriculture and will embrace the needs of residents, students, and tourists in environmentally and culturally sensitive sustainable development. The Town will anticipate national, state and local fiscal constraints and will strive to maintain economic sustainability of local programs through innovative funding not solely dependent on the residential tax base. The Town recognizes the importance of protecting open space to maintain its natural and cultural resources, will encourage multimodal transportation alternatives to reduce dependence on the single occupant vehicle, will achieve excellence in the public schools, and will restrict development to appropriately scaled construction in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. The Town recognizes the strength and importance of its residents and will consider quality of life issues in its decision-making processes.

Village and Rural Qualities of South Kingstown

An Inventory and Analysis of the Village and Rural Qualities of South Kingstown was prepared by volunteers of eleven town districts and the URI Working Group on Growth Management. A report, finalized in July 16, 1998, addressed the three Central Core villages of Wakefield, Peace Dale and Kingston, summer colonies in Middlebridge, Indian Lake, Snug Harbor/East Matunuck, Matunuck, and Green Hill, together with three western/rural hamlets in Perryville/Tuckertown, West Kingston and Usequapaugh. These areas are important to recognize as they define the uniqueness of South Kingstown. The identity of these areas is especially important as the town is faced with increased development pressures and the associated propensity for "sprawl." (See Village Centers Map at end of Introduction.)

Central Core

- Wakefield is a walkable village of historic landmarks and buildings, bowered streets, and small shops, with access to walking and hiking trails, bicycle paths, sports fields, streams and fresh and salt ponds for fishing, swimming, and boating. This village includes a wide mix of landscapes, architectural styles, public access and private properties, farmlands, residences, commercial enterprises, and public services, recreational and cultural sites, historic landmarks and modern conveniences.
- Peace Dale displays the legacy of the textile mill-owning Hazard family including the various mills, community buildings and housing they established in this formerly rural setting. Today this village also includes newer neighborhoods and shops in a compact setting amenable to pedestrian accessibility.



- Kingston, an historic residential village at the north end of town, is dominated by the University of Rhode Island campus. The area still retains much of its rural atmosphere despite residential development in areas surrounding the University and growth at the URI campus. Kingston remains a center of village life for local residents with the Town library, churches, arts center, historical society, bookstore, and the Tavern Hall (meeting place for civic groups). The village also contains a post office and various commercial enterprises that provide services and goods to area residents and the campus community.

Summer Colonies

- Middlebridge, a residential area along the Narrow River, consists of a densely developed residential area originally established as a summer colony but now largely upgraded to year-round single-family homes on small lots. Low-density lots and second growth forest also dominate the scenic corridor that provides a gateway to South Kingstown along Route 1.
- Indian Lake is comprised of small lot residential development on the easterly shore of the lake surrounded by newer large-lot housing and farms, open fields and woodlands. The area does not contain any municipal buildings, commercial or institutional services.
- Snug Harbor/East Matunuck is a mix of village, rural and suburban residential areas in a scenic coastal environment containing excellent views of tidal salt marshes, Point Judith Pond and Potter Pond, the working harbor at Galilee and Jerusalem, Block Island Sound, open fields and historic stonewalls. This village area also contains a modest number and variety of commercial uses, many catering to the seasonal tourist trade and East Matunuck State Beach.
- Matunuck and the Matunuck Hills are predominantly rural areas along the south beaches and coastal ponds. The village of Matunuck is largely characterized as a summer vacation community consisting of a number of small businesses, a church/chapel and approximately 1000 summer beach homes. Small farms, large estates, historic homes, and modern residential developments surround the village. The Matunuck Hills, located north of Route 1, is a sparsely settled area of dense woods, kettle hole ponds, and habitat for rare varieties of many plant species. The Town of South Kingstown operates the Town Beach in this area. A number of other beach facilities are also present along the Matunuck shoreline both private and fee access based.
- The Green Hill Pond area is a composite of farmland and forest, with very low-density residential development, dense pond-side seasonal community, a barrier beach and newer suburban neighborhoods. Much of the area is preserved by the Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge.

Western/Rural

- Perryville/Tuckertown includes several distinct areas: Perryville, Ministerial Road, Worden's Pond, Tuckertown Road, Gravelly Hill Road and Tuckertown Village. Although all are rural, each has a unique identity and sense of place based on historic use and development patterns. Perryville remains a hamlet, with a distinct village feel while Tuckertown's park facilities now serve the community as a whole. Winding rural roads, active agricultural areas, high quality water resources, public recreation, and critical habitats on large tracts of undeveloped natural spaces and low-density development mark this portion of town.
- West Kingstown is a working village, with much of its land developed in industry, small businesses, turf farms, and increasing numbers of suburban neighborhoods. The area is dependent upon the quality of its aquifers and its prime farmland. Despite the presence of high intensity industrial uses and traffic on Route 138, West Kingstown retains the sense of a small-town village.
- Usquepaugh village, located partially in Richmond, is defined by the Queens and Usquepaugh Rivers, the post-industrial core village (with Kenyon Corn Meal Co.) and rural areas including those protected by Audubon, previous sale of development rights, or partial protection by Farm

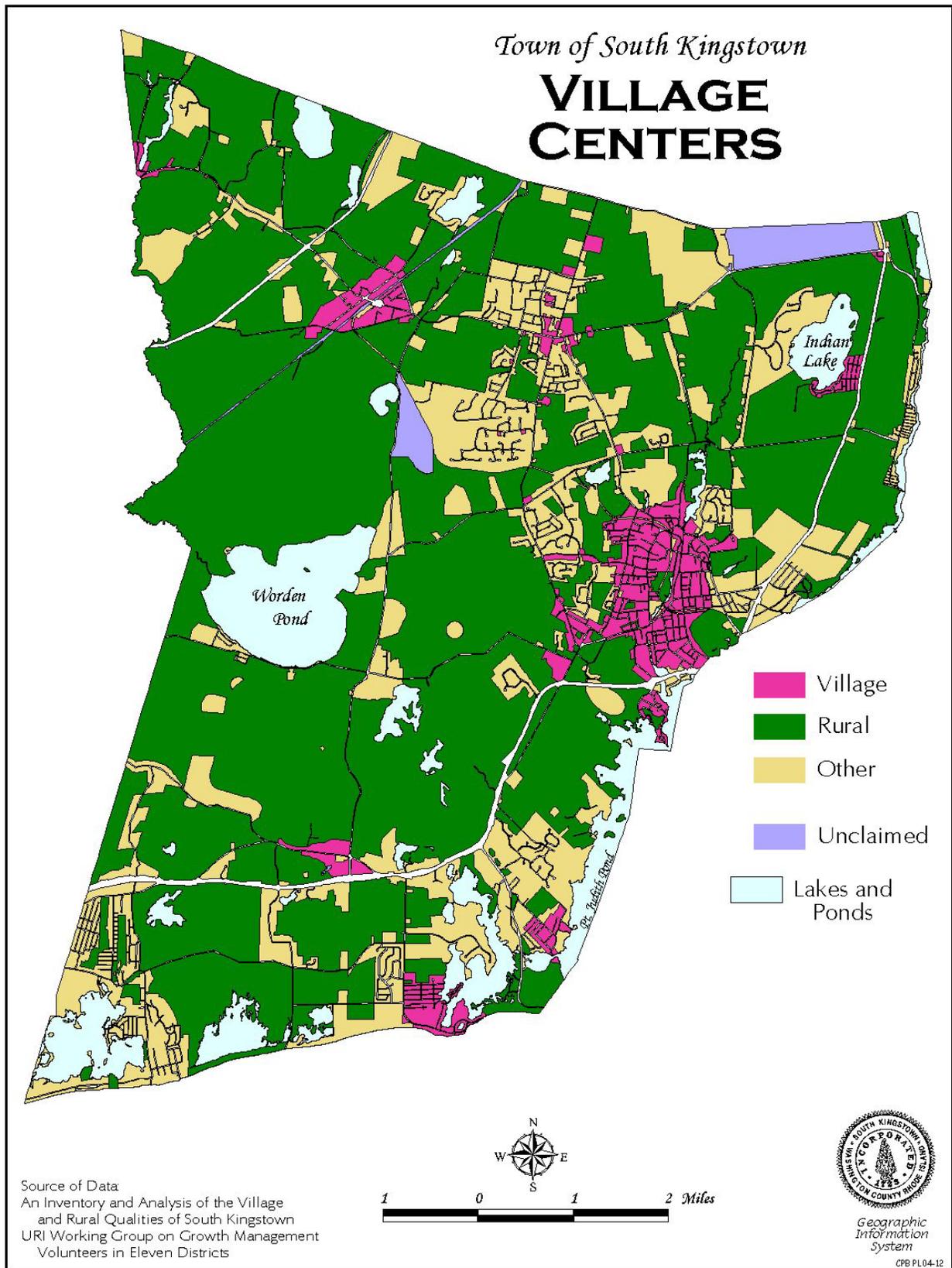


Forest, and Open Space designation. Residential plat development is increasing in this, as in other, areas of the community.

State Guide Plan Consistency

The South Kingstown Comprehensive Community Plan Update has been prepared to be directly in accordance with the State Guide Plan Overview June 2001 Update (revisions through June 2002). The following elements relevant to the Town of South Kingstown were reviewed for consistency:

- Element 121: State Land Use Policies and Plan
- Element 140: State Historical Preservation Plan
- Element 152: Ocean State Outdoors: Rhode Island's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Element 155: A Greener Path... Greenspace and Greenways for Rhode Island's Future
- Element 156: Urban and Community Forest Plan
- Element 162: Rivers Policy and Classification Plan
- Element 171: Rhode Island Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan
- Element 211: Economic Development Policies and Plan
- Element 212: Industrial Land Use Plan
- Element 421: State Housing Plan
- Element 611: Transportation 2020: Ground Transportation Plan 2001 Update
- Element 721: Water Supply Policies for Rhode Island
- Element 722: Water Supply Plan for Rhode Island
- Element 723: Water Emergency Response Plan
- Element 724: Rhode Island Drought Management Plan
- Element 731: Non-point Source Pollution Management Plan





ELEMENTS

Land Use

Land Use Element

Introduction

The village-based, village centered pattern of development in South Kingstown, particularly in Wakefield, Peace Dale, and Kingston, has defined the historic pattern of development in the community. The Town has committed to preserving and reinforcing this pattern of development through its future sewer service area map, through the Core/Periphery concept, and through the designation of special management districts. Residential development within these villages is within walking distance of small shops and services and bike paths increasingly connect open space and community facilities. Commercial infill within villages is encouraged to both protect outlying rural areas from development and to provide the range of goods and services required within walking or biking distance of village residents. The importance of providing an appropriate density of residential development within villages is critical to providing affordable housing for low and moderate incomes, including modest starter homes on small lots, two-family housing/duplexes, and multifamily apartments. Affordability is critical to providing housing for residents of diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

South Kingstown continues to be one of the most desirable South County communities, with increasing residential development pressures as residents are willing to commute longer distances for a high quality of life. Community reputation for competitively priced new residential construction, good schools, and employment opportunities, combined with access to beaches and recreation, continues to reinforce the attractiveness of South Kingstown for people moving from more urban parts of the state or relocating from out of state.

The community recognizes that the 1992 Community Comprehensive Plan was well conceived with solid goals and policies. Many impressive strides have been made in implementing the growth management mandates outlined in that plan including Development Pacing and Phasing, the Core/Periphery concept, and flexible design standards. These tools enable the town to assure that population growth is sustainable by the school system, that development is directed to village areas, and that the town is empowered to mandate designs that reflect the context of the community. An aggressive open space acquisition program has not only limited residential development but is also helping to reinforce the rural, low-density development feeling of the town. Future municipal property acquisition should also reflect the long-term needs of the community to provide sites for town facilities, open space preservation and potentially, affordable housing.

Despite impressive strides, the community remains concerned about the rate of residential and commercial development in town. Although the 1992 Community Comprehensive Plan is recognized for its strengths, some members of the community have expressed frustration because all policies and goals have not been fully implemented. Regulatory clarity is needed to assure that the updated plan can be implemented without ambiguous interpretation. Sustainable growth management, tied to infrastructure limits and constraints, will continue to be a challenge for the community within the coming decade. Zoning and land development regulations must be carefully written to avoid ambiguity or development which does not meet the Town's intended standards. These regulations must be fairly and judiciously applied to all matters presented before Town Council, the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Review, the Planning Department and the Zoning and Building Inspection Office. The town must coordinate closely with the Coastal Resources Management Council and the RI Department of Environmental Management to assure that assents and permits are consistent with the Comprehensive Community Plan and local zoning requirements. The build-out assessment must be continually reassessed to assure that projected population reflects protected open space, appropriate zoning densities, and unbuildable

properties. The Town has the opportunity to identify growth centers as a way to encourage growth in economically and environmentally sound locations.

The Town of South Kingstown is represented by a dynamic population committed to active participation in local events. Local advocacy groups and volunteers are recognized as community strengths and a viable component of the fabric of the community, fostering open debate for creative and comprehensive solutions to local issues. Improved communication between Town administration and advocacy groups will provide common knowledge on regulatory issues and also foster understanding of Town concerns for a balanced budget serving all within the community.

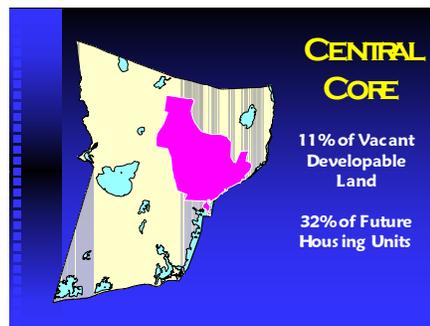
Land Use Achievements

The Town of South Kingstown has continued to meet the goal established in the 1992 comprehensive plan:

To promote orderly growth patterns based upon the natural, cultural and historic character of the Town, the land's suitability for use and the aspirations of its citizens.

Major growth management accomplishments include the following:

- ❑ A Build Out Analysis, conducted in 2001, indicated that 28 percent of the Town is buildable. Approximately 11 percent of land in the Central Core is buildable. With current zoning and assuming that no change is made in buildable land, the population of the Town could approach 48,000 at buildout, representing a 72 percent increase over the 2000 US Census of 27,921.
- ❑ Pacing and Phasing has regulated the annual number of residential building permits issued so as to not exceed the capacity of the school system.
- ❑ Annual Action Agendas have been initiated to track progress toward growth management of sustainable development.
- ❑ The Fair Share Development Fees are established each year through the Capital Improvement Program in accordance with the Subdivision Regulations and the Zoning Ordinance for educational facilities and for open space, conservation, park and recreational land
- ❑ Open Space Acquisition (see Open Space and Recreation Element)
- ❑ Preparation of the citizen's report on community character entitled "Inventory and Analysis of the Village and Rural Qualities of South Kingstown."
- ❑ Two Special Management Districts (SMDs) were created. The overall goal of the Kingstown Road SMD is to prevent the formulation of a linear commercial strip development in favor of creating a planned mixed-use center. The Route 1 SMD is intended to provide an area of economic development while preserving the scenic view shed, encouraging traditional architecture and village settlement pattern and providing a variety of residential opportunities having minimal impacts on school enrollments.
- ❑ The South Kingstown Residential Design Manual was prepared in 1999 to integrate residential design within the environmental, economic, community, recreational and town character context of the site. This document has been incorporated into the Town's Comprehensive Community Plan.



Major zoning and land development changes implemented in the past decade include:

- ❑ Compliance with 1992 Plan
- ❑ Residential Design Manual
- ❑ Adoption of residential density incentives in Flexible Design Residential Projects
- ❑ Creation of zoning for Senior Residential Communities in R40 zoning districts
- ❑ Creation of zoning for manufactured home parks for adult occupancy.

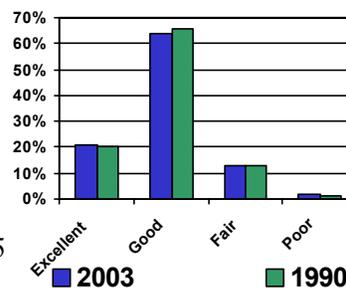
Downtown revitalization projects initiated within the past decade include:

- ❑ Downtown Wakefield Revitalization Program to develop a comprehensive strategy for the revitalization of the downtown business district and contiguous areas along Main Street in Wakefield including the Saugatucket River Walkway, Bike Path, and Intermodal Park.
- ❑ Peace Dale Revitalization Program in conjunction with Rhode Island Housing, the Community Housing Corporation of Washington County, South County Community Action, the Peace Dale Neighborhood Revitalization Steering Committee and the Town. The Program includes Phase 2 of the South County Bike Path, completion of the municipal off-street parking facility at Rodman Square, streetscape enhancements and new sidewalk and crosswalk construction.
- ❑ The Palisades Mill Reuse Study Committee is in the process of developing a plan to ensure the mill's continued preservation and to maximize its adaptive reuse as a source of employment with the continuation of its manufacturing legacy and with additional opportunities for housing, artisan, retail and office uses.

Survey Findings

The survey distributed to registered voters in 2003 included the following findings regarding Land Use:

- ❑ The majority of residents remain satisfied with the present quality of life in Town. Over 65 percent felt that that quality of life is good and an additional 20 percent felt it was excellent.
- ❑ Despite implementation of many growth management programs and a lowered percentage growth rate in the past decade, 88 percent of residents still feel that the rate of residential growth is still too fast.
- ❑ Residents remain very protective of the small town atmosphere of the community. Only 29 percent would like to see more shopping opportunities in town if it jeopardizes the small town atmosphere (this is a dramatic increase from 1990 when only 15 percent wanted more shopping in town).
- ❑ Population growth and development continue to top the list of concerns raised in open ended discussions about concerns for the future. Although commercial overdevelopment was the second most important issue raised in 1990, it had dropped to the 4th place in 2003.
- ❑ Citizens are evenly divided between those who feel that zoning is too lenient, just about right or “don’t know.” Few feel it is too restrictive.





Visioning Process – May 31, 2003

Land use issues received more discussion than any other element during the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis at the May 31, 2003 Charrette.

Strengths

A limited number of strengths were discussed by participants who focused instead on how the current plan should be implemented and what changes should be made.

- ❑ Revitalization of businesses at the Dale Carlia intersection of Old Tower Hill Road at Kingstown Road includes designs at an appropriate, pedestrian scale with façade treatment reflective of community character.
- ❑ The comprehensive planning process incorporates zoning and other local ordinances in the development review process.
- ❑ Main Street streetscape improvements and riverwalk construction bolsters civic pride and private economic development.
- ❑ Special Management District's (SMD's) allow for mixed-use development with rigorous design review on Route 1 and Route 108.
- ❑ Pacing and Phasing has been implemented by the Planning Department to manage growth, as mandated in the 1992 Community Comprehensive Plan.

Weaknesses

The following weaknesses were discussed at the May 31, 2003 Charrette:

- ❑ Concerns were expressed about the Town's effectiveness in enforcing goals and policies of the 1992 community comprehensive plan and the zoning ordinance.
- ❑ The rate of development remains a concern to many. However, growth management efforts including Pacing and Phasing and acquisition of open space have been instrumental in limiting this growth.
- ❑ The Route 1 Special Management District (SMD) is also perceived as a weakness by some because of the types of development (restaurant and theater) and because it hasn't yet built out as projected, due to a weaker than expected economy.
- ❑ With advances in ISDS technology, new residential development is being constructed in areas previously considered to be undevelopable.

Opportunities

Participants view the comprehensive plan update as an opportunity to implement the following:

- ❑ Create a more "user-friendly" text which will be more easily used as a tool by which to measure future development.
- ❑ Foster new development and revitalization of older village areas as walkable communities, with bike paths and public transit, with access to appropriately scaled mixed use commercial and office development.
- ❑ Revisit the build out analysis, to assure that projections are appropriate.
- ❑ Revise zoning to make it "inclusionary," to assure that affordable housing is available to maintain residential diversity and that local shops and offices will have a sufficient employment pool.



- ❑ Encourage residential and commercial infill development within the Core.
- ❑ Plan regionally with other Washington County communities.
- ❑ Revitalize downtown and commercial development along Old Tower Road and Kingstown Road using neo-traditional planning techniques to encourage friendly and safe development.

Threats

- ❑ The quality of life continues to be threatened by commercial sprawl, particularly on Old Tower Road and Kingstown Road. This item received significantly more attention than any other issue during the course of the Charrette.
- ❑ Participants indicated that not implementing the 1992 comprehensive plan is threatening the quality of life. There is also a feeling that zoning and land development regulations are not clear and easily understood and that this leads to ambiguity.
- ❑ There was a perception among some participants that that the 1992 comprehensive plan is weakened by not being fully implemented and enforced. There was also discussion that there are divided interests in town and that a lack of unified community vision is a threat to the Town.
- ❑ Several participants were concerned that Town build-out projections of a potential 48,000 residents may become a mandate for development rather than a planning tool around which to manage growth.

Land Use Vision

The land use element will protect and enhance the unique quality of life of this civic-minded university town whose residents reside within a dozen densely developed or rural villages and outlying areas. This quality of life will continue to be defined by and dependent upon the health of the Town's natural resources: beaches, salt ponds, and estuaries along the coast, freshwater wetlands and ponds which are habitat for threatened and endangered species, and rivers which connect upland to the ocean. The Town's native American and historic legacy will continue to enrich this quality of life, providing a prehistoric context of locations important to the Narragansett Indian cycle of life, and historic context of stone walls, historic homes and factories, and cemeteries. The Town will continue to recognize the University of Rhode Island as an asset and partner to the community for programs, economic development and employment opportunities, among others. South Kingstown will continue to be a community where people know their neighbors and treasure the close-knit, small town ambiance and expansive (protected) open spaces. The rights of individual property owners will be carefully balanced with the rights of the community to maintain this quality of life.

Land Use Goals

To promote orderly growth patterns based upon the natural, cultural and historic character of the Town, the land's suitability for use and the aspirations of its citizens.

Goal 1: To establish land use policies consistent with the Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act of 1988, and to maintain continuity, where appropriate, with the 1992 South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan.

Policy 1.1 - The Town endorses the use of good comprehensive planning and its implementation as a means to preserve its diverse landscape and remaining rural character, to balance the diverse needs of its citizens, and to implement its land use policies.



Policy 1.2 - The Town recognizes the need to establish procedures to ensure that the goals of each element of this Plan are implemented and that any modification is evaluated for its conformity with the Plan.

- The Town shall establish a procedure for assuring that policies and goals for each comprehensive plan element are implemented.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department.

Policy 1.3 - The Town recognizes that the Zoning Ordinance must conform to the provisions and intent of the 2004 Comprehensive Plan Update.

Policy 1.4 - The Town recognizes that any proposed zone change that does not conform to the Comprehensive Plan shall require a formal amendment to the 2004 Plan, including a public hearing on the change.

- The Town shall amend the comprehensive plan to reflect any zone changes.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board.

Policy 1.5 – The Town recognizes that regulations governing the development review process should be written in a straightforward manner utilizing unambiguous language. This approach will make these regulations more understandable to the general public and easier to administer.

- The South Kingstown Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision and Land Development Regulations and the Residential Design Manual standards shall be reviewed and revised to improve implementation and to avoid ambiguity.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department.

Policy 1.6 – The Town recognizes the importance of regional planning with adjacent communities and with other Washington County communities.

- The Town supports the Washington County Regional Planning Council process and will continue to participate in this endeavor.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department.

Policy 1.7 – The University of Rhode Island is recognized as a planning partner with the Town of South Kingstown.

- The Director of Planning will continue to coordinate with the University of Rhode Island regarding projects of mutual concern or impact.

Responsible Party: Planning Department.

Goal 2: To maintain a sustainable rate of population growth which is consistent with the ability of the Town to provide essential services, to achieve a stable tax rate, and to protect environmental, historic and cultural resources.

Policy 2.1 - The Town realizes that the fiscal, as well as the environmental and social impacts of new developments must be considered in the development review process.



Policy 2.2 - The Town will continue to require landowners, builders and developers to address the cumulative impacts of the use, or proposed use, of their properties on the community. Each must pay his/her fair share of the community impact of the proposed use. Such impacts include, but are not limited to, water supply and sewage disposal, groundwater protection, traffic flow, provision of recreation and open space areas, and support of required Town services.

Policy 2.3 - The Town will adopt regulations and ordinances that will minimize any adverse impacts from any proposed use of land. It is especially important that all landowners, contractors, builders, and developers consider the effect of any and all land use development under their jurisdiction on all elements of the community. They will be responsible for explaining their proposals and plans in an appropriate forum provided by the Town.

- The Town may require that significant new subdivisions be phased over a specified time frame to control the rapid influx of new residential construction.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Planning Board

Policy 2.4- The Town will continue to relate the rate of commercial growth to the rate of population growth in its growth management programs in order to achieve stability to its tax rate and to provide necessary public services and facilities, while at the same time avoiding overdevelopment of commercial land uses which may alter the character of the Town.

Policy 2.5- The Town recognizes that Build Out Analyses should be conducted every ten years to ascertain trends and to determine the success of growth management strategies.

- The Town shall continue to annually review its population projections, building permit data and rate of subdivision and commercial development in an attempt to balance significant increases in population or high rates of residential or commercial construction with concomitant restrictions on growth rates based on the capacity of the public school system or other critical Town capacities.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager, Planning Department, Planning Board

- A Build Out Analysis shall be conducted within ten years of the prior study. It is recognized that this is a tool to enable the Town to track its success in implementing growth management strategies and is not a self-fulfilling prophecy for development.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board

Policy 2.6 - The Town shall continue to work to provide opportunities for the production of affordable housing to maintain residential diversity and to assure that local shops and offices will have a sufficient employment pool.

- The Town shall implement inclusionary zoning in accordance with the recommendations of the Affordable Housing Study.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board

Goal 3: To promote and require high standards of development to preserve and enhance the quality of life, to encourage a sense of community, and to protect the natural resources of the Town.

Policy 3.1 - The Town realizes that its rural, small-town character and natural resources must be



protected and enhanced through appropriate land use regulations, design guidelines, environmental protection, site planning and landscaping regulations.

Policy 3.2 - The Town will encourage landscape diversity that creates identity and a sense of place, fosters the creation of distinct neighborhoods and villages, and recognizes the natural features of the land.

Policy 3.3 - The Town discourages future residential growth which contributes to monotonous suburban-style subdivisions and encourages a high quality of design in creation of new neighborhoods. The process of growth must be directed toward the creation of communities and directed away from urban sprawl.

Policy 3.4 - The Town is opposed to the new construction or expansion of existing commercial uses which contribute to strip highway commercial development patterns along major roads, or which are characterized by suburban-type shopping centers dominated by parking lots.

Policy 3.5 - The Town discourages the creation of multiple driveways along the frontage of existing public streets in such a way as to create traffic safety hazards and contribute to visual degradation of scenic roadside areas.

- The Town shall permit the conversion of private streets to public streets for the purposes of maintenance according to an explicit road acceptance policy as adopted by the Town Council. In particular, lots created outside the subdivision process (so-called hockey stick lots) must be replatted and approved by the Planning Board in accordance with the Subdivision Regulations. Prior to any Town acceptance of such private streets, including those in residential compounds or in minor subdivisions, the Planning Board shall first be required to review and approve the replating of these streets and lots in conformity with standards contained in the Subdivision Regulations. The Town's policy is not to extend road maintenance services to these areas as they are presently platted.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Department of Public Services

Policy 3.6 –The Town will work with the Coastal Resources Management Council and RI Department of Environmental Management to ensure that, to the extent permitted under the RI General Laws and regulations governing those agencies, assents and permits will be consistent with the community comprehensive plan and local zoning requirements.

- To preserve the quality of natural resources, the Town reserves the right, as permitted by applicable State law, to require more stringent standards than the minimum standards applied by the Coastal Resources Management Council and RI Department of Environmental Management in their assent and permitting processes.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board

Policy 3.7 –In accordance with Element 156 of the State Guide Plan, “RI Urban and Community Forest Plan” the Town encourages the preservation and protection of trees in the built environment by supporting policies and principles of good urban and community forestry.

Goal 4: To control urban sprawl and dispersion, to preserve the integrity of existing villages within the



Town, and to encourage diversity of the residential population.

Policy 4.1 - The Town supports a control of urban sprawl and dispersion by concentrating areas of population density in the main Town centers and by providing these areas with public transportation, services, facilities, and housing opportunities. The Town supports infill of development within the Central Core.

- The Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations shall be revised to include special provisions for Village Districts. These provisions will include regulations controlling the size, shape and location of lots and open spaces, parking, signage, yards, setbacks, street widths, landscaping and site plan review for both residential and commercial uses. Village Districts shall allow mixed uses to foster walkable communities and shall encourage infill (to direct growth from outlying rural areas of town).

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department

- The Town supports development and revitalization within older village areas as walkable communities, with bike paths and transit, with access to appropriately scaled mixed use commercial and office development.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department

Policy 4.2 - The Town believes that the distinctions between the outlying villages of Matunuck, Perryville, Usquepaugh, Snug Harbor, Middlebridge, and Green Hill and the central core area of Wakefield - Peace Dale -Kingston must not be lost by the outward expansion of residential subdivisions and/or highway-related commercial development.

- Recommendations of *An Inventory and Analysis of the Village and Rural Qualities of South Kingstown*, prepared by Volunteers in 11 Districts and the URI Working Group on Growth Management, July 16, 1998 shall be reviewed and implemented as appropriate.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department

Policy 4.3 – The Town supports the zoning recommendations of the Affordable Housing Study (Barbara Sokoloff Associates).

- Recommendations of *The South Kingstown Affordable Housing Study*, prepared by Barbara Sokoloff Associates (October 2003) for inclusionary zoning shall be implemented.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department

Policy 4.4 – The Town supports zoning amendments to encourage mixed use in village centers, especially in areas which are walkable from adjacent neighborhoods.

Policy 4.5 – The Town supports the designation of Growth Centers within the town to encourage growth in economically and environmentally sound locations.

- The Town shall identify growth centers, as recommended by the Governor’s Growth Planning Council, as a way to encourage growth in economically and environmentally sound locations. The central core and the many villages in town could be identified as growth centers under the State’s criteria.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department



Policy 4.6 – The Town supports continues revitalization of downtowns and commercial districts using neo-traditional planning techniques to encourage friendly and safe development.

- The Town shall continue to evaluate and implement appropriate revitalization strategies for downtowns of Wakefield and Peace Dale using neo-traditional planning techniques to encourage friendly and safe development. The Town shall also implement neo-traditional planning techniques in commercial districts along Old Tower Hill Road and Kingstown Road to encourage pedestrian-scale design solutions.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department

Goal 5: To encourage the involvement of all Town citizens in the comprehensive planning process.

Policy 5.1. The Town believes that improved communication between the Town Planning Department and the citizens of this community will result in better understanding of the planning process and planning issues within the Town.

- The Planning Department and Planning Board will, as part of their annual work program, evaluate and implement appropriate measures to foster better communication and information on the planning function within the Community. Such measures may include: a departmental newsletter, expanded use of the Town’s web site, development of explanatory brochures about planning procedure and outreach efforts to community groups.

Responsible Party: Town Manager, Planning Board, Planning Department.



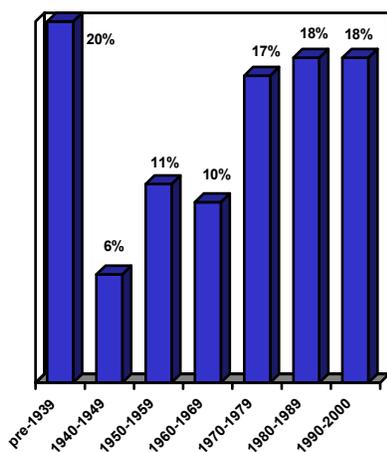
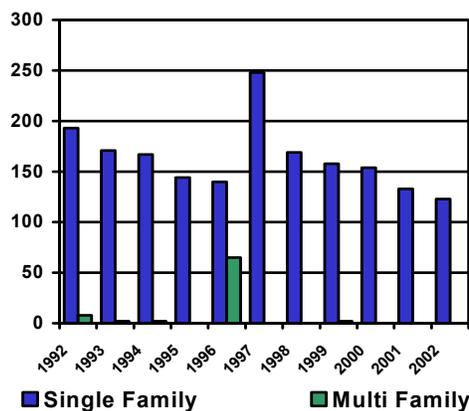
ELEMENTS

Housing

Housing Element

Introduction

South Kingstown is a community of more densely developed villages with outlying low-density development. The pattern of housing types reflects the past development of the town as a series of mill villages. Housing in each village includes structures ranging from the beautiful homes of the mill owner to historic multifamily mill-worker housing and includes newer construction and apartments. Single-family homes dominate the housing stock in the community, providing 82 percent of the housing. Of the 1,950 permits authorized for new housing between 1992 and 2002, only 113 were for multifamily construction. The annual number of single family housing permits issued has decreased from a high in 1997 of 250 permits to a low of 123 permits in 2002. In 2003, 146 single-family building permits were issued. Housing in town is an eclectic mix of historic structures; post WWII construction, and new subdivisions. According to the 2000 US Census, 64 percent of housing units were built before 1970 and 18 percent were built in the past decade (1990-2000). According to an affordable housing study prepared by Barbara Sokoloff Associates, approximately 5.1 percent of housing in town is permanently affordable to low- and moderate-income residents, below the state mandate of 10 percent. Revised figures for 2003 prepared by Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation indicate that 4.3% (485 units) of the Town's housing stock is classified as affordable.



Residential development has continued in Town at the rate mandated by the Pacing and Phasing Program. This growth management tool has successfully limited the rate of development in the last several years. Impact fees will continue to address the actual costs of providing services to new construction. New residential development has continued both within the Core and in outlying areas previously used for agriculture or woodland. As indicated in the increase in single-family permit activity for 2003 (146 permits), the market demand for large lot single-family housing construction continues. The regional trend for developers is to maximize profit through development of the largest structures, on the largest lots that the market can bear. This leaves limited options for those interested in more modest new homes which had typically been available in past decades as subdivisions of ranches, capes and split level style homes. Many of these neighborhoods, constructed in the 1960s and 1970s are

now maturing and residents are generally older (with fewer school-aged children) than in the newer subdivisions.

The residential tax burden is integral to the affordability of homes. Concerns regarding impacts on education costs continue with development of subdivisions that attract young families. According to the Capital Improvement Program, single-family homes built since 1993 generate 0.68 students per unit, compared to the town-wide average of 0.39 students per unit. The per-student expenditure in South



Kingstown was \$9,468 in 2003 (RI Department of Education, South Kingstown Capital Improvement Program). According to information from the Town Manager’s office, the Town services portion of the tax rate has remained relatively stable between 1993 and 2003 while the school portion has more than doubled. Discussion at the May 31 Charrette included the fact that an alternative source of public education funding must be sought to make housing more affordable in South Kingstown. This is a statewide challenge, and not one that can be addressed in the local comprehensive planning effort.

Housing Achievements

The Town of South Kingstown has continued its efforts to meet the goal established in the 1992 comprehensive plan:

To encourage a range of housing choices in order that the Town can continue to be home to a vital mix of people.

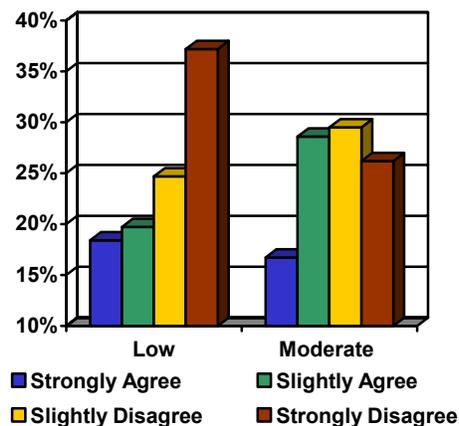
In October of 2003 Barbara Sokoloff Associates completed the “Town of South Kingstown Affordable Housing Study”. The study was accepted by the Town Council on October 14, 2003. In it’s resolution of acceptance the Town Council directed the Planning Board and Planning Department to implement the major recommendations of the study. The “Town of South Kingstown Affordable Housing Study” and Town Council Resolution accepting said report is appended to and incorporated as part of this plan element.

Survey Findings

The survey distributed to registered voters in 2003 included the following findings regarding Housing:

- ❑ There is a clear mandate for housing affordable for people of low incomes. Over 61 percent agreed (either strongly or slightly) that there was inadequate low-income housing and 37 percent felt strongly that more should be available.
- ❑ The community is more evenly divided on the availability of housing affordable for moderate incomes: 45 percent agreed that adequate moderate-income housing was available while 55 percent did not agree.
- ❑ Comments indicate that people are becoming increasingly concerned about jeopardizing the diversity of the community and becoming a bedroom community for the affluent.

Sufficient housing is available for low or moderate income



Visioning Process – May 31, 2003

At the May 31st Charrette Town residents encouraged developers to work with the community to implement the Comprehensive Plan and to attain the vision of housing set forth by Visioning participants. Many expressed the view that through cooperation and working together (Town administration, local residents, and community advocates) much can be accomplished to improve choice and affordability of housing within the community. Charrette participants also suggested that applicants for land development

permits be required to provide more detailed information regarding those persons and firms involved in their application including the names and addresses of the principals in LLC's (limited liability companies), law offices and engineering firms. It was further suggested that the required legal advertisements for such applications include this detailed information, particularly with reference to the principals of a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC).

The following summarizes key Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats for housing at the May 31, 2003 Charrette.

Strengths

- ❑ The Town's strength in housing is the fact that it is currently finalizing a plan for affordable housing, thereby implementing a major recommendation of the 1992 comprehensive plan. This plan remains in the draft stage, subject to further refinement and discussion by Town boards.



Weaknesses

- ❑ The diversity of the Town's population is diminished by not having a sufficient stock of affordable low and moderate-income housing.
- ❑ The Town lacks sufficient multi-family housing options. Between 1992 and 2002, less than 5 percent of residential building permits issues were for multi-family units.
- ❑ The Town does not have a housing foundation to set goals, monitor housing needs, and advocate for inclusionary residential zoning. Inclusionary zoning is an option that permits an applicant to build housing units with reduced dimensional requirements, provided that the development includes a certain percentage of low and moderate-income housing.
- ❑ A few feel that the state housing act is flawed and that changes must be made on the State level before the Town is held accountable for meeting State requirements.
- ❑ Some feel that there is more incentive to purchase new homes than to fix up older homes, assuming costs are equal.
- ❑ Others suggested that the Housing Authority has undeveloped land that could be utilized for construction of additional affordable housing.

Opportunities

Participants view the comprehensive plan update as an opportunity to implement the following:

- ❑ Mandate that the recommendations of the low and moderate-income housing study being completed by Barbara Sokoloff Associates be followed.
- ❑ Form a housing foundation to enable children to live in town and to maintain diversity.
- ❑ Explore potential bonding to finance affordable housing and associated public facilities.
- ❑ Research options to fund rehabilitation of existing old housing, either through grants or tax abatements.

Threats

The following threats were discussed during the SWOT analysis:

- ❑ The Town will be unable to attain the State goal of 10 percent low and moderate-income housing.



- ❑ The Town will increasingly become a bedroom community for affluent people willing to make long commutes to higher paying employment opportunities in Providence or the Boston metropolitan area.
- ❑ The Town will become increasingly desirable for out of state buyers accustomed to high property values. This will reduce the diversity of local residents' income, race, level of education, employment, etc.

The Housing Workgroup identified potential options for attaining the 10 percent affordable housing goal mandated by the state. These options include:

- ❑ Create a housing foundation or a real estate trust to build affordable housing.
- ❑ Levy a tax on residential property transfers with appropriation to benefit affordable housing.
- ❑ Convert existing large complexes such as mill building into affordable housing.
- ❑ Investigate property inventory held by municipal government or the Land Trust to determine if suitable for development of affordable housing.
- ❑ Encourage rehabilitation of “fixer-uppers” with tax credits and abatements.
- ❑ Amend the zoning ordinance to permit accessory units on existing properties for low and moderate incomes.

Housing Vision

The Town of South Kingstown will develop methods to help to establish a range of housing options for its diverse population, both as families and as housing for singles. The Town will strive to retain the diversity of our residents, one of the town's strengths, through implementation of the affordable housing study's major recommendations. Town programs and regulatory efforts will seek to provide appropriate housing opportunities within the community. Current and prospective residents will find a range of housing types available including single family homes in conservation/open space developments, older in-town housing and subdivisions, apartments above first floor commercial uses, apartment units, housing for seniors and for persons with disabilities.

Housing Goals

To encourage a range of housing choices in order that the Town can continue to be a home to a vital mix of people.

Goal 1: To keep South Kingstown a community that is home to a vital mix of people by maintaining a wide range of housing options, through a combination of innovative regulatory mechanisms, public and private initiatives, and joint public and private ventures.

Policy 1.1 - The Town supports providing housing opportunities for people of varying ages, lifestyles, and stages of the lifecycle, including: singles, couples, single parents, families, seniors citizens, the handicapped, and students.

Policy 1.2 - The Town supports providing affordable housing opportunities for people not served by the private housing market, including: a) people with no income and people on public assistance; b) people with low to moderate incomes who cannot afford to purchase a home and may have difficulty renting; and, c) moderate and middle income members of the local work force.

Policy 1.3 - The Town supports providing housing opportunities for year-round renters, first time buyers, and homeowners who need or choose to change their living arrangements due to lifecycle



and/or altered physical and financial capabilities.

Policy 1.4 - The Town supports an ongoing program of advocating and administering affordable housing through the coordinated efforts of Town officials and boards, the South Kingstown Housing Authority, community non-profit organizations, and ad-hoc citizen committees.

Policy 1.5 - The Town supports achieving a goal of maintaining long-term affordability for approximately 10 (ten) percent of the Town's housing stock.

Policy 1.6 - The Town supports designing programs that meet the needs of current residents and locally employed people, without developing preference systems that effectively discriminate against minorities.

Policy 1.7 - The Town supports the concept of open negotiations for needed housing opportunities as part of the development review process.

- The Town shall establish an Affordable Housing Collaborative and Trust Fund to increase the number of perpetually affordable housing units in Town.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department.

- The Town shall amend its land use regulations to stimulate production of needed housing opportunities by private landowners and developers by providing sufficient stock of RM and R-10 zoned land, and through such mechanisms as inclusionary zoning (i.e. mandatory provision of affordable housing, density bonuses, or off-site inclusionary exactions), removal of cost generating subdivision standards, and conversions of existing structures.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board, and the South Kingstown Housing Authority.

- The Town shall review each proposal for affordable housing in subdivisions on a case-by-case basis to determine the applicability of various improvements.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Planning Board

- The Town shall promote the development of elderly and other higher density housing where there are public sewers and water, and such safe and convenient support facilities as walkways, traffic control and public transportation.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board, and the South Kingstown Housing Authority

- The Town shall maintain a working, supportive relationship with State agencies and the non-profit, social service community to develop a comprehensive policy as it relates to its homeless population. The Town will establish and maintain support systems to facilitate the homeless person's integration into the community.

Responsible Party: Town Council and Planning Board, in conjunction with South County Community Action and South County Emergency Shelter

- The Town shall attempt to acquire or to lease below-market rate parcels of land for production of affordable units.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Town Council, Planning Department, and the Affordable Housing Foundation.



Goal 2: To accommodate needed housing in a manner consistent with South Kingstown's physical, social, and financial resources.

Policy 2.1 - The Town supports a mix affordable and market rate housing units throughout South Kingstown and the development of small-scale, scattered site affordable housing developments.

Policy 2.2 - The Town supports a combination of affordable owner-occupied and rental units, and a distribution of these affordable units among all housing types.

Policy 2.3 - The Town encourages the restoration and preservation of its historic residential, commercial and industrial buildings.

Implementation

- The Town shall identify potential sites upon which development of affordable should be encouraged, using such criteria as environmental constraints, levels of infrastructure, and existing regulatory mechanisms.

Responsible Party: Planning Department in conjunction with the Tax Assessor

- The Town shall target a desired number of types of housing units within certain price ranges and periodically evaluate the achievement of this goal.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Planning Board, and the Affordable Housing Collaborative.

- The Town shall consider amending land use regulations to allow limited residential uses in commercial zones, adaptive re-use of industrial buildings, and duplexes in more zones.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, and Planning Board

- The Town actively shall seek to achieve construction of some affordable units on Town-owned land.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, and the Affordable Housing Collaborative.

- The Town shall investigate various incentive for non-profit organizations to make some of their land holdings available for affordable housing.

Responsible Party: Planning Department and the Affordable Housing Collaborative.

- The Town shall work with developers to obtain assistance from State and federal programs for affordable housing.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Town Council, and Planning Department.

- * The Town shall implement the major recommendations of the "Town of South Kingstown Affordable Housing Study" October 2003, report prepared by Sokoloff and Associates as prioritized by the Town Council in their October 14, 2003 resolution accepting the study.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department and Affordable Housing Collaborative.



ELEMENTS

Economic Development

Economic Development Element

Introduction

South Kingstown is recognized as a predominantly residential community with a limited commercial and industrial base. Although the number of jobs in Town nearly equals the number of residents in the work force, most residents commute to jobs outside South Kingstown and significant numbers of employees commute in to Town daily. Major employers include the University of Rhode Island, American Power Conversion, South County Hospital, and the Town of South Kingstown. The residential construction sector is and remains a strong component of the local economy supporting a broad range of associated businesses. Tourism opportunities are unparalleled, capitalizing on recreation opportunities at local beaches, harbors, salt ponds, and bike paths.



Economic Development Achievements

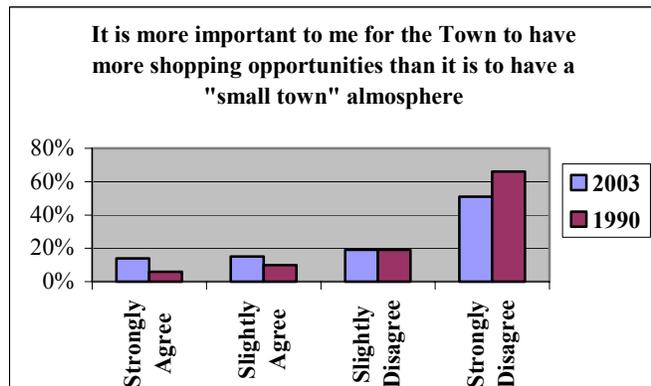
The Town of South Kingstown has continued its efforts to meet the goal established in the 1992 comprehensive plan:

To promote quality economic and employment opportunities while protecting the natural and cultural resources of the Town.

- ❑ Existing commercial waterfront zones have been supported and their conversion to noncommercial uses has been prevented.
- ❑ The viability of the West Kingston industrial park has been supported through the extension of sewers.
- ❑ The Route 1 Special Management District has been implemented with construction of South County Commons.

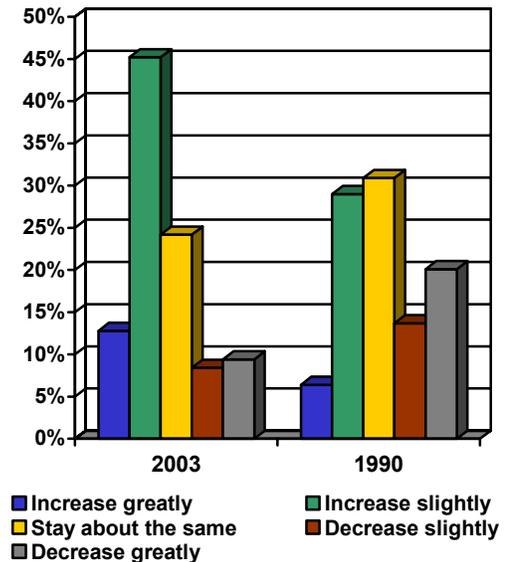
Survey Findings

- ❑ According to the survey, town residents continue to be protective of the “small town” character of the community, feeling that increased shopping opportunities could jeopardize this ambiance. Over 50 percent feel strongly that increased retail development could adversely affect the community’s charm. Although fewer people responded this strongly in 2003 compared to 1990 (66 percent), this does indicate that any increased development must be carefully planned and designed, to minimize or improve traffic conditions, and to reflect the character of South Kingstown.
- ❑ The survey indicates continued support for light industrial development, especially research and development initiatives reflecting location near the University of Rhode Island. Over 77 percent felt that the Town should try to attract and maintain light industry.



- ❑ Tourism is recognized as an important component of the local economy. In 2003, 75 percent of survey respondents agreed that the Town should encourage the tourism industry to add to the economy and create jobs.
- ❑ There is a strong demand for more varied employment opportunities in Town. Nearly 44 percent strongly agree and an additional 38 percent slightly agree with this statement.
- ❑ When informed that commercial growth may lower homeowners' property taxes and provide more funds for Town services, 45 percent of those who responded indicated that the commercial growth rate should increase slightly (a significant increase from 29 percent in 1990) and 13 percent felt strongly that commercial development should increase (compared to 6 percent in 1990).

Would you like the commercial growth rate to:



Visioning Process – May 31, 2003

Participants in the Economic Development workgroup stressed the importance of revitalizing Wakefield’s downtown to enhance the economy, celebrate the riverfront heritage, construct affordable village housing, create an identity as an Art Center, and attract tourism.

Future redevelopment of the Peace Dale Mill as a mixed-use development with residential use, small businesses, and artist lofts would return a vibrancy to this village. Potential use of old mills for apprentice programs for trade occupations could encourage development of co-op programs with high schools and URI while improving training in this segment of the economy. Participants were especially concerned with providing diverse employment options in town as a means of protecting the diversity of the local population. Participants stressed the importance of reducing dependency on the automobile by assuring that economic development is supported with multimodal transportation opportunities (sidewalks, bike paths, bus service especially to URI, and possible trolley service). Design that emphasizes the human scale, through pedestrian orientation and landscaping, would be favored over expansive parking lots fronting the street.

Economic development received much consideration at the May 31 Charrette. Workshops identified strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities threats for this element.

Strengths

- ❑ Beach-oriented economic development and tourism are recognized as a unique strength of South Kingstown.
- ❑ Revitalization of the mill in Peace Dale is recognized as both a strength and an opportunity for the community.
- ❑ The current concentration of commercial retail development in Wakefield, primarily on Old Tower Hill Road and Kingstown Road, is a strength. This diminishes demand for development outside the central core. With this concentration, revitalization efforts on one property will spawn adjacent property improvements

- ❑ The importance of URI, an emerging artist community, small businesses, fishermen, and farmers are strengths of the local economy.

Weaknesses

- ❑ There are no formal strategies to encourage more businesses to establish or expand as infill in the Core.
- ❑ The municipal tax base is too dependent upon residential land use.
- ❑ As housing opportunities become more limited, the diverse population needed to support local economic development becomes limited.



Opportunities

Participants view the Comprehensive Plan Update as an opportunity to implement the following:

- ❑ Embrace opportunity for historic district preservation for a tourism-based economy.
- ❑ Proceed with reuse plans for Palisades Mill.
- ❑ Continue with Main Street improvements.
- ❑ Plan for a stronger economy focusing on light industry and intelligence-based industry such as research and development research parks.
- ❑ Support URI research expansion and potential spin-offs, utilizing the Governor's incentives for research and development.
- ❑ Expand tourism opportunities.

Threats

- ❑ Lack of in-town commercial property available for development or expansion.

Economic Development Vision

The Town of South Kingstown will continue to value and support its business community as a source of jobs and as a means to provide the goods and services required by residents and tourists alike. The Town will continue to support shops and offices located in walkable villages. These small businesses, many of which are locally owned, help reinforce the “small town” character of South Kingstown. The charm of the seaside villages of the community will be preserved while attracting development to create appropriately scaled tourism opportunities. The Town will support current businesses and properly sized expansion of commercial and light industrial development, while protecting the quality of the Town’s finite natural and cultural resources. This may relieve the current tax burden on residential land use while providing additional tax revenue for municipal services. Future commercial and industrial development must not overwhelm the unique character of the community. Future development should take advantage of multi-modal transportation opportunities at Kingston Station while providing diverse job opportunities for local residents. Opportunities for mill reuse and infill of commercial development through expansion of existing shops





and stores, construction of new, or renovation of existing out-of-date or inadequate structures, can foster sustainability of the central core while protecting outlying “greenfields” from development pressure. Economic development initiatives intended to improve the economic quality of life for Town residents must also protect our natural and cultural resources.

Economic Development Goals

To promote quality economic and employment opportunities while protecting the natural resources and cultural values of the Town.

Goal 1: To follow a path of balanced economic growth having the following attributes: a) protection of sensitive environmental areas; b) provision of economic opportunities; c) protection of the public health, safety, and welfare; and d) stabilization of an affordable municipal tax rate.

Policy 1.1 - The Town encourages the revitalization of the central business district on old Main Street, within the Village of Peace Dale and the business district along Old Tower Road-Dale Carlia intersection- Kingstown Road in Wakefield.

- The Town will continue to support the revitalization of the Wakefield central business district and commercial districts within the Village of Peace Dale through a multifaceted program including rehabilitation programs, public and private initiatives, the use of Federal tax incentives, parking lot construction, bike path construction, development of multimodal transportation opportunities (including walking), Saugatucket River Greenway construction and construction of affordable housing.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, and Planning Board, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce

- The Town will work with URI to implement a comprehensive transportation system to commercial areas.
- The Town will encourage a formal strategy to encourage more businesses to establish or expand as infill in the Core.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, and Planning Board

Policy 1.2 – The Town encourages adaptive reuse of the Peace Dale Mill as a mixed-use development including the retention of manufacturing while providing for small business and commercial development, artisan uses and potential housing opportunities.

- The Town will evaluate and implement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the ongoing efforts of the Palisades Mill Reuse Feasibility Study Committee. *It is noted that implementation of a mixed-use development concept for the mill complex will require modification of the zoning ordinance.*

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, and Planning Board

- The Town will promote and support an emerging identity for Peace Dale as an arts center.
- Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, and Planning Board, in conjunction with community support.

Policy 1.3 - The Town recognizes the importance of diversifying the local economic base to



minimize dependence on residential tax revenue, to raise the skill level and average wage of persons working in South Kingstown, to help support a diverse population and maintain a flexible economy, which is not reliant on one type of industry.

- The Town will work with the University of Rhode Island as a resource for technical expertise to help realize the Town goals of economic development.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office and Planning Department

- The Town will encourage development of a stronger economic development plan which focuses on light industry, research/development and commercial offices.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, and Planning Board

Policy 1.4 - The Town opposes commercial strip development and supports the clustering/village concept of commercial development.

- The Town will amend the zoning ordinance to prevent commercial strip development and to foster the clustering/village concept of commercial development.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department and Planning Board

- The Town will revise the parking requirements in the Zoning Ordinance for commercial and industrial projects to avoid overpaving yet include appropriate parking ratios, and to require buffering and landscaping of parking areas.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, and Planning Board

- The Town will review and implement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the ongoing consulting study entitled: "Revisions to the South Kingstown Zoning Ordinance to Promote New Urbanism and Traditional Downtown Development and Redevelopment".

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department and Planning Board.

Policy 1.5 - The Town supports the contributions of the University of Rhode Island to the local and regional economy, e.g. research and development activities which may be related to engineering/robotics, bio-technology, plant and soil science, environmental resources, oceanography, coastal management and technology.

- The Town will work with URI to support research expansion and potential spin off of new businesses, utilizing the State of Rhode Island's incentives for research and development.

Responsible Party: Town Manager, Planning Department, and Planning Board.

Policy 1.6 - The Town supports the continued development of the intermodal transportation facility at the Kingston railroad station in an effort to encourage the use of public transportation in South Kingstown. The Kingston station is second only to Providence in frequency of Rhode Island stops. Amtrak passenger trains pass through over a dozen communities between Boston and Connecticut, with Kingston being one of only three stops.

- The Town will work with the State to market Amtrak and to increase the availability of public transportation. The Town will work with RIDOT to initiate MBTA commuter service to Kingston Station as a second phase of the South County Commuter Rail project.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, and Department of Public Services.



- The Town will identify vacant developable land suitable for industrial use with the necessary infrastructure in order to provide areas for new industry which are not located over groundwater resources or in other environmentally sensitive areas.

Responsible Party: Planning Department and Tax Assessor.

- The Town should maintain current inventory of any commercial and industrial buildings or properties that are underutilized or vacant. This inventory should be available to potential developers or business interests.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Tax Assessor, and Chamber of Commerce.

Goal 2: To manage tourism on a regional basis in South County to both encourage economic development and to preserve and to enhance its environmental, scenic, and historic resources.

Policy 2.1 - The Town will promote sound local economics by protecting the area's unique resources from developments that may cause irreversible damage.

- The Town should establish and support a network of volunteers whose work implements the plans and enhances the values the Town seeks to protect.

Responsible Party: Conservation Commission, Town Manager's Office and Planning Department

Policy 2.2 - The Town supports the creation of bikeways, walkways, and linear parkways to link South County communities.

- The Town will continue to work with the State, adjacent municipalities, and various conservation groups to promote a system of bikeways, walkways, and linear parks.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Department of Public Services.

Policy 2.3 - The Town supports the protection of historic resources, landmarks, and scenic landscapes as an important component of the tourist economy.

- The Town will continue to promote a regional approach to dealing with State agencies whose policies affect the scenic, historic, and natural resources of South County.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Chamber of Commerce.

- The Town should encourage continued cooperation among South County communities and the South County Tourism Council to support and package tourism through local meetings and workshops.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Chamber of Commerce.



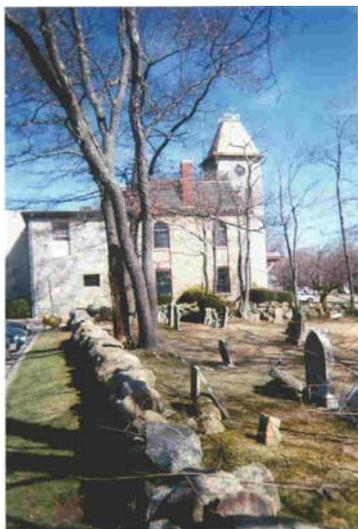
ELEMENTS

Natural and Cultural Resources

Natural and Cultural Resources Element

Introduction

Both natural and cultural resources provide the framework or context for life today in South Kingstown. The Town of South Kingstown is endowed with abundant natural resources including Block Island Sound beaches, salt ponds, and estuaries. These marine and estuarine resources benefit not just residents but attract tourists from throughout New England. These resources are augmented by freshwater marshes and open water in a series of ponds including Worden's Pond, and rivers connecting upland resource areas with the tidal estuaries. The varied landscape provides critical habitat to more threatened and endangered species than any other Rhode Island community. Scenic forests, rural farmlands, historic villages and unique summer communities complete a picture, weaving upland and wetland resources together. The Chipuxet aquifer, a sole source aquifer, provides high quality groundwater to the four public water suppliers in town and provides the source for many of the private residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial wells in town. The Chipuxet aquifer also provides water to most of the Town of Narragansett. The Town has continued to protect these resources through an aggressive open space acquisition program, funded in part by municipal bonds.



Cultural resources of South Kingstown mirror both the heritage of the Narragansett Indian tribe and the historic settlement patterns of the colonists and later industrialization. Today properties on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, stone mills, historic homes, stone walls, and a heritage of Narragansett place names help to define the cultural context of the town. A local historic district and flexible design incentives to preserve historic buildings help strengthen and protect these finite resources.

Both the 2004 Update and the 1992 Comprehensive Plan outline goals and policies for implementation to protect both natural and cultural resources. Despite these strengths, continued development may negatively impact our natural and cultural resources, many of which are irreplaceable. Development adjacent to wetlands or in areas with shallow depth to the water table has the potential to impair the quality of the sole source aquifer upon which life depends. Development also has the potential to truncate natural wildlife corridors of the many indigenous species, including those federally protected and those recognized by the RI Natural Heritage Program.

Natural and Cultural Resources Achievements

The Town of South Kingstown has continued to meet the goal established in the 1992 comprehensive plan:

To preserve, to protect and to enhance the Town's natural resources, many of which are not renewable. To preserve, to protect, and to enhance the Town's historic and cultural resources and to integrate these into planning for the future.

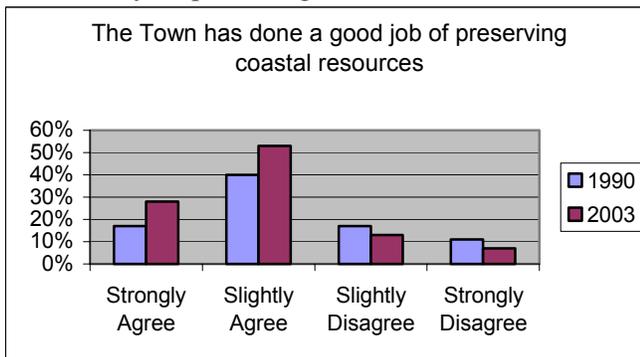
Major natural and cultural resources accomplishments include the following:

- ❑ The Town has extended sewers to industrially zoned areas of West Kingston to reduce the potential of contamination to the groundwater aquifer.
- ❑ The Kingston Historic Overlay District has been incorporated into the Zoning Ordinance to protect the character of this village.
- ❑ The Onsite Wastewater Management Ordinance has been implemented to protect groundwater quality. Priority areas have been designated in Town for ISDS inspections, beginning with the Green Hill Pond area. Programs have been initiated to encourage repair and replacement of failing systems.
- ❑ Closure of two Superfund landfills at Rose Hill and West Kingston is proceeding. Remediation of these sites will protect both ground water quality and the quality of the Saugatucket River.
- ❑ The Town has completed the Harbor Management Plan in November 1992.
- ❑ The South Kingstown Residential Design Manual was prepared in January 1999 to integrate the environmental and historic context of the site into the design process.

Survey Findings

Several questions in the survey addressed natural resources.

- ❑ Citizens overwhelmingly agree that the Town has done a good job of preserving the coastal and shoreline resources. In 2003 over 80 percent agreed with this statement (either strongly or slightly), a significant increase from 1990 when only 65 percent agreed.
- ❑ Citizens feel that the Town has done a good job of protecting the quality of drinking water. In 2003 over 82 percent agreed (including 38 percent who strongly agreed), compared to 1990 when only 56 agreed with this statement.
- ❑ The Town has made significant strides in environmental protection. In 1990 this was the 4th most important concern for the future of South Kingstown. In the 2003 survey, these concerns were rarely discussed.



Visioning Process – May 31, 2003

Natural and cultural resources received consideration at the May 31 Charrette. Workshops identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for this element. As indicated through the community survey, the character of the Town of South Kingstown has evolved in response to these resources and their protection remains a priority. One way of assuring protection is through open space acquisition (see Open Space and Recreation Element).

Although an historic overlay district has been incorporated into the zoning ordinance in Kingston, potential districts in both Peace Dale and Wakefield are unprotected. The Town should continue to work with local property owners, residents, and business operators in these areas to protect these areas and to provide appropriate development guidelines so that changes necessary for economic development support the historic heritage. Tourism may also benefit from designation of historic districts.



Threats to natural and cultural resources include potential degradation of groundwater supplies and potential draw down of the aquifer. Diversion of groundwater from one drainage basin as drinking water with return to another (out of basin transfer) via the municipal sewage treatment plant in Narragansett was identified as a threat. To assure sufficient groundwater quantity, properly functioning individual sewage disposal and stormwater management systems must be designed and maintained. The Town will work with the Coastal Resources Management Council and RI Department of Environmental Management to ensure, to the extent permitted under the RI General Laws and regulations governing those agencies, that the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Community Plan are considered in the issuance of permits and assents for projects within their jurisdiction.

Strengths

- Beautiful rural areas
- Historic districts
- Unique summer communities and historic villages
- Fabulous cultural resources
- Beautiful forests
- Strong financing program
- Established goals and policies

Weaknesses

- Inconsistent implementation of goals and policies e.g., zoning and comp plan
- Seemingly random open space acquisition
- Need to land bank for future town use
- Insufficient historic zoning projection for buildings and riverways
- Need for greater support from local businesses for historic preservation.
- Vulnerability of forest resources to development.

Opportunities

Participants view the comprehensive plan update as an opportunity to implement the following:

- To embrace opportunity for historic district preservation for tourism based economy.
- To research enabling legislation for local approvals to protect resources.
- To implement Town regulations to protect scenic stone walls
- To update the Town Tree Ordinance to encourage cooperation of the Conservation Commission and Tree Officer regarding Urban Forestry initiatives and the protection of upland woods from clearing for development.
- To reference National Historic Districts within the Zoning Ordinance to provide local, state and federal protection of these resources.
- To work closely with the RI Water Resources Board regarding regulation of water withdrawal.
- To develop public education outreach program.
- To establish a local Historic District Commission to review development throughout Town.
- To investigate potential legislative powers of the Conservation Commission.

Threats

- Water supply quality and quantity is threatened by water use allocation and potential groundwater contamination.
- Lack of control over privately-owned water supply quality (i.e., private wells or water districts, not owned by Town)



- ❑ RIDEM and CRMC permitting and assents do not necessarily reflect Town interests in protecting all natural and cultural resources in the community.
- ❑ ISDS technologies may enable construction on previously unbuildable lots, thereby potentially degrading groundwater and wetland resources.

Natural and Cultural Resources Vision

The Town will preserve and protect its natural and cultural resources, recognizing their importance to the quality of life today and in the future. The Town of South Kingstown is endowed with abundant natural resources including excellent groundwater, beaches, salt ponds, estuaries, freshwater ponds and wetland complexes, rivers and the community forest comprised of all trees in town that benefit not just residents but attract tourists from throughout New England. The Town shall continue to protect these natural resources through an aggressive open space acquisition program, through remediation of contamination and through onsite wastewater management inspections. The Town supports the preservation of scenic forests, rural farmlands, and unique coastal villages. The Town's Indian and historic legacy will continue to enrich the quality of life, providing a prehistoric context of locations important to the Narragansett Indian cycle of life. The historic legacy community, now visible in the historic context of stone walls, historic homes and factories, and cemeteries, will be protected for future generations. The Town shall continue to preserve, protect and enhance its cultural resources through local historic district overlays and flexible design incentives.

To preserve, protect, and enhance the Town's natural and cultural resources, many of which are not renewable, and to integrate these into planning for the future through the plan review and approval process.

Goal 1: To protect and to preserve the quality and quantity of the Town's potable water supply.

Policy 1.1 - The Town recognizes that most of its drinking water is from a Sole Source Aquifer and that no reasonable alternate source exists. Therefore, a Town priority is the protection of the groundwater resources. Because the ground and surface waters are interconnected, strategies must be implemented to preserve quality of ground and surface waters.

- Groundwater Protection Overlay District - The Town has adopted a groundwater protection overlay district (1991) to include the groundwater reservoirs and the recharge areas as delineated by RIDEM. The purpose of the ordinance is to protect, to preserve, and to maintain the quality and supply of groundwater in the Town of South Kingstown. This ordinance shall be monitored for its effectiveness and updated as necessary.

Responsible Party: Planning Department; Planning Board

Policy 1.2 - The Town recognizes that the supply of potable water from the aquifers is limited. The Town will work toward protecting the quantity of potable water and will link growth management plans to the amount of water available for both residential and non-residential uses. The Town shall continue to work with the RI State Water Resources Board regarding water use allocation.

- State Groundwater Legislation - The Town shall endorse State legislation to regulate groundwater withdrawal.

Responsible Party: Town Council



- The Town shall work to protect and promote the quality of groundwater supplies used by either private wells or by water districts.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Public Services Department

Policy 1.3 - The Town will give priority use to drinking water.

- The Town shall project the potable water needs of South Kingstown for the next twenty (20) years and develop a water use priority for water pumped from GAA areas to include both residential and nonresidential uses.

Responsible Party: Planning Department; Public Services Department

Policy 1.4 - The Town recognizes that a watershed management approach to resource protection and utilization is necessary. It is therefore necessary to plan on both a Town-wide and regional basis based upon watershed boundaries to coordinate resource management issues. It also means that such programs as erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, aquifer use and protection, and open space acquisition need to be planned on both a Town-wide and inter-town (regional) basis.

- Land Inventory - The Town shall continue to protect lands overlying groundwater reservoirs through its Open Space acquisition program. Groundwater protection remains a priority of that program.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Geographic Information System Division, Public Water Suppliers.

- Coordination with Water Supply Agencies - The Town shall continue to work with private water suppliers and adjacent towns to develop compatible water protection plans.

Responsible Party: Public Services Department, Planning Department, Public Water Suppliers.

- Deicing Practices - The Town shall work with the State to implement salting practices which minimize degradation of ground and surface waters in GAA watershed areas.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Planning Department, Department of Public Works.

- Public Education - The Town shall continue to integrate groundwater issues into public education programs: water conservation, household hazardous waste, septic systems, underground storage tanks (home heating fuel), pesticides, and other groundwater information.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Conservation Commission, Public Water Suppliers.

- Underground Storage Tanks (UST) - The Town shall implement ordinances on underground storage tanks to address the issues of tank monitoring strategies, tank removal, and tank prohibitions. Ordinances adopted by the Town on underground storage tanks will be consistent with CRMC goals and regulations.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board, Conservation Commission

Goal 2: To protect and to preserve both freshwater and coastal wetland resources.

Policy 2.1 - The Town will work toward protecting the integrity of the varied wetlands which serve many important ecological and economic functions. Protection efforts will be directed



toward swamps, marshes, bogs, floodplains, wet meadows, aquatic beds, beaches, and all other wetlands as defined by RIDEM Freshwater Wetlands Act, April 1998, as amended, and CRMC's Freshwater Wetlands in the Vicinity of the Coast Program, and Section 210.3 of the RICRMP. The Town will pursue both regulatory and nonregulatory options for ensuring the protection of these resources.

- To the extent permitted under applicable State law and agency regulation the Town shall work with RIDEM and CRMC to establish the regulatory right of the Town to deny and / or condition Freshwater Wetlands Permits based on compliance with the comprehensive plan.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, Conservation Commission.

- Stormwater Management - The Town shall implement recommendations of its RIPDES Phase II Stormwater Management Plan

Responsible Party: Public Services Department, Town Manager's Office, Town Council.

- Wetland Protection Ordinance

- a. The Town shall adopt a wetland protection ordinance to protect specific areas identified as critical wetland resource areas. This ordinance shall extend regulatory authority for review and approval to the Conservation Commission.

- b. The Town shall adopt a river corridor overlay protection district to protect: a) the wildlife habitat associated with the rivers; b) the scenic, rural quality associated with the rivers; and c) the water quality of the rivers.

- c. The Town shall develop a freshwater ponds and lakes management plan to address such issues as docks, public access and land use in the watershed.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board, Conservation Commission

- State Wetland Permit Tracking System - The Town shall develop a system to track the State wetland permits to identify areas of wetland disturbance and to monitor compliance with local and State approval conditions.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Conservation Commission.

- Wetlands Protection Checklist - The Town shall develop a wetlands protection checklist for development proposals. This would formalize recommendations made in the Rhode Island Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook (1989), as amended, and the RIDEM Stormwater Management Recommendations (1988), as amended. The checklist shall be used by the Conservation Commission and Planning Board to ensure a consistent wetland protection policy.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Conservation Commission, Planning Board

Policy 2.2 - The Town recognizes that the irreplaceable coastal resources need comprehensive protection. The Town will take a regional watershed approach, critical to preserving these fragile resources, to address land use, stormwater runoff, and all point and non-point source pollution. The Town will pursue management strategies consistent with the Coastal Resources Management Council's Special Area Management Plan for the Salt Ponds (1999) and the Special Area Management Plan for the Narrow River (1999).

- Special Area Management (SAM) Plans

- a. The Town shall amend the Zoning Map to reflect the recommendations of the RICRMC Narrow River SAM Plan (1999) and the Salt Ponds SAM Plan (1999),

- b. The Town shall pass a Town Council Resolution endorsing both SAM plans. Responsible



Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board.

- Harbor Management – The Town shall continue implementation of the November 1992 Harbor Management Plan

Responsible Party: Town Manager’s Office

- Barrier Beaches - The Town shall work with RICRMC to ensure the protection of undeveloped barrier beaches in South Kingstown, specifically, Green Hill, Browning, and Moonstone beaches. The Town will work to support the policies outlined in the RICRMC Coastal Resources Management Program, 1990, as amended. The Town shall work to minimize development on developed barrier beaches and to ensure that any construction is done in a way which creates the least environmental impact.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Conservation Commission.

- In the consideration of permits or other regulatory actions for projects within the CRMC Special Area Management Plans the Town will work with the agency to ensure that, to the extent feasible under State law and the SAMP Plan policies, such permits and regulatory actions are consistent with this Comprehensive Community Plan.

Responsible Party: Town Manager’s Office, Planning Department, Conservation Commission.

Policy 2.3 - The Town will work toward developing a corridor of open space throughout the Town to ensure the protection of wetlands, agricultural lands, scenic features, groundwater reservoirs and recharge areas, and wildlife habitat.

- The Town shall continue its Open Space Acquisition program to implement this policy.

Responsible Party: Planning Department

Policy 2.4- The Town supports the concept of corridor zoning to provide for a conservation zone or greenway along selected rivers within the Town, in order to both maintain the rural character of the Town and to protect river resources.

Goal 3: To protect and preserve agricultural land within the Town.

Policy 3.1 - The Town supports the preservation of farmland for farming activities. The Town supports utilizing a combination regulatory techniques (zoning) and of public and private funding resources (land trusts, easements, purchase of development rights) to achieve the necessary protection.

- The Town shall continue its preservation of agricultural through the Open Space acquisition program.
- The Town shall consider developing a farmland/open space overlay district based on prime agricultural soils, historic farm use, character of the surrounding area, and open space. Development shall be guided to appropriate areas on the property through site plan and review.
- The Town shall continue its public education program to make landowners aware of the variety of protection options and environmentally sound management practices.

Policy 3.2 - The Town recognizes that there is a significant amount of agricultural activity in



South Kingstown. There is the potential for ground and surface water degradation from fertilizers, pesticides, stormwater, and soil erosion. The Town will work with appropriate agencies to mitigate the potential contamination of the water resources from these sources.

Goal 4: To protect and to preserve other natural resource areas within the Town.

Policy 4.1 - The Town recognizes that native species of trees and forests are a major natural resource in the Town, providing abatement for noise, water, air, and land pollution. Trees also contribute to the rural character of the Town. The Town supports protection of this valuable resource.

- The Town shall inventory the indigenous habitat types (using RIGIS) and identify areas which need protection. The protection program shall be coordinated with State and conservation organization programs.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department, Conservation Commission, Tree Warden, Department of Public Works

- The Town shall implement the Rhode Island Urban and Community Forest Plan. According to this plan, South Kingstown is nearly 53 percent forested (20,700 acres in a 1988 inventory). The 2010 target is to retain 98 percent of this base. The objective is to retain/enhance canopy coverage in developed areas and practice sustainable management of large forested tracts, recognizing that land clearance and development will continue.

- The Conservation Commission shall strengthen its activities in the following areas:
 - a. Pursuing acquisition by gift, purchase, or lease of lands identified as having significant conservation value;
 - b. Management of these lands and improvement of their value for conservation or passive recreation;
 - c. Active advocacy for environmental legislation at the State and local level;
 - d. Developing public education and information programs; and,
 - e. Working with the Planning Department to develop a tracking system for approval conditions for development included in approvals to ensure compliance.

Responsible Party: Conservation Commission, Planning Department

Policy 4.2 - The Town recognizes that natural resource preservation and conservation will be realized more effectively if protection efforts are coordinated with other towns, State and Federal agencies, and private conservation groups.

- The Town shall continue to work with adjacent towns and the Washington County Regional Planning Council to develop compatible resource protection plans.
- The Town shall work with the Rhode Island Nature Conservancy, the South Kingstown and Narrow River Land Trusts, The Saugatucket River Heritage Corridor Coalition, the water suppliers, and the State to protect environmentally sensitive areas through acquisition, easements,



or purchase of development rights. Additional nonregulatory protection strategies shall be identified.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Planning Department

Policy 4.3 - The Town recognizes that a litter control program, coordinated with RIDEM, is needed to improve the aesthetics of the Town.

Goal 5: To expand the measures available for protecting cultural resources to provide maximum protection to South Kingstown's historic and prehistoric resources.

Policy 5.1 - The Town will continue to expand its inventory of: a) historic buildings and structures; and, b) historic and prehistoric archaeological sites, making sure that all aspects and periods of South Kingstown's history are identified and represented.

- The Town shall continue to encourage nominations to the National Register of individual historic buildings and districts and archaeological sites and districts, especially as resources become eligible (50 years). The Town shall consider keeping a copy of this inventory on file with a local cultural repository such as the Peace Dale Library to be available to the general public for research and reference needs. Other repositories which could be investigated include RIDOT's repository at the Woonsocket Depot.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Historic District Commission, Library Department

Policy 5.2 - The Town will expand the measures available for protecting cultural resources to provide maximum protection to South Kingstown's historic and prehistoric resources.

- The Town shall amend the Historic District Ordinance to include the elements of the current enabling legislation.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department, Historic District Commission

- The Town shall consider establishing additional historic districts in locations including, but not limited to, Usquepaug, Peace Dale, and Wakefield.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department, Historic District Commission

- The Town shall research the establishment of an ordinance requiring a waiting period where a historic building is proposed for demolition. The waiting period would permit alternatives to demolition to be fully explored before any structure is razed.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Historic District Commission.

- The Town shall consider establishment of a procedure to extend historic zoning (Historic Overlay District) to individual significant structures

Responsible Party: Town Council, Historic District Commission.

- The Town should develop a town-wide Historic District Commission to handle issues that effect any and all of South Kingstown's cultural resources.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Historic District Commission

- The Historic District Commission should have the authority to comment on alterations to all



buildings designated as historic, making recommendations for preferred treatments.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department, Historic District Commission

Policy 5.3 - The Town shall continue to protect the integrity of cultural resources, including historic buildings, structures, and landscape features and archeological sites, from adverse impacts of development activities through implementation of the South Kingstown Residential Design Manual and the Zoning Ordinance (Section 600 - Historic Overlay District).

- When cultural resources will be impacted, development or subdivision proposals shall be reviewed in consultation with a professional archaeologist or historic preservation specialist to develop an alternative plan or appropriate mitigative action. The professional archaeologist shall be hired by the Town and funded by the applicant. It is acknowledged that State and/or Federal agencies may require archaeological and historical preservation reviews; the Town will encourage coordination of such agency reviews with local requirements.

Responsible Party: Planning Department

- The Town shall use easements to protect open land, including agricultural land and areas along the shoreline, that contribute to the historic context of the Town.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Conservation Commission

- The Town shall consider developing, within the limits of state enabling legislation, appropriate ordinances and regulations to help protect features, including field patterns, coast line, stone walls, cemeteries, and signage.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board

Policy 5.4 - The Town supports the development and the promotion of the economic benefits of preservation.

- The Town shall participate in programs and utilize resources from the National Trust's Main Street Center or other available funding sources.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Town Manager's Office

- The Town shall encourage residents to qualify for state and federal investment tax credits by restoring historic buildings on the National Register of Historic Places.

Responsible Party: Planning Department

Policy 5.5 - The Town will encourage the continued use and adaptive reuse of historic buildings.

- The Town shall review the Zoning Ordinance to ensure the inclusion of measures that allow for mixed-use of existing industrial and commercial buildings in historic districts.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board.

Policy 5.6 - The Town supports educating residents, as well as visitors, to the importance of preserving cultural resources and of the intrinsic value of historic buildings and sites in South Kingstown.

- The Town shall develop a Town-wide Historic District Commission to handle issues that affect any and all of South Kingstown's cultural resources.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department.



- The Historic District Commission shall continue to develop and make available to historic home owners a how-to booklet of do-it-yourself guidelines for restoration.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Historic District Commission

- The Town shall support the Museum of Primitive Art and Culture's ongoing Public Education Program which provides outreach and enrichment units that dovetail 3rd and 5th grade curricula.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Historic District Commission

- The Town shall support the Museum of Primitive Art and Culture's distribution of guided and self-guided walking and driving tours (*The Village of Peace Dale: A Precious Legacy* and *The Indians and Colonists of South County, Rhode Island: A Driving Tour*), as well as the development of future pamphlets that highlight the cultural resources of South Kingstown.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Historic District Commission, Museum of Primitive Art and Culture.

- The Town shall support the efforts of local organizations (e.g. the Museum of Primitive Art and Culture) to sponsor monthly evening lecture series on subjects related to South Kingstown's history and historic resources in order to increase awareness among the Town's citizens. In addition to general programs, symposia are held on issues of importance to specific groups, such as small business owners, bankers, and realtors who may not be familiar with the benefits of preservation.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Historic District Commission, Museum of Primitive Art and Culture.

Policy 5.7 - The Town will encourage the preservation of agriculture and its their associated structures and landscapes in order to maintain continuity in the landscape of South Kingstown.

- The Town shall continue to promote participation in the Farm Land Preservation Act as a measure to encourage the continued maintenance of the historic landscape of South Kingstown.

Responsible Party: Planning Department

- The Town should support efforts to protect South Kingstown's coastal zone through a variety of land use strategies cited in the Natural Resources and Land Use elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

Goal 6: To preserve the unique identity of the villages of South Kingstown, as well as those cultural features that identify the Town as a whole.

Policy 6.1 - The Town will preserve the unique identity of the villages that comprise South Kingstown, as well as those cultural features that identify the Town as a whole.

- The South Kingstown Residential Design Manual shall be used to direct development according to the traditional character and patterns of the villages. Development shall be focused in and around the villages, in an effort to maintain the rural nature of outlying areas.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department.



ELEMENTS

Services and Facilities



Services and Facilities Element

Introduction

The Services and Facilities Element considers municipal services provided by the Town of South Kingstown's Department of Public Services, the Police Department, School Department, Parks and Recreation Department and Library Department. It also addresses services of private water and fire districts within Town. The ability of the Town to provide these services within the existing municipal budget is increasingly challenging, given the increase in the school budget over the past decade. Any increase in services would have fiscal implications.

In the tradition of rural communities, the Town does not provide many services taken for granted in urban areas. Part of the "small town" character of the community comes from supporting the volunteer fire districts, taking your own trash to the transfer station, and viewing the night sky without the glare of streetlights. In particular the tradition of volunteer fire companies within the Town provides the community with essential public safety services at a fraction of the cost to the taxpayers that would be incurred if the Town were to take over these functions. With increasing development and relocation of people from more metropolitan areas of the state or from out of state, there is a higher level of expectation of municipal services.

The municipal departments are directly charged with protecting the quality of life so important to the citizens of South Kingstown. The Public Services Department is responsible for sewer service and wastewater treatment at the regional plant in Narragansett, actions that positively affect the groundwater and surface water quality of sewered areas. With sewer service, higher density of development is possible than with individual sewage disposal systems (ISDS), with several growth management implications. A higher density of development (with potentially more affordable homes) is possible in sewered areas because the setback requirements between ISDS and wells can be avoided. Sewer service also has the potential to enable open space or conservation zoning where houses are built on smaller lots and a portion of the subdivision is retained for common open space with (with no net increase in the number of allowable houses). Sewer extensions also enable construction of industrial land use within critical groundwater aquifer recharge zones.

Services and Facilities Achievements

The Town of South Kingstown has continued to meet the goal established in the 1992 comprehensive plan:

To provide the Town with basic public services and facilities in a prompt and efficient manner.

Major services and facilities accomplishments during the past decade include the following:

- ❑ The former Utilities and Public Works Departments were reorganized as the Public Services Department, combining responsibilities for engineering, streets and highways, wastewater, water and solid waste in one department.
- ❑ The Onsite Wastewater Management Ordinance now requires inspections of ISDS and mandates repair or replacement of failing systems. Through the Community Septic System Loan Program



funded by the RI Clean Water Finance Agency the Town offers low-interest loans to replace failing or antiquated systems.

- ❑ Closure and remediation of the Superfund landfills on Rose Hill Road and in West Kingstown will protect groundwater and surface water from leaching chemicals.
- ❑ Stormwater management programs minimize pollution of surface waters by requiring Best Management Practices to protect the quality of receiving waters.
- ❑ Sewer service has been made available within the area designated as the Future Sewer Area and to the industrial zone in West Kingstown.
- ❑ To maintain quality water service to the Middlebridge area the Town of South Kingstown provides service through the United Water District. Beginning in 2003 the Town began wholesale purchase of water from United Water to service the South Shore Water District as a result of water quality concerns from the source wells in Green Hill.
- ❑ An emergency interconnection is in place between the Town's South Shore System and United Water via Galilee to Jerusalem (East Matunuck) and a new permanent interconnection between the systems on is planned on Route 1, a permit to allow such interconnection has been issued by CRMC. The two other water suppliers within the Town (University of Rhode Island and Kingston Water District) have been interconnected for many years.
- ❑ The transfer station has been privatized.
- ❑ Construction of the Curtis Corner Playfields has been completed and the Broad Rock Playfields are scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2004.
- ❑ The Neighborhood Guild, Peace Dale Office Building and Stepping Stones Pre-school have been renovated.
- ❑ The library renovation program was completed for all three libraries in 1995.
- ❑ Library circulation and holdings are up significantly and programming activities have been initiated to meet the needs of the Town for Internet, audiovisual material, and computer use.
- ❑ Construction of the Broad Rock Middle School was completed.

Survey Findings

The survey distributed to registered voters in 2003 included the following findings regarding Services and Facilities:

- ❑ The quality of education in the public school system was one of the top five concerns raised in open-ended discussions about concerns for the future. Many are concerned with the growth in the school budget and its dependence on residential property taxes for support.
- ❑ Adequacy of services was the 6th most critical issue in the 1990 survey. In 2003 adequacy of services was barely mentioned as a concern for the future, indicating that the Town has made great strides in this area in the past decade.
- ❑ Nearly 60 percent of respondents indicated that they would not be willing to pay more taxes for expansion or improvement of Town services. Approximately 15 percent of respondents are not sure if they would be willing to pay more taxes.
- ❑ Of the 29 percent willing to pay more taxes for expansion or improvement of services, 21 percent were willing to pay more for schools, 16 percent for roads and highways, 15 percent for the fire districts, 14 percent for garbage collection, and 13 percent for police services.

Visioning Process – May 31, 2003



The following services and facilities issues were discussed during the Charrette strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis:

Strengths

- ❑ The recycling center, good water system, and police / EMS all received equal recognition as municipal services strengths.
- ❑ Additional strengths mentioned included the on-site wastewater management plan and the library system.

Weaknesses

The following weaknesses were discussed at the May 31, 2003 Charrette:

- ❑ There is a lack of town jurisdiction over septic system permitting.
- ❑ There are no sewers in the Biscuit City area.
- ❑ Obsolete septic systems present a health risk and a risk to natural resources.
- ❑ Schools are losing strength due to a high rate of administration turnover.
- ❑ Libraries need funding for book purchases.
- ❑ Three public water supply systems are located in close proximity to gravel pits and potential environmental quality degradation.

Opportunities

Participants view the comprehensive plan update as an opportunity to implement the following:

- ❑ Preserve the senior center and expand services for senior citizens.
- ❑ Utilize innovative high technology ISDS systems to protect environmental resources.

Threats

- ❑ The quality of public water is poor.
- ❑ The quality of public education is not as high as it once was.
- ❑ High tech ISDS makes previously unbuildable areas susceptible to development and redevelopment, thereby counteracting growth management initiatives.
- ❑ Tax increases for municipal services threaten people's ability to remain in South Kingstown.

Services and Facilities Vision

Through implementation of the Services and Facilities element the Town will continue to provide those services which are compatible with its village and rural tradition, within the constraints of limited fiscal resources. The Town will recognize that public participation in town matters is crucial to validating Town governance. The Town will improve the quality of education. The use of "high-tech" septic disposal systems to permit development in areas previously considered unbuildable utilizing conventional ISDS systems needs to be carefully evaluated and must be compatible in scale and harmonious with the context of its surroundings. The Town will continue to manage and protect its public water supply system and groundwater resources and will work with public water suppliers to assure that the quality and quantity of water for current and future residents is adequate. The Town will continue its long-range stormwater management program to protect surface and groundwater resources. The Town will



implement the Services and Facilities element of the Comprehensive Plan through the Capital Improvement Program.

Services and Facilities Goals

To provide the Town with basic public services and facilities in a prompt and efficient manner.

Goal 1: To provide high quality municipal services in a cost-effective manner as required to serve an expanding community and to integrate the Town's growth management program with long-range utility plans.

Policy 1.1 - To continue to update and to improve the governing structure and procedures of local government.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office

Policy 1.2 - The Town will continue to provide a high level of administration functions. The Town will continue to review the adequacy of municipal government administrative services and revise practices to meet these standards on an ongoing basis.

- The Town shall review the adequacy of municipal government administration services in accordance with internal standards, and in conformance with modern management practice.

Responsible Party: Town Council and Town Manager's Office

- The Town Manager shall continue to submit the Capital Improvement Program annually. This document addresses the current year with five year projections. The intent of the CIP is three-fold: to provide a comprehensive community needs statement, to provide the development of a prioritized implementation schedule for meeting the community needs statement, and to provide financial data relative to the community's ability to manage and finance the costs associated with meeting these defined needs.

Responsible Party: Town Council and Town Manager's Office

Goal 2: To provide effective wastewater management through a variety of strategies designed to protect public health and the natural environment.

Policy 2.1 - The Town supports an adequately sized wastewater treatment plant which operates in full compliance with all State and Federal standards.

- The Town shall comprehensively re-evaluate the adequacy of the wastewater treatment facility every five years when its license is renewed. An annual review shall also be undertaken.

Responsible Party: Public Services Department

- Local collection system and pump station improvements shall continue to be made in accordance with the Capital Improvement Program recommendations for pump station improvements and WWTF equipment and treatment upgrades.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department

Policy 2.2 - The Town will address existing problem areas, through an evaluation of a variety of sewage treatment alternatives which are cost effective, environmentally sound, and assure



residents' safety.

- This is being done in the Diane Drive sewer extension. Future sewer extensions into other problem areas will follow the recommendations of the Land Use Element.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Town Manager's Office; Public Services Department

- The Town shall continue to administer the Onsite Wastewater Management Ordinance with ISDS inspection in prioritized districts.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Public Services Department

Policy 2.3 - The Town will integrate wastewater management into water supply decisions.

- The Planning Department shall work to coordinate the policies of area water suppliers with wastewater management needs.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Planning Department; Public Services Department

Policy 2.4 - The Town will expand the centralized sewage treatment facility in an established time frame, based on improvements in technology and the relative needs and fiscal responsibility of each user group (South Kingstown, Narragansett and URI).

Responsible Party: Public Services Department

Goal 3: To integrate the Town's growth management program with long-range utility plans.

Policy 3.1 - The Town will promote a long-range planning effort to address the cumulative impacts of development.

- This has been included in the Comprehensive Plan (see Land Use Element). The location of potential sewer extensions was considered in developing the land use policy and Land Use Plan Map. To conform with State regulations, the Town zoning and subdivision regulations must be consistent with the Land Use Plan Map.

Responsible Party: Planning Board; Planning Department

Policy 3.2 - The Town will address the needs of surrounding communities which may want direct ties or carry-in service with South Kingstown's sewer plant.

- This will be addressed upon request of the Town Councils.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, Public Services Department.

Policy 3.3 - The Town will provide sewer service primarily to RM, R-10, selected R-20 zones, and other high and medium high-density residential areas. In unsewered areas with severe septic limitations, only low-density development should occur. High-density development should not occur in areas where there is no public sewer and water available at the time of development.

- Proposals to extend sewer service shall only be permitted within the Future Sewer Service Area map defined in this plan. The extension of sewers shall not be a basis for allowing greater density than the base zoning of the area would permit. *Proposed sewer service extensions shall be consistent with the goals and regulations of CRMC's Salt Pond Region and Narrow River Special Area Management Plans.*

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Planning Department; Public Services Department



Policy 3.4 - The Town will minimize development along existing or future utility transmission lines, which simply connect high-density areas.

- The Town shall revise zoning and subdivision regulations accordingly.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Planning Department; Planning Board

Policy 3.5 - The Town supports the extension of water services in a manner which is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

- The Town shall evaluate future water extension proposals with regard to the location of existing and proposed water and sewer lines, problem areas, and the overall growth pattern endorsed by the Comprehensive Plan. *Proposed extensions of water lines and their source wells shall be consistent with the CRMC's Salt Pond Region and Narrow River Special Area Management Plans.*

Responsible Party: The Planning Department; the Planning Board, Public Water Suppliers (the Public Services Department; United Water, Kingston Water District and University of Rhode Island).

Goal 4: To manage and to protect existing water resources for present and future residential and non-residential use in accordance with growth plans for the Town.

Policy 4.1 - The Town supports an overall water supply management policy and plan that is integrated with the growth management program and long-range utilities plan for the Town.

- Water System Supply Management Plans have been prepared by Kingston Water, United Water, the Town of South Kingstown and URI for each service area. The Town shall continue to work to protect the quality and quantity of water from the Chipuxet Aquifer, a sole-source aquifer.

Responsible Party: Planning Department; Town Council, Public Water Suppliers.

Policy 4.2 - The Town advocates the protection of a safe drinking water supply as a major priority for South Kingstown. The Town is committed to the establishment of programs for aquifer protection and groundwater resource management.

- The Town shall continue its Open Space acquisition program to protect groundwater quality through direct purchase of development rights for the most important aquifer recharge areas

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Public Water Suppliers.

- The Town shall continue with its efforts to develop performance based standards for ISDS to protect drinking water sources

Responsible Party: Town Managers Office, Public Services Department, Conservation Commission.

Policy 4.3 - The Town supports the conservation of water in its municipal facilities and through its South Shore and Middlebridge water systems.

- A program of water conservation will continue to be employed during periods of drought or high systems demand.

Responsible Party: Public Services Department, United Water of Rhode Island.



Policy 4.4 - The Town recognizes the need to prioritize water uses (i.e. residential vs. nonresidential).

- The Town shall seek legislation on either Town-wide or regional basis to regulate priority of water use, (see discussion in Natural Resources Element).

Responsible Party: Town Council; Planning Department; Planning Board; and Conservation Commission.

Policy 4.5 - The Town will continue to comply with the Rhode Island Department of Health rules pertaining to public drinking water.

- The Town Public Services Department shall continue to conduct an annual evaluation of compliance with standards and a comprehensive five-year evaluation. Any necessary system improvements are addressed in the Town's annual operating budget and the six-year Capital Improvement Program.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department.

Policy 4.6 - The Town supports measures to provide a continual supply of potable water to its residents.

- The Town, URI, United Water of Rhode Island and the Kingston Water District, shall implement the requirements presented in the Rhode Island Drought Management Plan, State Guide Plan Element 724, June 2002. For drought planning purposes all of South Kingstown and much of Washington County is considered one drought region. Drought planning needs to consider factors beyond simply providing interconnections between the Town's public water suppliers, this is particularly relevant now that the Town is receiving water via United Water of Rhode Island via the Chipuxet sub-basin.

Responsible Party: The Public Services Department, United Water of Rhode Island, University of Rhode Island and Kingston Water District.

- The Town shall work with local water suppliers to construct interconnections between water services to assure a continual supply of potable water during low flow droughts and to address emergency spill response.

Responsible Party: The Planning Department and the Public Services Department, working in conjunction with adjacent towns and public water suppliers.

- The Town has continued to work with the RI Water Resources Board and both United Water of Rhode Island, the University of Rhode Island and Kingston Water to assure that emergency water supply is available.

Responsible Party: Department of Public Services and Public Water Suppliers.

Goal 5: To integrate water extension decisions in accordance with the Land Use Plan.

Policy 5.1 - The Town recognizes the priority of servicing areas already experiencing problems with well water quantity or quality.

- The Town shall give priority waterline extension to areas with contamination of well water. Drinking water contamination caused by constituents for which there are federal standards also will be given priority consideration. *Proposed extensions of water lines and their source wells*



shall be consistent with the CRMC's Salt Pond Region and Narrow River Special Area Management Plans.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Public Services Department, Public Water Suppliers.

Goal 6: To maintain a solid waste management strategy which focuses on waste reduction, litter control and recycling, and waste management programs which are cost-effective and self-sufficient to the greatest extent possible.

Policy 6.1 - The Town recognizes the need for community recycling.

- The Town shall continue its community recycling program through the “bag and tag” program at the Rose Hill Transfer Station.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Public Services Departments

Policy 6.2 - The Town shall continue to participate in the closure of landfills to reduce potential contamination.

- The EPA, RIDEM, and the Towns of South Kingstown and Narragansett have signed a Consent Decree (January 3, 2003) that requires that the towns to partially reimburse EPA and the state for costs already incurred in the cleanup of contamination at the Rose Hill Landfill. It also requires that the towns participate in the funding of RIDEM's remedial design, remedial action, and operation and maintenance costs.

Responsible Party: Town Council; and Town Manager's Office

- Identified problems at the West Kingstown Town Dump should be investigated to determine the scope and severity of contamination, and identify corrective measures that may be undertaken. Based upon this review and investigation the Town shall finalize and implement remediation and closure of the site.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Town Manager's Office, Department of Public Services.

Goal 7: To maintain an effective public works program which recognizes the importance of the maintenance and construction of safe and efficient roads, bridges, sidewalks, stormdrains, and parks to serve its residents.

Policy 7.1 - The Town will continue its long-range improvement programs for improvements to roads, bridges, sidewalks, and stormdrains in conformance with the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan.

- Programs are prioritized through the Capital Improvement Program and the South Kingstown Transportation Improvement Plan, and funded by the Town or through the State Transportation Improvement Plan.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department.

Policy 7.2 - The Town supports an adequately staffed and equipped Public Services Department.

- The Town shall continue to evaluate the Department of Public Services staffing and equipment needs required to accomplish proposed work programs outlined in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Responsible Party: Public Services Department; and Town Manager's Office



Goal 8: To develop and to maintain a long-range program of effective stormwater management designed to protect its residents from flooding, to control erosion and sedimentation, and to maintain both surface and groundwater quality and quantity.

Policy 8.1 - The Town supports implementation of the RIPDES Phase II Stormwater Management program.

- The Town shall comply with RIDEM's Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) Phase II requirements for stormwater management in municipal separate storm sewer systems. This program is intended to improve the quality of receiving waters by reducing the quantity of pollutants discharged during storm events. RIPDES Phase II Stormwater regulations also require the inventory of existing municipal stormwater facilities.

Responsible Party: Public Services Department and Town Manager's Office

Policy 8.2 - The Town will locate and inventory existing municipal stormwater facilities and will work toward correcting problems for existing drainage in a manner which considers the surrounding drainage patterns.

- The current six-year Capital Improvement Program identifies, funds and schedules various drainage improvement projects within the Town. These projects shall continue to be addressed through the Capital Improvement Program process.

Responsible Party: Department of Public Services Department, Planning Department

Goal 9: To continue the Town's support of a professional police force, dedicated to upholding the law, assuring the safety and best welfare of the Town's residents and respecting the rights of all citizens. The Town recognizes that provision of adequate police facilities is vital to the health and safety of its citizens.

Policy 9.1 - The Town supports maintaining an appropriate level of service through the professional law enforcement staff.

- The Police Department shall continue to conduct an annual analysis of existing and future needs, in coordination with the writing of the Town Budget and Capital Improvement Program. A more comprehensive analysis shall be performed every five years. Annual measurements which will help assess performance shall include such items as number and experience with service calls, crime rate and type, and accident reports. Results of this analysis shall be checked against personnel and equipment. The Town staff will continue to assess emergency medical services program needs to ensure that appropriate service levels are met.

Responsible Party: Police Department, Town Manager's Office

Policy 9.2 - The Town will continue to assess the adequacy of police facilities and equipment, including the need to increase patrols off-road.

- The most important equipment needs have been met with construction of the new public safety building. Additional equipment purchases will be made in conformance with the Town's 6-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Police Department



- The Town shall consider construction of a separate storage building for evidence processing and evidence storage. This building should be secure, have sophisticated air handling, and should include a garage space with lift.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Town Manager's Office, Police Department

Policy 9.3 - The Town will maintain a level of police performance which meets the Police Chief's Association standards.

- Such a certification program has been planned and is being considered for adoption by the State. Until the State implements such a program, the South Kingstown Police Department will follow its present internal evaluation process. The Police Department has implemented several of the recommendations made during a recent audit conducted by the RI Interlocal Trust.

Responsible Party: Police Department; Town Manager's Office

Policy 9.4 – The Town will maintain a police presence in the public schools, to strengthen relationships between the police department, school staff, and students, and to enforce security, as necessary.

- The Police Department shall continue the “Community Works Program” and has considered negotiations with the superintendent of school to create a “School Resource Officer.” The Police Department shall investigate flexible funding sources which would benefit the entire department’s long-range policing strategies.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Police Department

Goal 10: To continue to support the concept of a volunteer fire department and to assist the fire districts in their efforts to provide protective services.

Policy 10.1 - In response to a recent State mandate requiring fire fighting training, the Town will encourage participation in the required training programs. Such incentives are needed to maintain an adequate volunteer force.

- The Town shall develop incentives to encourage more people to become volunteers.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Fire Districts

Policy 10.2 - The Town’s fire districts shall meet the equipment standards promulgated under State law.

- The fire districts shall continue efforts to maintain adequate equipment.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Fire Districts

Policy 10.3 - The Town supports the efforts of the fire districts to improve their ISO ratings and general level of operation.

- The "Improvements Statements" written for the Town's fire districts by the Insurance Services Office shall be reviewed by the Town's fire chiefs to determine if there are cost-effective ways to improve the fire department's ratings, which are based on fire suppression capabilities. These reports shall be included in their long-term plans.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Fire Districts



- The Town shall evaluate the fire departments' compliance with ISO standards annually, to coincide with the annual budgets. A more comprehensive evaluation shall occur every five years. The Town will consider preparing a 10-year implementation plan, as that is the time interval for ISO evaluation and classification.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Fire Districts

- The fire districts shall use the compliance standards to develop to its own internal evaluation criteria, to be used annually and more comprehensively every five years, to assess existing and future needs.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Fire Districts

Goal 11: To provide Town residents with the opportunity for a quality education, and superior school facilities.

Policy 11.1 - The high quality of South Kingstown's education program should be maintained and continually improved.

- New programs shall be considered and existing quality shall be maintained.

Responsible Party: School Department; School Committee

- The Town shall continue to comply with the Board of Regents standards for education facility construction approval and funding. The School Department shall conduct more comprehensive five-year evaluations increments of the Rhode Island Basic Education Program.

Responsible Party: School Department, School Committee

Policy 11.2 - The Town supports development of school facilities to keep pace with expansion of school population and with the defined educational programs of the school system.

- The Town shall address school facility needs through the six-year plans included in the annual Capital Improvement Program.

Responsible Party: School Department, School Committee, Town Council, Town Manager's Office.

Goal 12: To maintain a Town system of public libraries to meet the diverse needs of our citizens through expanded and improved library services and facilities.

Policy 12.1 - To meet the community needs for library services, the Town will expand and renovate library facilities and parking areas.

- Expansion of public service and non-public service areas of the main library in Peace Dale is required to meet the needs of the town-wide system (including the needs of the two branch libraries which cannot be expanded due to property boundary, historic, and structural constraints). A larger youth services room, redesign of the circulation area, reference desk expansion to accommodate two librarians, increased book stack capacity, increased space for public access computers, quiet study rooms and a new public meeting room with a larger seating capacity represent unmet system needs.

• Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Library Board of Trustees

- The Library Board wants to resolve the parking situation at Kingston in the best interest of the



library and its patrons with the goal being expanded parking at Kingston.

Responsible Party: Town Council; Town Manager's Office; Library Board of Trustees

- The Library Board recognizes that increased parking at Peace Dale is essential to meet the future program needs of the library

Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Library Board of Trustees

Policy 12.2 - The Town supports compliance with all State requirements and standards including the Office of Library & Information Service's Minimum Standard for Rhode Island Public Libraries, adopted by the Library Board of Rhode Island in 2000.

- The Town Library System shall continue to comply with the Office of Library & Information Service standards in order to continue to receive State funding. In addition, the Library shall continue its present course of annually assessing needs according to internal standards of performance based on actual usage. This annual assessment shall continue to coordinate with assessments for funding through the Town's operating and capital budgets, and grants requirements. Additionally, a more comprehensive review is needed every five years, especially regarding large-scale facility improvements.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Library Board of Trustees.

Goal 13: To provide the citizens of the Town with a wide range of effective human service programs and facilities, in cooperation with other public, private and non-profit agencies and groups.

Policy 13.1 – The Town shall continue to coordinate and centralize senior citizen programs and facilities to offer community-based, rather than institutional, services.

- The Town should continue to be a facilitator in coordinating this effort. The Senior Services Center Program's mission is to provide a focal point where adults can access services and programs designed to support their independence, enrich their quality of life and promote optimal aging. Completion of "The Center" in 2000 enabled consolidation of many senior services including the Adult Day Services Program (not on site), the Senior Nutrition Program, Senior Transportation Program, and the Senior Services Center. Continued operation and expansion of services, including advocacy and technical assistance, particularly through Hospital Elder Liaison Program with South County Hospital, Seniors Helping Other, Inc., and other ongoing programs. The Department's goal is to bring various senior service groups and organizations together to coordinate their activities and integrate their work.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Director of Senior Services.

Goal 14: The South Kingstown Parks and Recreation Department will serve the community by providing enriching recreation experiences and quality facilities.

Policy 14.1 – The Parks and Recreation Department will address the need for alternative transportation for programs.

The Parks and Recreation Department will investigate opportunities to reduce reliance on private transportation through the possible purchase of a bus for parks and recreation activities or attempting to secure additional use of Senior Services buses.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Parks and Recreation Department



Policy 14.2 – The Town of South Kingstown will pursue the development of Greenways listed in the Town’s Greenways Master Plan

The Town will pursue development of the following corridors presented in the June, 2002 Greenways Master Plan:

- A. Development of the Peace Dale Village Bike Path
- B. Expansion of the South County Bike Path to include a connection to the University of Rhode Island and Peace Dale Village Bike Path
- C. Expansion of the DuVal Trail
- D. Development of the Saugatucket River trail system
- E. Development of the South Shore Beach Trail

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Planning and Parks and Recreation Departments, Conservation Commission, South Kingstown Land Trust, Friends of the South County Bike Path, and Saugatucket River Heritage Corridor Coalition.

Policy 14.3 – The Parks and Recreation Department will develop additional indoor recreation space for community activities.

The Town’s parks and recreation standards indicate the Town lacks an indoor gymnasium to meet the expanded needs of the community. The Parks and Recreation Department completed an indoor facility study in the fall of 2003 and recommends the construction of a community gymnasium at Curtis Corner Middle School. The gym will be used for both school and municipal programs. The community gymnasium is included in the Town’s Capital Improvement Budget.

The Parks and Recreation Department will expand the use of the Peace Dale Office Building for providing community recreation services. The expanded facilities will include an art studio, additional art performance space, and general programming areas.

Policy 14.4 – The Town will assess the potential construction of parks and recreation facilities on the Superfund former landfill sites at the Rose Hill Transfer Station. The facilities may include a junior golf training center, dog-park, nature trails and multi-purpose fields.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department

Policy 14.5 – The Parks and Recreation Department will improve the accessibility of the Peace Dale Office Building

The Town should construct a full-service elevator attached to the rear of the building, to be funded by Peace Dale Office Building undesignated fund.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department

Policy 14.6 - The Parks and Recreation Department will complete improvements to the Neighborhood Guild that will provide additional programming and office space.

The Parks and Recreation Department completed an indoor facility study in the fall of 2003 and determined the Neighborhood Guild’s fitness room and Recreation Division offices should be expanded. The projects are included in the Department’s strategic plan.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department



Policy 14.6 - The Town of South Kingstown will assess the potential of developing a golf driving range at the Rose Hill Transfer Station.

The Town will include the development of the driving range in the closure plans for the transfer station. The driving range may also serve as the location of the Parks and Recreation Department's golf school.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Public Services and Parks and Recreation Departments

Policy 14.8 - The Parks and Recreation Department will significantly expand youth and teen programming efforts.

The Parks and Recreation Department will expand efforts to provide youth and teens positive alternatives for their free time, concentrating on providing activities between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays and on Friday and Saturday nights.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation, Housing and Police Departments, South Kingstown Partnership for Prevention, South County YMCA and other social service agencies.

Policy 14.9 - The Parks and Recreation Department will expand park maintenance staff.

The Parks Division currently maintains 28 Town sites consisting of over 400 acres, 52 gardens, 16 sports fields, 16 asphalt-play areas, 11 playgrounds, 7 miles of trails, street hockey facility, skate park, and 5 comfort stations. Maintenance responsibilities will significantly expand with the completion of Green Hill Park, Broad Rock Playfields, Saugatucket River Walkway, and Phase II of the South County Bike Path. To address the maintenance of these new facilities, the 2003-04 operations budget includes funding to outsource a majority of non-park facilities. This outsourcing will provide Town maintenance crews with additional capacity to absorb the new facilities.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department

Goal 15: To maintain an effective emergency management response program that recognizes the importance of providing protection to citizens and property through public education, municipal preparedness plans and adequate training of key personnel.

Policy 15.1 - The Town supports an expanded public awareness of potential emergency situations and appropriate citizen response.

- The Police Department maintains an ongoing emergency management response program with RIEMA and FEMA. As issues relating to Homeland Security arise, the Town shall respond in accordance with Federal and State protocols. *Planning and training for emergency response shall include the Union and Kingston Fire Districts and Department of Public Service's Highway and Engineering Divisions.*

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Police Department

Policy 15.2 - The Town will ensure that police officers and other key emergency management personnel receive proper training.

- The Town will continue to offer both on- and off-site training and education to assure that staff is proficient in the latest programs, protocol, techniques, and methods.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Police Department



Policy 15.3 - Institute appropriate measures to reduce potential storm damage caused by wind blown trees.

- The Town will re-examine the existing tree trimming program to redirect efforts towards preventative maintenance in areas more likely to suffer storm damage, particularly coastal areas.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Town Manger's office, Police Department

Policy 15.4 - Encourage development of programs and policies that foster preventative measures that mitigate potential natural disaster damage.

- The Town will examine its present guidelines and regulations to see where possible measures can be instituted and encouraged that reduce storm damage potential.

Responsible Party: Planning Department



ELEMENTS

Open Space and Recreation

Open Space and Recreation Element

Introduction

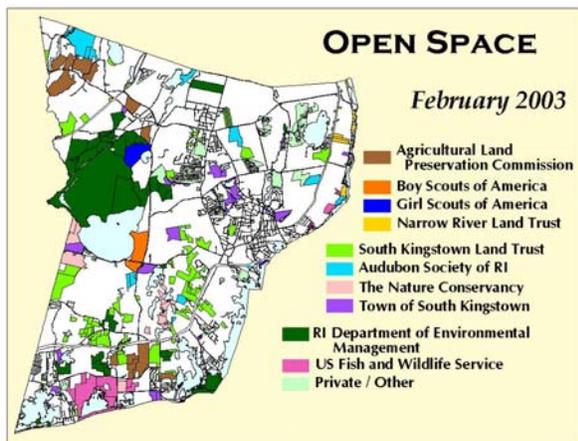
The roles of open space and recreation have evolved within the past decade in South Kingstown. Preservation of open space by the Town and a consortium of federal, state, and private non-profit agencies is helping to preserve the character of the community, protect natural resources, and provide potential passive recreational use. The move to protect over 700 acres through 15 open space acquisitions or leases since 1999 has also served as a growth management tool by protecting land from development.

As the community grows, the demand for additional and varied recreational opportunities increases. It is the responsibility of the Town to provide recreational opportunities for all citizens regardless of age, interest or ability. The South Kingstown Parks and Recreation Department’s mission is to serve the community by providing enriching recreation activities and quality facilities. The Department’s vision statement includes, in part: *“We will improve the health of our citizens through programs that encourage staying active and fit. We will connect all citizens to our community by offering programs that encourage inclusion and participation. Finally, we will provide a wide variety of activities that encourage all segments our population to use their free time both positively and productively, and promote life-long learning through recreational and cultural programs.”*

Open Space and Recreation Achievements

The Town of South Kingstown has continued to meet the goal established in the 1992 comprehensive plan:

To encourage the provision of recreational services and facilities and the preservation of open spaces and natural habitats in order to enhance the physical and mental well-being of the Town’s citizens.



The Town has made great strides in acquiring land for expanding active and passive recreational services, based upon the needs assessment. An aggressive open space acquisition program has been initiated as demonstrated by “A Guide for Protecting Open Space in South Kingstown” prepared in May 2000 by the Community Partnership Program of the South Kingstown Land Trust. The goals of this program are to preserve four critical resources: drinking water supplies, valuable natural habitats for plant and natural communities, active agricultural land, and unique place with scenic, cultural or historic

qualities that define the Town. The Community Partnership’s Land Acquisition Committee, represented by the South Kingstown Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, the Town of South Kingstown, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Narrow River Land Trust and the RI Department of Environmental Management, has been instrumental in protecting nearly 1200 acres in South Kingstown from mid-1998 through the end of 1999.

The Town has accomplished the following Open Space and Recreation initiatives:

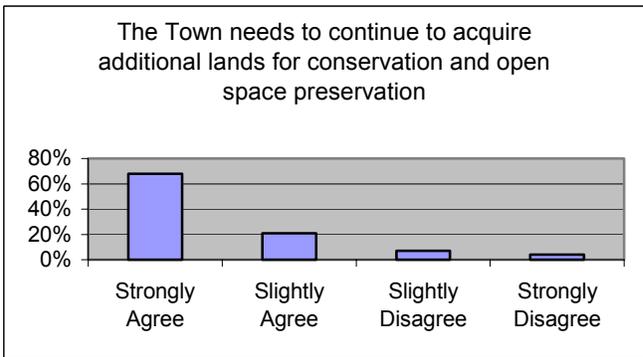


- ❑ Approximately 27 percent of the Town is currently devoted to protected public or private open space. Since 1999 over 700 acres have been preserved through 15 open space purchases. To date the Town has made a \$2.3 million municipal funding commitment.
- ❑ Motor vehicular access has been prohibited to all beach areas under Town jurisdiction.
- ❑ The Town has supported the development of footpaths and /or bicycle paths for passive recreation and transportation and has endorsed the extension of bicycle paths along the former Narragansett Railroad right-of-way.
- ❑ The Parks and Recreation Department, as demonstrated by the Capital Improvement Program, has provided an active maintenance and rehabilitation program to upgrade existing sites and facilities. The Parks and Recreation Department has also coordinated efforts with the school system to fully maximize all recreational facilities, within the limits of safety, maintenance, security and contractual issues.
- ❑ The Town has continued its policy that all new subdivisions should contribute to recreation needs for future residents through land dedication, direct payments or service cost recovery fees.
- ❑ The Town has completed or supported the following projects: Senior Center, Curtis Corner Playfields, Marina Park, and the West Kingston Park. The Town has committed to maintaining and patrolling the South County Bike Path-Phase I, (William C. O’Neill Bike Path) constructed by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation.
- ❑ The following projects are currently either in design, under construction or complete: Saugatucket River Walkway, Green Hill Park, South County Bike Path - Phase II, Tri-Pond Park Nature Center, and Broad Rock Playfields Phase I and II.

Survey Findings

The survey distributed to registered voters in 2003 included the following findings regarding Open Space and Recreation:

- ❑ Preservation of coastal and shoreline resources: Respondents in 2003 were very satisfied with the Town’s efforts, compared to 1990. In 2003 80 percent responded positively while in 1990, only 65 percent responded positively. This represents a significant increase in satisfaction with preservation of coastal and shoreline resources.
- ❑ Acquisition of additional lands for conservation: In 2003 a significant 67 percent of the population strongly agreed with the need to preserve conservation land by purchase. An additional 21 percent also supports this initiative, bringing the total in support to nearly 90 percent. Only 4 percent strongly disagree that conservation land should be acquired.
- ❑ Acquisition of additional lands for recreation: In 2003 less support was demonstrated for purchase of additional property for recreational purposes than conservation. Only 66 percent either strongly or slightly agreed with the need for recreation land purchases. In the 1990 survey a similar question addressed the need for both conservation and recreation land acquisition (nearly 89 percent supported, either strongly or slightly, this acquisition).
- ❑ Preservation of open space and farmland: In response to an open ended question regarding greatest concerns for the futures, the need to preserve open space and





farmland was mentioned as the 7th and 8th highest priority in 1990 and 2003, respectively.

- ❑ Public access to water and beaches: In response to the open ended question, more people indicated that this was a concern for the future in 1990 than in 2003, indicating perhaps that people are more satisfied with access now than in the past.
- ❑ Support for recreational facility improvement through potentially higher municipal taxes: In 1990 more respondents would consider a potential tax increase to fund recreational facilities than in 2003. It must be noted that the percentage of people willing to pay more taxes for ANY municipal service has decreased from 41 percent to 29 percent, a definite message to maintain fiscal austerity.

Visioning Process – May 31, 2003

Open Space and Recreation were discussed during the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis at the May 31, 2003 Charrette:

Strengths

- ❑ One of the Town's most significant strengths in open space and recreation is the acreage of protected open space, both in the core and in outlying agricultural areas. The Town has been proactive and leads the state in this effort. This strength is a result of the community partnership effort underway between federal and state agencies, the Town, and local land trusts.
- ❑ Another major strength is the existing Parks and Recreation program.

Weaknesses

- ❑ An identified weakness is the need to purchase open space not just to control development and protect habitat in rural areas of the town but to protect open space within villages where it is especially beneficial to the quality of life of residents. This is especially important to those who live in high density apartments and multifamily homes or have small lot single family homes.

Opportunities

Participants view the comprehensive plan update as an opportunity to implement the following:

- ❑ Continue preservation of open space, in accordance with the protocol established by the Community Partnership program of the South Kingstown Land Trust. Participants stressed the importance of protecting linked habitats and to provide accessibility for those enjoying those properties open to the public through bike path construction. Protection of open space is recognized as an important tourism attraction.
- ❑ Expand opportunities for a variety of recreational opportunities through the Town Parks and Recreation Department

Threats

- ❑ Open space and recreation areas both must be maintained. The Town must be committed not to the acquisition of open space and the construction of recreation facilities, but to maintaining these properties for their intended purposes. When assessing the purchase and / or development of these properties, the financial burden of long term operation and maintenance must be considered.

Open Space and Recreation Vision

The Town will continue to work with the Community Partnership to protect open space and enhance the quality of life through growth management, through protection of groundwater, through protection of habitat, and for preservation of scenic vistas. Open space protection should be considered in all areas of Town including the Central Core where small-scale, village-oriented passive recreation and nature observation is more accessible to local residents. The Town shall provide active recreation opportunities to preserve the health of all citizens. Recreation facilities and programs shall be accessible to the population (and reflect the needs of growing residential areas) and respond to the changing demographics of the community. Decisions on open space acquisition shall be made through an economic analysis that reflects the benefit to the Town in avoiding the need to provide municipal services for residential development. This economic analysis shall also account for purchase price, loss of tax revenue to the town, property operation and maintenance costs, and the loss of future development value.



Open Space and Recreation Goals

To encourage the provision of recreational services and facilities and the preservation of open spaces and natural habitats in order to enhance the physical and mental well-being of the Town's citizens.

Goal 1: To acquire land for open space and conservation to maintain the rural character of the community.

Policy 1.1 - The Town shall continue to preserve land which is primarily undeveloped and which consists of open, agricultural, or littoral property, including existing and future well fields and aquifer recharge areas, fresh and saltwater marshes and adjoining uplands, barrier beaches, wildlife habitats, land providing access to or views of the ocean, harbors and ponds, land for unpaved bicycling, bridge and hiking paths and for future passive recreational use, and land for agricultural use.

- The Town shall continue to implement the Open Space Project Funding Policy.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Office of Town Manager, Planning Department.

- The Town will continue to utilize *A Guide for Protecting Open Space in South Kingstown* prepared by the Community Partnership program of the South Kingstown Land Trust in evaluating potential land acquisitions or development rights purchases.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Office of Town Manager, Planning Department.

- The Town shall participate in acquisition of land in fee simple or in conservation and preservation restrictions on real property.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Office of Town Manager, Planning Department.

- The Town shall continue to utilize funds generated through the Fair Share Development Fee



(collected at the time a building permit is issued for new residential construction and assessed as outlined in the annual Capital Improvement Plan), for the purchase and/or development of open space, conservation, park and recreational land.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Office of Town Manager, Planning Department.

- The Town shall create a formal definition of “open space,” to distinguish between sub-categories such as forestland, agriculture, passive recreation areas, active recreation areas, mandated buffer zones in subdivisions, and private green areas.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Office of Town Manager, Planning Department.

- The Town shall document the economic impact of open space acquisition by indicating the number of housing units prevented, how many students were avoided in the public school system, and what was the lost tax revenue (both prior to acquisition and if residentially developed). The economic assessment shall include the cost of annual maintenance of the property and include a plan to maintain the property as open space.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Office of Town Manager, Planning Department.

- The Town shall consider connectivity of open space and greenway projects in its criteria for acquisition.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Office of Town Manager, Planning Department.

- The Town shall actively coordinate land acquisition and development with such private, non-profit organizations as the R.I. Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, and the South Kingstown and Narrow River Land trusts as well as with Public agencies which actively are pursuing similar goals. The Town will encourage development or protection of community spaces on private, State and Federal properties which will enhance leisure experiences for local and non-local residents without detracting from the primary goals of the organizations.

- The Town shall continue to secure state and federal funding for open space acquisition.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Office of Town Manager, Planning Department.

Policy 1.2 – The Town supports preservation of open space within the Central Core, recognizing that smaller parcels are valuable to preserve habitat, and to improve the quality of life of village residents.

- The Town shall amend the Open Space Project Funding Policy to include smaller parcels in its criteria.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Office of Town Manager, Planning Department.

Policy 1.3 – The Town shall investigate means to provide open space buffers between current commercial and residential uses.

Goal 2: To acquire land for expanding active and passive recreational services based upon the current needs assessment.

Policy 2.1 - The Town shall provide active and passive recreational services to meet town, state and federal requirements.

- The Town shall pursue available grant funding through such State and Federal sources as the



Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM), the Rhode Island Water Resources Board, and the Federal Highway Administration.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Office of Town Manager, Parks and Recreation Department.

Goal 3: To assure public access to publicly –owned and controlled open space and to all important public natural and cultural resources for all citizens and will protect all current and historic rights-of-way which assure this access.

Policy 3.1 – The Town shall protect all protect all current and historic rights of way to natural and cultural resources.

- The Town shall work with the Coastal Resources Management Council to identify and protect rights of way to coastal areas.

Responsible Party: Town Manager, Public Services Department, Planning Department.

- In cooperation with the CRMC the Town shall institute a program to identify rights of way to the shoreline.

Responsible Party: Town Manager, Public Services Department, Planning Department.

- The Town shall work to educate adjacent landowners about public access to the shore via paper streets and other deeded access ways in proximity to their properties.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, Police Department.

Goal 4: To protect all beach areas for pedestrian-based recreation, to preserve the open-space character of the shorefront, and to protect the fragile ecology of the dunes.

Policy 4.1 – The Town shall continue to manage beaches under its jurisdiction for the benefit of the community.

- The Town shall place controls or other obstacles to motor vehicular traffic along the accessways of ocean beaches which are under Town control. *In the case of CRMC designated right of ways no obstructions of any kind shall be permitted. In addition, the Town will work with the CRMC to facilitate ROW access and use by considering expanded public parking where such use can be permitted by the CRMC.*

Responsible Party: Department of Public Services, Parks and Recreation Department.

Policy 4.2 – The Town shall support public access and preservation of natural habitat for beaches not under its jurisdiction.

- The Town shall encourage open access to ocean beaches within the Town by all citizens and will discourage private enclaves and the erection and/or replacement of fences and barriers.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Town Manager's Office

- The Town shall continue to press the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to find ways to provide public access and enjoyment of Moonstone Beach, in accordance with provisions of the State Constitution, and to ensure equal protection for the natural habitat.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office



Goal 5: To create a system of greenways .

Policy 5.1 – The Town shall preserve the following greenways which follow natural geologic or geographic features: - Saugatucket River - Marina Park - Upper Salt Pond.

- Matunuck Hills kettle pond/moraine area
- Chipuxet River corridor (Hundred Acre Pond - Thirty Acre Pond - Great Swamp - Worden Pond)
- Queens River corridor
- Narrow River watershed in coordination with similar greenway areas in Narragansett and North Kingstown
- South Shore Area as identified in the South Shore Management Plan

Policy 5.2 - The Town shall continue to assure that identified greenways will be protected from the adverse effects of future growth and development through the zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations, land use policies and open space acquisition.

Responsible Party: Planning Board, Planning Department

Policy 5.3 - The Town shall continue to implement its Greenways Master Plan. The Town Council reviewed the plan in June, 2002 and requested that proposals for the following greenways be included in the updated Comprehensive Plan:

- Development of the Peace Dale Village Bike Path
- Expansion of the South County Bike Path to include a connection to the University of Rhode Island and Peace Dale Village Bike Path
- Expansion of the DuVal Trail
- Development of the Saugatucket River trail system
- Development of the South Shore Beach Trail

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board and Planning Department

Goal 6: to meet changing recreation needs of the community in accordance with Town, state and federal standards.

Policy 6.1 - The Town will use existing vacant and/or underutilized Town-owned lands to meet recreation and open space needs. Ongoing

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, Parks and Recreation Department

Policy 6.2 - The Town shall continue to use school properties to provide recreation space within the limits of safety, maintenance, security and contractual issues.

- The School and Parks and Recreation Departments shall coordinate activities, especially related to construction of new school facilities, so that they may be designed to maximize land utilization and municipal financial resources for maximum recreational benefit to the community.

Responsible Party: Parks and Recreation Department, School Department

Policy 6.3 – The Town shall assess a fee on new residential development for the purchase and development of new municipal parkland.

- The Town shall continue to implement its Fair Share Development Fee program as revised



annually based upon the analysis contained in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department, Planning Department

Policy 6.4 The Parks and Recreation Department will develop additional indoor recreation space for community activities.

- In cooperation with the School Department, the Town will develop a community facility that will include a gymnasium and youth and teen programming areas.
- Research the establishment of additional indoor ice facilities in South Kingstown.
Responsible Party: Parks and Recreation Department, School Department.

Policy 6.5 - The Parks and Recreation Department will coordinate the development of a northeast community park.

- To service the northeast area of South Kingstown, the Town will investigate the development of community park facilities within the reclaimed areas at the Rose Hill Transfer Station.
Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, Department of Public Services.

Policy 6.6 - The Parks and Recreation Department shall significantly expand children in need and teen programming efforts.

- The Parks and Recreation Department will expand efforts to provide children in need and teens positive alternatives for their free time, concentrating on providing activities between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays and on Friday and Saturday nights.
Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with the Housing Authority, Police Department, South Kingstown Partnership for Prevention, South County YMCA, and other social service agencies.

Goal 7: to maintain active recreation areas and other properties under the Parks and Recreation Department jurisdiction.

Policy 7.1- The Town shall continue to provide an active maintenance and rehabilitation program and schedule to maintain and to upgrade existing sites and facilities to ensure safe and high quality experience. The Parks and Recreation Department currently maintains 28 Town sites consisting of over 400 acres, 52 gardens, 16 sports fields, 16 asphalt-play areas, 11 playgrounds, 7 miles of trails, street hockey facility, skatepark, and 5 comfort stations. Over the next three years, maintenance responsibilities will significantly expand with the completion of Green Hill Park, Broad Rock Playfields, Saugatucket River Walkway, and Phase II of the South County Bike Path.

- The Town shall continue to schedule maintenance and rehabilitation programs in the annual Capital Improvement Program.
- The Town shall outsource a majority of non-park facilities as outlined in the Capital Improvement Program. This outsourcing will provide Town maintenance crews with additional capacity to absorb the new facilities.
- The Town shall pursue state, federal and private funding opportunities for maintenance.



Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Recreation Department, Planning Department

Policy 7.2 - The Town shall improve recreational facilities to meet current and projected needs.

- The Town shall improve the accessibility of the Town-owned Peace Dale Office Building. A full-service elevator should be constructed to the rear of the building to assure ADA-accessibility to Parks and Recreation Department classes scheduled on the third floor of the building.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office; Recreation Department

- The Town shall complete improvements to the Neighborhood Guild to provide additional programming and office space. The Recreation Commission will include the expansion of the Neighborhood Guild within the indoor facility study that will be developed in the fall, 2003. In addition to possible expansion, all Neighborhood Guild windows, and Village Green tennis courts and lights need to be replaced.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager's Office; Recreation Department

Goal 8: to provide public awareness of recreation programs and to provide citizen input on recreation policy.

Policy 8.1 - The Town believes that public awareness is a key factor in implementing many of the policies and planning techniques outlined in these policies. Consequently, the Town will continue to sponsor public workshops or seminars to help inform its citizenry and thereby build consensus on implementation actions.

Responsible Party: Parks and Recreation Department

Policy 8.2. – The Town will provide citizen input on recreation policy.

- The Town Council will appoint, where appropriate, special committees from neighborhood groups or special user groups to assist in the preparation of development plans for proposed park and recreation facilities.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Parks and Recreation Department



ELEMENTS

Circulation



Circulation Element

Introduction

The Circulation Element encompasses all modes of transportation: vehicular, public transit with bus and rail, bicycles and pedestrians as well as associated elements of parking. The Town's general objective for the Circulation Element is to provide safe and efficient access within and through the Town for all modes while maintaining the town's rural qualities and scenic aesthetics. Traffic volumes and congestion are one of the key components that define the quality of life in South Kingstown and are issues which continue to be one of the greatest concerns of citizens. Traffic volumes in Town reflect not only population growth in the community, but increases in traffic generated by the University of Rhode Island and by summer beach traffic.

The South Kingstown Greenways Master Plan, completed in 2001, identified corridors of protected open space managed for conservation, recreation, and / or transportation purposes. This plan was conducted to implement several policies of the 1992 Comprehensive Plan. The Vision Statement included in this study will provide guidance to many circulation issues in the coming decade:

Over the next ten years, the Town of South Kingstown will become a national leader in greenways development. We will use greenway conservation and a system of green trails to guide the future growth of the town.

Our greenway system will produce a fundamental change in the way we live. By connecting our schools, parks, conservation areas, historic structures, business districts, and neighborhoods, we will leave our cars at home and use our greenways to work, shop, attend school, recreate, or simply enjoy our town's natural and historic resources.

Our greenways will provide a host of opportunities to improve and protect the quality of life for both residents and the natural habitat. The health of our citizens and environment will flourish.

Our investment in greenways will improve South Kingstown's economic viability through eco-tourism and neighborhood revitalization.

The greenways system will allow us to demonstrate to our children and our children's children our desire to leave South Kingstown a better place for future generations.

Circulation Achievements

The Town of South Kingstown has continued to meet the goal established in the 1992 comprehensive plan:

To integrate safe transportation modes in the Town without disrupting the aesthetic, environmental and cultural values of the community.



In the past decade the Town, with State assistance for numerous projects, has made several achievements affecting multimodal opportunities and reducing traffic volumes:

- ❑ Engineering, including transportation and public works projects, is now under the Public Services Department.
- ❑ The Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) ranks roadway reconstruction and public works projects based on condition, function, and access to public facilities. The TIP is implemented through the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
- ❑ Repair of bridges has proceeded in accordance with the TIP.
- ❑ Route 138 Corridor Study has been undertaken.
- ❑ The 2001 South Kingstown Greenways Master Plan outlined implementation strategies for comprehensive plan policies and outlines accomplishments and plans for the following bike paths:
 - South County Bike Path, Phase I from Peace Dale to Kingston Station and Phase II from Peace Dale south to Wakefield at Route 108.
 - Peace Dale Village Bike Path is proposed to connect the South County Bike Path with Old Mountain Field, the YMCA, Senior Center, Broad Rock Middle School, and the Route 1 Special Management Area (Village at South County Commons).
 - Saugatucket River Greenway, combining a "blue" trail for canoes and kayaks with river walkways.
 - DuVal Tail in Susanna's Woods, a 11-mile project of the South Kingstown Land Trust which will extend from Trustom Pond to Worden's Pond.
 - South Shore Beach Trail is envisioned as a pedestrian trail running along the southerly shoreline of South Kingstown on Block Island Sound.

Survey Findings

The survey distributed to registered voters in 2003 included the following findings regarding Circulation:

- ❑ In response to an open-ended question regarding greatest concerns for the future, traffic congestion and road quality was mentioned as the 3rd highest priority both in 1990 and 2003.
- ❑ Nearly 74 percent strongly agree that traffic levels on Town highways and roadways will be a major problem in the near future. An additional 20 percent slightly agree with this statement. These levels are similar to those expressed in the 1990 survey.
- ❑ Among the 29 percent who indicated that they would be willing to pay more taxes for increased municipal services, roads and highways were the second most important area to be funded (after schools).

Visioning Process – May 31, 2003

Circulation was discussed during the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis at the May 31, 2003 Charrette:

Strengths

- ❑ The bike path was listed by many as the major Circulation strength.

Weaknesses

- ❑ Traffic congestion was the top-ranking Circulation weakness.
- ❑ The lack of pedestrian access and discontinuity of sidewalks were cited by many as weaknesses in the circulation system. An additional issue is safety concerns along existing sidewalks, especially when they closely parallel major arteries. Lack of sidewalks along Kingstown Road and a lack of attractive human-scaled pedestrian connections between shopping areas on Old Tower Hill Road and Kingstown Road were discussed.
- ❑ The need for increased mass transit including an intown trolley and access to social service agencies within South Kingstown and in Charlestown and Narragansett were cited by many who spoke on behalf of those without access to private vehicles.
- ❑ Maintenance of rural roads and poor signage were also mentioned as weaknesses.



Opportunities

Discussion focused on the need to expand multimodal transportation alternatives in Town to decrease dependence on private automobiles. Participants view the comprehensive plan update as an opportunity to implement the following:

- ❑ Develop commuter rail transportation from Kingston Station to Providence, Boston, New London, and Quonset via extension of MBTA service south from Providence or Metroliner service east from Connecticut.
- ❑ Make Greenway connections in the central core and extend bike paths to connect with the regional system.
- ❑ Improve RIPTA bus service with additional routes between URI and Wakefield and provide FLEX service. Support downtown revitalization efforts with improved transit service and bus shelters. Gridlocked traffic conditions demonstrate the need for high occupant vehicle solutions such as public transportation.

Threats

- ❑ Continued traffic congestion is recognized as a threat to the quality of life in Town. Traffic congestion is also recognized as a threat to economic development.

Discussion at the Circulation small group workshop focused on several areas of traffic congestion and opportunities requiring future attention (items are not ranked):

- The existing traffic signal to the new Wakefield post office on Charles Street should be more efficiently timed.
- Better enforcement is required to reduce traffic speeds on Route 108 through Wakefield center and at the Dale Carlia intersection. Speeds vary by time of day, day of week, time of year.
- A new road was suggested to connect Route 138 from Kingston, north of the URI campus, across the tracks, to Route 2. This road was felt to be needed due to traffic generated by the new Ryan Center and with general growth at the University.
- Participants were concerned with increased traffic volumes and pedestrian access and safety concerns on Route 108 from Curtis Corner north to Route 138.
- Public transportation, bus, trolley or FLEX service is needed to the center of Town and to medical and mental health centers.



- Responsibility for plowing or shoveling sidewalks needs to be clearly defined and enforced, especially in Kingston where URI plows sidewalks on its campus but not on adjacent roads.
- Potential bike paths were suggested to connect URI with Wakefield and along Ministerial Road. Bike paths are recognized as positive for open space and recreation, tourism / economic development, and natural resource protection.
- The need for sidewalks was discussed on Kingston Road, South Road, and Potter Wood to Route 138.
- Traffic Calming should be investigated on Pond Street from Route 1 to Main Street.
- The Town recognizes the importance of cooperating with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation on issues on the state routes in Town including Routes 138, 108, 110, and 1.
- The need for a citizen's based traffic and transportation committee was suggested.
- The South Kingstown Traffic Improvement Program was recognized as an important tool in identifying priority road improvements.
- Extension of RIPTA's fixed service in Narragansett to South Kingstown would improve transportation options in Town without requiring riders to make reservations 48 hours in advance.

Circulation Vision

The Town recognizes that an efficient, safe, and multimodal traffic system improves the quality of life of citizens and provide connections between neighborhoods, villages, shopping areas, and community facilities including schools, community centers, and beaches. Despite our dependence on the private automobile, by providing attractive and safe bike paths, greenway connections and sidewalks, commuter rail service, and improved RIPTA service, the traffic burden on local roadways may be reduced. Paved shoulders should be considered in all roadway construction and upgrade projects to facilitate bicycle travel. The Town recognizes its partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the University of Rhode Island as well as environmental (Audubon Society, Sierra Club for example) and health based (RI Lung Association) non-profit organizations in many circulation initiatives and will continue to work with them to improve safety and accessibility for residents, tourists, and students.

Circulation Goals

To integrate safe transportation modes in the Town without disrupting the aesthetic, environmental and cultural values of the community.

Goal 1 – to encourage multimodal transportation opportunities.

Policy 1.1 - The Town will make every effort to encourage public transit use as an alternative to the single-occupant automobile as a means of transportation.

- The Town shall encourage public transportation usage including RIPTA bus ridership with emphasis on adherence to schedules.

Responsible Party: Planning Department

- The Town shall encourage use of improved RIPTA service by students and staff between University of Rhode Island and Wakefield shopping opportunities.

Responsible Party: Planning Department

- The Town shall encourage RIPTA to provide FLEX or regularly scheduled service to social



service and mental health offices in South Kingstown, Charlestown, and Narragansett. This is especially important for local residents who are transit dependent.

Responsible Party: Planning Department

- The Town, in cooperation with RIDOT and RIDEM, shall encourage the use of shuttle buses to the beach areas during summer months in an effort to reduce traffic congestion on Route 1.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Planning Department

- The Town shall consider the potential for trolley service in Wakefield as an economic development incentive as part of downtown revitalization. RIPTA should be encouraged to provide appropriately designed bus shelters at popular bus stops.

Responsible Party: ~~Town Administrator's Manager-Office~~, Planning Department

* *The Town should encourage RIPTA to expand routes where possible to include affordable housing locations noted in Appendix Four, Table Eleven. This would be a regular service in addition to areas covered by RIPTA's 210 Flex Service and the RITE CARE/RITE Share Service.*

Policy 1.2 – The Town shall continue to advocate for commuter rail service to Kingston Station to augment AMTRAK service.

- The Town shall routinely encourage RIDOT to investigate more frequent stops at Kingston Station for use by commuters to Boston, Providence and Quonset/Davisville. The Town shall review use of MBTA commuter rail service at Wickford Junction (once operational) by Town residents and assist RIDOT in assessing the demand for possible extension of the South County Commuter Rail service to Kingston.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Planning Department

- The Town shall solicit the assistance of the Statewide Planning Program in providing assistance for zoning changes for Transit Oriented Development at Kingston Station.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Planning Department

- The Town shall work with RIDOT to determine the potential demand for commuter rail service to New London CT.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Department of Public Services

Policy 1.3 – The Town shall facilitate pedestrian improvements throughout town to encourage walking as a multimodal option to the single occupant vehicle.

- The Town shall continue to maintain existing sidewalks and to construct new sidewalks where needed. The Town shall encourage construction of sidewalks on collector type roads and within a 1/2-mile radius of schools *and to service locations with a high concentration of senior citizen residency.* The Town shall encourage the connection of sidewalks and/or bicycle paths within and between new subdivisions. New sidewalk construction shall include provisions for wheelchair ramp access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. *Additional provisions should be taken to ensure that sidewalks are kept clean and free of snow, ice and other hazards.*

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Planning Board, Department of Public Services

- The Town shall establish well-defined crosswalk pavement markings and enforce regulations



for motorists to STOP for pedestrians in crosswalks.

Responsible Party: Department of Public Services, Police Department

- The Town shall advocate for safe, human-scaled pedestrian connections between businesses on Old Tower Road and Kingstown Road. These connections should be attractively landscaped and properly maintained.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Planning Department

- In accordance with the “Town of South Kingstown’s New Sidewalk Policy” (adopted 9/24/01) the Town shall continue to implement sidewalk construction and improvements through the Capital Improvement Plan. To improve safety, sidewalks should be considered on Route 108 from Curtis Corner north to Route 138.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Department of Public Services, RIDOT

Policy 1.4 – The Town shall encourage bicycle use as a multimodal transportation alternative.

- The Town shall encourage the use of bicycles and, where feasible, may request that RIDOT add bicycle lanes on all new or upgraded State roads. Where feasible, bicycle lanes will be added to existing Town-owned collector roads.

Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, Department of Public Services

- A network of bicycle and footpaths shall be developed to encourage alternative transportation modes in the central areas of Town.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Town Manager's Office

- The Town shall work to assure that bike paths are continuous to avoid piecemeal, segmented construction with potentially dangerous on-road sections.

Responsible Party: Department of Public Services, Planning Department

- The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of the 2001 South Kingstown Greenways Master Plan through the Capital Improvement Program.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager’s Office, Department of Public Services, Planning Department

Policy 1.5 – The Town shall continue to implement improvements on municipally owned roadways and bridges to improve safety and capacity.

- The Town shall continue to assess its transportation infrastructure needs through its transportation improvement program.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager’s Office, Department of Public Services, Police Department.

- The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of the South Kingstown Transportation Improvement Program through the Capital Improvement Program.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager’s Office, Department of Public Services

- The Town shall implement traffic calming strategies to improve safety and reduce through traffic speed where warranted.



Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager’s Office, Department of Public Services, Planning Department, Police Department

Goal 2 – to assure that circulation improvements protect the quality of life in the community.

Policy 2.1 - The Town's policy will be to periodically review its Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations to ensure that the circulation goals and policies are reflected.

- The Town has identified an excess number of required parking spaces especially for commercial businesses over 1500 square feet of gross leasable area. Therefore, the Town shall consider amending its Zoning Ordinance to decrease the parking requirements to prevent over-paving.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board

- The Town shall amend its Zoning Ordinance to provide for shared parking areas and to permit parking on adjacent or nearby land.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board

- The Town shall establish flexible standards for roadway/driveway construction, including widths and type of material, in an effort to minimize the extent of impervious surfaces, reduce construction costs and encourage energy conservation.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Planning Board, Department of Public Services

- The Town shall review the need to establish a maximum length of road with a cul-de-sac.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Planning Board, Department of Public Services

Policy 2.2 - The Town will encourage an energy-efficient pattern of development which avoids urban sprawl and scattered type of land development. The Town endorses a Land Use Plan having a concentration of population and services in a central core area.

- The Town shall pursue peripheral development outside of the Wakefield - Peace Dale - Kingston core which discourages major population growth.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board

Policy 2.3 - The Town of South Kingstown recognizes the importance of proper street lighting for public safety.

- The Traffic and Transportation Review Committee will review proposals to upgrade areas with inadequate and/or nonexistent street lighting based upon the following criteria, and street lighting in other areas will be discouraged:

- Locations with a relatively high accident rate;
- Locations with a relatively high crime rate;
- Locations with a concentration of senior citizens or handicapped residents such as elderly housing projects or nursing homes; and,
- Areas of special or unusual character, (e.g. church or school).

Responsible Party: Department of Public Services, Traffic and Transportation Review Committee.



- The Town shall require that new or upgraded street lighting and lighting for parking lots and other private development be shielded downward to minimize glare in the night sky.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board, Department of Public Services

Policy 2.4 - The Town supports minimizing the use of oil and salts on roads especially in environmentally sensitive areas except where essential for public safety.

- The Town shall work with RIDOT to reduce the amount of salt and oil added to the roads. *The Town will also explore the use of alternative products for deicing roadways during the winter months.*

Responsible Party: Planning Department

Policy 2.5 - The Town will promote the highest aesthetic standards for roadway design and visual quality along major roads.

- The Town shall seek designation of portions of U.S. Route 1 as Scenic Highways, in accordance with the State Act.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department

- The Town shall promote the adoption of a Highway Overlay District in its Zoning Ordinance in order to control, among other things, roadside aesthetics.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board

- The Town shall promote the phasing out of existing billboards along all roadways in the Town, with maximum application of the legal powers it may have to do so.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board

- The Town shall continue to prohibit the construction of new billboards throughout the Town.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department

- The Town shall continue its street tree planting program where appropriate and shall retain existing significant trees when constructing new roadways and sidewalks.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Conservation Commission

- The Town shall consider the option of providing underground utilities where feasible on all new or reconstructed State or local streets or highways.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Public Utilities Department

Goal 3 – to work with state and federal agencies to improve safety and accessibility for residents, tourists, and students.

Policy 3.1 - The Town will continue to improve its policy of coordination with RIDOT on state transportation projects, by maintaining contact with RIDOT during all phases of planning, design and construction. The Town will strongly encourage RIDOT to utilize flexible road design standards that provide an appropriate fit to the community.

- The Town will insist on its rights of equal partnership with the State authorities.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board, Department of Public



Services

Policy 3.2 – The Town shall continue to solicit state assistance for transportation improvements through Statewide Planning Program’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

- The Town will work with state agencies including RIDOT and RIDEM for funding for enhancement projects, bicycle path and greenway projects, roadway upgrade projects, and other transportation improvements in town.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Department of Public Services, Planning Department

Policy 3.3 – The Town shall require that the University of Rhode Island implement traffic reduction programs and traffic management practices to mitigate traffic congestions on local roads.

- The Town will work with the various departments of the University of Rhode Island to assure that traffic management for all events, including those at the Ryan Center, are adequately planned and implemented to minimize traffic disruption to the community.

Responsible Party: Town Manager’s Office, Department of Public Services, Planning Department

Goal 4 – to utilize multimodal circulation improvements as an economic development incentive.

Policy 4.1 - The Town endorses the proposed improvements to Main Street with particular emphasis on upgraded street amenities as outlined in the Economic Development Element.

- The Town shall maintain a dialogue with RIDOT through all phases of road construction.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Town Manager's Office

- The Town shall review all phases of RIDOT plans, solicit comments from the public, and submit formal comments to the State.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Planning Department

Policy 4.2 - The Town will promote the use of the Town parking lot off Main Street in Wakefield through physical improvements to the facility and by providing better signage and amenities.



ELEMENTS

University of Rhode Island



University of Rhode Island Element

Introduction

The University of Rhode Island element is a new element added to the 2004 Comprehensive Plan update. The addition of this element recognizes the importance of this state university to the local economy, the diversity of its population, and the assets it brings for academic and recreation programs. Presence of the university also stimulates critical and progressive thinking regarding many municipal issues.

In 2002 student enrollment at the University of Rhode Island totaled 14,180 including 11,277 undergraduates and 2,903 graduate students. This is a decrease from 1992 when total enrollment was 15,451 with 11,770 undergraduates and 3,681 graduate students. These numbers exclude students participating in off-campus studies. In 2002, 2,426 employees worked on campus, including 2,247 full time and 179 part time employees. Employees include faculty and staff but do not include graduate assistants who are counted as students. In 1993, the earliest year for which comparable data is available, 2,501 employees worked on campus, including 2,348 full time and 153 part time employees (G. Boden, University of Rhode Island, May 20, 2003). According to URI President Caruthers' recently released Strategic Plan, it is anticipated that enrollment at the Kingston campus will increase by 1,000 students by 2006.

The accompanying table indicates the place of residence for URI students in both 1992 and 2002. During the 2002 academic year one dormitory was closed for renovations and several fraternity houses were closed. Some fraternity houses have reopened for other non-residential purposes, thereby reducing available on-campus housing opportunities. No figures are available from the university to indicate how many students live off-campus in South Kingstown.

According to URI personnel information, 854 faculty and staff live in South Kingstown including 383 in Wakefield, 226 in Kingston, 131 in West Kingston, 80 in Peace Dale.

The Board of Governors approved the University of Rhode Island Campus Master Plan on June 7, 2001. This statutory plan will be amended for conformance with upcoming projects. An area designated on the master plan as a parking garage will be developed with student housing. Parking has been relocated to outlying areas of the campus including the Ryan Center. RIPTA on-campus bus service, initiated in the fall of 2002, provides fixed route schedules to lots weekdays on two routes. RIPTA service is funded through URI Parking Services. Any student, including freshmen, may register a car on campus. Approximately 700 freshmen have cars on campus.

RIPTA fixed route service through campus has been very successful in its first year of operation with ridership increasing steadily to 1,213 users per day in March 2003. The RIPTA service operates

Student Place of Residence, University of Rhode Island

	1992	2002
Students living on Campus		
Undergraduate Residence Halls	3625	3776
Undergraduate Fraternity & Sorority	1000 ^C	564
Graduate Apartments	225 ^C	223
Students living off campus^A		
Undergraduate	7,245 ^B	7,111
Graduate Students	2,372 ^B	1,918
Faculty and Staff ^A	2,366 ^B	2,310

^A Student or employee reported a RI city or town as home address

^B Earliest available data from 1994

^C Earliest available data from 1993 are approximate

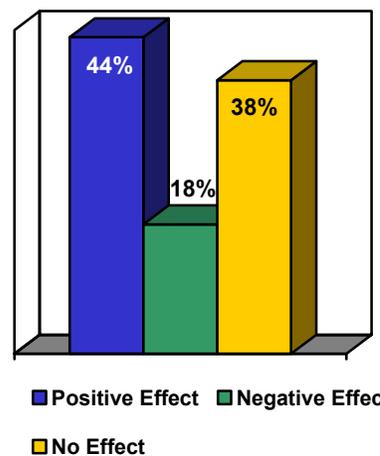
weekdays with four buses on two half-hour routes (7 to 8 minute headway) from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM. RIPTA FLEX service is also available on weekends to provide connections to Kingston Station, graduate apartments, and to the RIPTA fixed routes. Route 64 provides service to Wakefield, Narragansett, Bonnet Shores, and Newport and route 66 provides service to Providence and Wakefield. RIPTA utilizes 16 to 20-passenger buses for the scheduled and Flex service. Bike racks are available on all buses.

Representatives of the Town of South Kingstown attend regularly scheduled campus planning meetings with the URI Facilities Department. Participation in this process has been productive in terms of increasing the Town’s awareness of on campus issues, developments and planning initiatives. This process and dialogue has also helped to communicate Town concerns to the University community.

Survey Findings

A new question was added to the survey distributed to registered voters in 2003 to reflect the addition of a University of Rhode Island element to the comprehensive plan: *What is your opinion concerning the new construction and expansion activities taking place at the University of Rhode Island?* Nearly 45 percent felt URI expansion was positive, 38 percent felt it has not affected them, and less than 18 percent felt it was negative. This survey was mailed to registered voters, including students who are registered voters. It should be noted that the turnout of students at the November 2002 election was very low because many students who had registered during the 2000 presidential election were no longer living on campus.

What is your opinion concerning new construction and expansion at URI?



Visioning Process – May 31, 2003

The University of Rhode Island was discussed during the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis at the May 31, 2003 Charrette:

Strengths

- ❑ Significant recognition was made of the role of the URI as a major employment resource in Town.
- ❑ The contribution of students to the local economy was also acknowledged.

Weaknesses

- ❑ URI was identified as a major traffic generator and a major contributor to traffic congestion on local roads.
- ❑ URI students force up rents on available rental housing, thereby precluding their use for affordable housing by low income residents.
- ❑ URI drains municipal services.

Opportunities

Participants view the comprehensive plan update as an opportunity to implement the following with regard to the University:

- ❑ Initiate monthly meetings with URI to improved town-gown relationship, to partner regarding transportation and housing issues, and to develop a mutually beneficial working relationship.



- ❑ Tap the resources of URI for knowledge and expertise on municipal issues.
- ❑ Partner with URI as an economic developer of research and development businesses.

Threats

- ❑ Residents URI faculty and graduate student apartments benefit from municipal services but do not support tax base.
- ❑ With projected enrollment increases, the availability of low-income rental housing for all residents will be threatened.

University of Rhode Island Vision for the Town

The University of Rhode Island will continue to enrich the Town as a cultural, recreational, and employment source, as an economic development partner for research and development and biotechnology startups, and as a stimulus for intellectual thinking within the community. The Town will work with URI and the Board of Governors for Higher Education to advocate for the construction of additional student housing on campus, for expanded bus service from URI to local shopping centers and other services, and for traffic improvements warranted by campus expansion. The Town will work with the University to acquire or otherwise protect URI satellite properties in sensitive areas of town including Peckham Farm over the sole source aquifer, and East Farm and the Hazard property on the Saugatucket River. The Town shall require that URI implement traffic reduction and traffic management to mitigate traffic congestion on local roads. The Town will welcome URI as part of the community planning process and will encourage URI to coordinate with the Town regarding the change in use of any URI-owned parcels beyond the immediate Kingston campus. The Town will continue to recognize that the University attracts a population that strengthens the diversity of the community and stimulates the tourism economy.

University of Rhode Island Goals for the Town

Overall Goal: The Town recognizes the historical, cultural and economic importance of the University of Rhode Island to the community as a whole and is committed to working with the University in partnership to maintain and strengthen this relationship for the betterment of the Town and the University.

Policy 1.1: The Town will maintain effective and ongoing communications with the University by continuing to participate in the URI Master Plan Review Team process.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager, Planning Department

Policy 1.2: The Town will maintain an ongoing dialogue with the University on transportation planning, traffic management, traffic calming and infrastructure related issues, particularly in relation to the Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Planning's Transportation Improvement Program.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager, Planning Department, Planning Board, Department of Public Services, Traffic and Transportation Review Committee, RIDOT, URI.

Policy 1.3 –The Town supports and strongly encourages University efforts and programs to utilize and promote the use of innovative and alternative forms of transportation for commuters and staff, particularly in relation to underutilized or expanded RIPTA programs and linkage to the use of the Kingston Station multi-modal transportation capabilities.

Responsible Party: Town Manager, Planning Department, Traffic and Transportation Review Committee, RIPTA, URI.



Policy 1.4 – The Town supports the use of the South County Bike Path as an alternative means of commuter access for “down the line” commuting to the University and will continue to work in concert with URI and RIDOT to improve linkages from the existing path to the institution.

Responsible Party: Town Manager, Planning Board, Planning Department, Department of Public Services, Department of Parks and Recreation, Police Department, URI, RIDOT, RIPTA.

Policy 1.5 - The Town supports efforts by the University to house a greater percentage of the student body on campus to lessen demand on rental housing within the Town and region and to mitigate commuter traffic to the campus.

- The Town supports University programs and policies to decrease commuter traffic to and within the campus, particularly with regard to promoting the use of high occupancy vehicles, increased use of public transit (RIPTA) and shuttle buses to access the multi-modal facility at the Kingston Railroad Station.
- The Town supports and encourages the University to provide disincentives to curb resident student use of automobiles on the campus facility. Such disincentives may include, but not be limited to: increased fees for parking, parking lot restrictions and prohibitions and considering a prohibition of underclassman parking/auto use on the Kingston campus.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Planning Board

Policy 1.6 - The Town is generally supportive of the University’s plans for expansion of student enrollment, provided such expansion is supported adequately through the provision of expanded housing opportunities on the Kingston campus.

Responsible Party: Town Council, Town Manager, Planning Board, Planning Department.

Policy 1.7 – To protect wetlands, surface and groundwater resources associated with the Chipuxet Aquifer the Town supports, encourages and expects that the University will utilize of best management practices for drainage handling and soil and sedimentation control all capital improvement projects, campus renovations and infrastructure management.

Responsible Party: Planning Department, Conservation Commission, URI.



APPENDIX 1

Survey Questionnaire

SOUTH KINGSTOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FIVE YEAR UPDATE SURVEY

In accordance with State Law the Town is in the process of updating the Comprehensive Community Plan. As a component of the update process the Planning Board is administering this survey to solicit community input. Although it will take only a few minutes to complete the survey, your answers will help shape the Comprehensive Plan and the future of our Town for many years to come.

As we are initiating the update process, we need to know your thoughts right away. Please complete the survey immediately and return it in the postage paid envelope that we have provided. (Your responses will be kept confidential.) The results of this survey will be presented at an upcoming public Comprehensive Community Plan meeting. Thank you for your participation.

**Office
Use
Only**

(01) 1. Overall, how do you feel about the present quality of life in South Kingstown?
1__ Excellent 2__ Good 3__ Fair 4__ Poor 5__ Don't know

2. Listed below is a set of statements about South Kingstown. Next to each statement are four numbers representing different levels of agreement or disagreement. (For example, the number 2 stands for "Slightly Agree".) Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the statements by circling the appropriate number.

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Slightly Agree</u>	<u>Slightly Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
(02) The Town should try to attract and maintain light industry.	1	2	3	4
(03) There is an adequate amount of affordable housing in Town for people with low incomes.	1	2	3	4
(04) There is an adequate amount of affordable housing in Town for people with moderate incomes.	1	2	3	4
(05) The present rate of residential development is too fast.	1	2	3	4
(06) The Town has done a good job of preserving coastal/ shoreline resources.	1	2	3	4
(07) Traffic levels on Town highways and road ways will be a major problem in the near future.	1	2	3	4

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Slightly Agree</u>	<u>Slightly Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
(08) The Town needs to continue to acquire additional lands for conservation and open space preservation.	1	2	3	4
(09) The Town needs to continue to acquire additional recreational facilities.	1	2	3	4
(10) The Town has done a good job of protecting the quality of drinking water.	1	2	3	4
(11) The Town should encourage the tourism industry to add to the economy and create jobs.	1	2	3	4
(12) There needs to be more varied employment opportunities in South Kingstown.	1	2	3	4
(13) It is more important to me for the Town to have more shopping opportunities than it is to keep a "small town" atmosphere.	1	2	3	4
(14) Please use the space below to discuss what your greatest concerns are for the future of South Kingstown.				

- (15) The development of a research park is potentially one way to reduce the Town's dependence on residential property taxes. A research park would consist of office buildings, laboratories and small manufacturing facilities. Please check the line that best describes your feelings about the development of a research park in South Kingstown.
- 1__ Strongly favor 2__ Moderately favor 3__ Moderately against
4__ Strongly against 5__ Don't know

- (16) If the site of a new research park were to be in proximity to your neighborhood, would you favor it or oppose it? Please check the line that best describes your feelings.
- 1__ Strongly favor 2__ Moderately favor 3__ Moderately against
4__ Strongly oppose 5__ Not sure
- (17) How satisfied are you with the current zoning regulations? Are they:
- 1__ Too restrictive 2__ Too lenient 3__ Just about right
4__ Don't know
- (18) The population of the Town has grown 11.8% (3,309 persons) between 1990 and 2000. How would you characterize this change in population?
- 1__ Too fast 2__ Just right 3__ Too slow
4__ Don't know
- (19) Commercial growth (new stores, office buildings, restaurants and factories) may have the effect of lowering homeowners' property taxes and providing more funds for Town services. Compared to the present commercial growth rate, would you like the commercial growth rate to:
- 1__ Increase greatly 2__ Increase slightly 3__ Stay about the same
4__ Decrease slightly 5__ Decrease greatly
- (20) An expansion or improvement of Town services such as recreation, police and public works can potentially be accompanied by an increase in local taxes. With that in mind, do you believe there is a need to expand any Town services?
- 1__ Yes 2__ No 3__ Not sure
- (21) If you answered yes to the previous question, please check the line next to the Town service(s) you would be willing to expand or improve at the possible expense of a tax increase. (You may check more than one line.)
- 1__ Schools 2__ Police 3__ Roads and Highways
4__ Recreational Facilities 5__ Fire (presently all volunteer) 6__ Recreational Services
7__ Garbage Collection (currently no pick-up) 8__ Other (Please specify below)
- (22) What is your opinion concerning the new construction and expansion activities taking place at the University of Rhode Island?
- 1__ Has had a positive effect 2__ Has had a negative effect 3__ Has not effected you
- (23) Looking ahead ten years to the year 2013, do you think that South Kingstown will be a better place to live than it is today, a worse place to live or about the same?
- 1__ A better place 2__ A worse place 3__ About the same
4__ Don't know

Please use the space below to elaborate on your response to question 23:

The following information about you and your family will help us to understand and address the concerns of citizens throughout our town. Please remember that your responses are confidential.

(24) In which of South Kingstown's neighborhoods or villages do you currently reside?

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1__ East Matunuck | 2__ Green Hill | 3__ Indian Lake |
| 4__ Kingston | 5__ Matunuck | 6__ Middlebridge |
| 7__ Peace Dale | 8__ Perryville | 9__ Snug Harbor |
| 10__ Tuckertown | 11__ Usquepaugh | 12__ Wakefield |
| 13__ West Kingston | 14__ In South Kingstown but
not in any village listed | 15__ Not in South Kingstown |

(25) How long have you lived in South Kingstown?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1__ Less than 6 years | 2__ 6 to 10 years | 3__ 11 to 15 years |
| 4__ 16 to 20 years | 5__ 21 to 25 years | 6__ 26 or more years |

(26) Do you live here: 1__ year-round 2__ summer 3__ school year __NA

(27) Do you have children attending South Kingstown Public Schools?
1__ Yes 2__ No __NA

(28) Please check your age group:

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1__ 18 to 22 | 2__ 23 to 29 | 3__ 30 to 39 | 4__ 40 to 49 |
| 5__ 50 to 59 | 6__ 60 to 69 | 7__ 70 and over | __ NA |

(29) Do you own or rent your present residence? 1__ own 2__ rent __NA

(30) Please indicate your present employment status:

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1__ Employed | 2__ Unemployed | 3__ Homemaker |
| 4__ Retired | 5__ Student | __ NA |

(31) If you are employed, is your primary place of employment in South Kingstown or outside of South Kingstown?

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1__ In South Kingstown | 2__ Outside of South Kingstown |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|

(32) Please indicate the category into which your household's annual income falls (to the nearest thousand dollars, before taxes) by checking the appropriate line below:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1__ Under \$ 10,000 | 2__ \$ 10,000 to \$ 30,000 |
| 3__ \$ 31,000 to \$ 50,000 | 4__ \$ 51,000 to \$ 70,000 |
| 5__ \$ 71,000 to \$ 90,000 | 6__ \$ 91,000 to \$110,000 |
| 7__ Over \$ 110,000 | |

Thank you for participating in the Comprehensive Plan Five Year Update Survey. Please return your completed survey form no later than February 24, 2003 in the postage paid envelope provided.



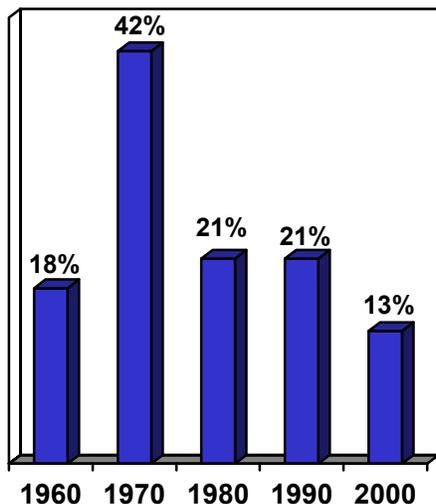
APPENDIX 2

Population – 2000 US Census South Kingstown, RI

Population

Population Trends

According to the U.S. Census, the population of South Kingstown in 2000 was 27,921 representing a 13.4 percent increase over the population in 1990. This percent increase was significantly below the 20.6 percent increase in the previous decade (1980 to 1990). The population growth was a similar 20.7 percent in the previous decade, when the population grew from 16,913 people in 1970 to 20,414 people in 1980. From 1990 to 2000, the Town added 4,217 year-round residents, representing an average annual increase of 420 people (the same average annual increase from 1980 to 1990).



Although the rate of increase has increased, the average annual numerical increase has remained fairly constant.

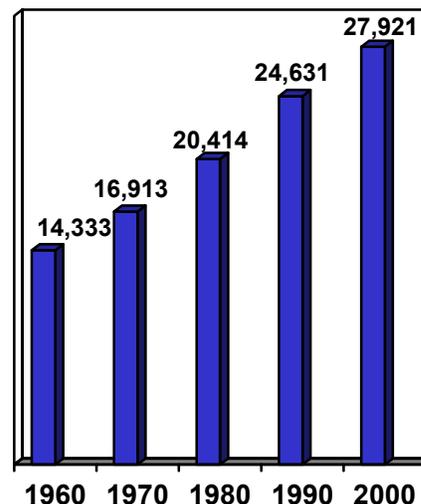


Table 1 presents data trends for South Kingstown, Washington County, and the State of Rhode Island. Within the past decade there has been a dramatic change in the source of population of growth within South Kingstown. Although in the previous decade approximately 70 percent of growth was from in-migration or people moving into the community and 30 percent was from natural increase (births in excess of deaths), between 1988 and 1998 natural increase accounted for 31.8 percent of the annual increase. In that decade, natural increase was 1,046 or an

average annual increase of 105. Births have been a reliable component of population growth in the 1990s, averaging 294 annual births through 1998 (deaths averaged 190 per year).

Table 1
Trends in Total Population - South Kingstown, Washington County, State of Rhode Island, 1970-2000

Year	South Kingstown	Washington County	Rhode Island
2000	27,921	123,546	1,048,319
1990	24,631	110,006	1,003,464
1980	20,414	93,317	947,154
1970	16,913	85,706	949,723
South Kingstown	Absolute Growth	Average Annual Growth	Percent Change
1990-2000	3,290	329	13.4
1980-1990	4,198	420	20.7
1970-1980	3,501	350	20.70
Rhode Island			
1990-2000	44,855	4,485	4.50
1980-1990	56,310	5,631	5.90



<u>Year</u>	<u>South Kingstown</u>	<u>Washington County</u>	<u>Rhode Island</u>
1970-1980	-2,567	-257	-0.30

Source: 2000 US Census; 1992 South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update

The current South Kingstown population represents 2.7 percent of the State's population and 23 percent of the population of Washington County. As the South County section of the state has continued to grow, the town's share of the state population has continued to increase from 2.2 percent in 1980 and 2.5 percent in 1990 to 2.7 percent in 2000.

As the population has increased, the density of development in town has increased. In 1990 there were 431.4 residents per square mile. In 2000 the Town had 489.0 residents per square mile, a 13.4 percent increase. The state density increased from 960.3 persons per square mile in 1990 to 1,003.2 persons per square mile in 2000. Twelve Rhode Island municipalities have a lower population density than South Kingstown.

Population Projections

The Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program has prepared population projections for all municipalities based on the Rhode Island 2000 Census (www.planning.state.ri.us/misc/data.htm). Table 2 presents data by age category for 2005 through 2020. A 9.1 percent increase is projected between 2000 and 2010 and a 19.3 percent increase is projected between 2000 and 2020 (a 9.3 percent increase between 2010 and 2020). Over the coming decades, the population is projected to decrease in the 0 to 4 age group and the 24 to 34 age group, with a dramatic increase in the 45 to 54 age group and the 60 to 74 age group as the "Gen-Xers" and "baby boomers" age.

Table 2
Town of South Kingstown
Population Projections, 2000 to 2020

Age Group	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
0-4	2,033	2,025	1,622	1,359	1,478
5-9	1,160	2,044	2,066	1,681	1,413
10-14	1,235	1,169	2,090	2,141	1,755
15-19	1,438	1,241	1,191	2,164	2,232
20-24	1,309	1,443	1,265	1,232	2,250
24-29	4,077	1,311	1,472	1,307	1,281
30-34	3,378	4,087	1,338	1,519	1,359
35-39	1,381	3,385	4,164	1,380	1,579
40-44	1,849	1,381	3,439	4,289	1,431
45-49	1,795	1,841	1,397	3,527	4,432
50-54	1,502	1,773	1,848	1,423	3,618
55-59	1,148	1,464	1,760	1,856	1,439
60-64	742	1,098	1,424	1,739	1,845
65-69	761	690	1,039	1,364	1,683
70-74	614	679	627	957	1,265



Age Group	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
75+	1,322	1,292	1,351	1,390	1,657
TOTAL	25,744	26,923	28,093	29,328	30,717

Source: <http://www.planning.state.ri.us/misc/data.htm>

Age

The University of Rhode Island's presence in South Kingstown creates a population that is, on the average, younger than other Rhode Island communities. The 2000 Census gives the median age in Town as 36.6 years (young for the state as a whole but significantly higher than the 27.7 median age in 1990). This represents a 21 percent increase over the 1990 median age and a 38 percent increase over the 1980 median age of 24.3 years (Table 3). The large resident student population living in group quarters and off-campus (3,905 persons in the Kingston census tract) will continue to affect the median age of the Town. The census tract dominated by URI has a 19.7 median age while the median age in the other four tracts ranges from 36.7 to 43.5.

Table 3
Median Age, South Kingstown, Washington County, and Rhode Island
1980 to 2000

	South Kingstown	Washington County	Rhode Island
1980	24.3	28.5	31.7
1990	27.7	34.0	34.0
2000	33.6	37.4	36.7

Source: South Kingstown Comprehensive Community Plan, 1992 and Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1)

Household Characteristics

In the 2000 census South Kingstown had 9,268 households including 6,392 family households, 34.0 percent of which included their own children under age 18. The 2000 US Census reports that 36.2 percent of households included individuals under 18 and 24.3 percent had individuals 65 years and over. The average household size was 2.56 and the average family size was 3.07.

Of the 11,291 total housing units, 82.1 percent was occupied, 15.3 percent was seasonal, recreational, or occasional use, and the remainder was vacant. Of the 9,268 occupied housing units, 74.9 percent was owner occupied and 25.1 percent was renter occupied. The average household size of an owner occupied unit was 2.72 persons while the average household size of a rented unit was 2.10. (http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/QTTable?_ts+79628194609)

The mean household income in 2000 was \$69,682. The 2000 US Census reports that 17.8 percent of households earned less than \$25,000 annual income and 19.4 percent had earned \$100,000 or more annually.

College Students

University of Rhode Island students play a major role in South Kingstown's population. During the past

decade enrollment at the Kingston campus has decreased by 8.2 percent (including a dramatic 21.1 percent decrease in graduate student enrollment). Place of residence for students has also changed within the past decade. Within this time a dormitory renovation program has temporarily shifted housing within the community. As indicated, fraternity and sorority house residence has decreased 43.6 percent as houses have been closed. These buildings have returned to use both as residential (IEP and Women's Center) and non-residential use.

Table 4
URI Student Enrollment and Place of Residence
1992 and 2002

	1992	2002	Percent Change
STUDENT ENROLLMENT ^A			
Undergraduate	11,770	11,277	-4.2
Graduate student	3,681	2,903	-21.1
TOTAL	15,451	14,180	-8.2
PLACE OF RESIDENCE			
<u>Students living off campus ^B</u>			
Undergraduate	7,245 ^C	7,111	-1.8
Graduate	2,372 ^C	1,918	-19.1
TOTAL LIVING OFF CAMPUS	9,617	9,029	-6.1
<u>Students living on campus</u>			
Undergraduate Fraternity & Sorority	1,000 ^D	564	-43.6
Undergraduate Residence Halls	3,625	3,776	4.2
Graduate Apartments	225 ^D	223	-0.9
TOTAL LIVING ON CAMPUS	4,850	4,563	-5.9

Source: URI Office of Planning Services and Professional Development, May 20, 2003

Notes:

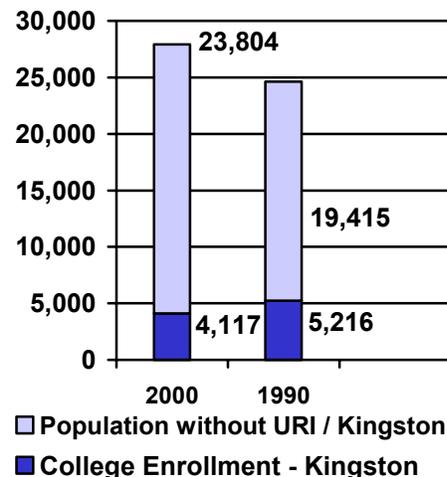
^A Excludes students who are participating in off-campus studies. Includes a small number of students who take class only at the Providence campus.

^B Student or employee reported a RI city or town as home address.

^C Earliest available data from 1994.

^D Earliest available data from 1993 are approximate.

Table 5 presents information from the US Census Bureau Profile of Selected Social Characteristics for 1990 and 2000 for the census block group which represents the University of Rhode Island. Census Block Group 514 is bounded on the south by Kingston Road, the east by North Road, the north by the town line, and the west by Chipuxet River and the rail line. College enrollment would include anyone with one or more course so it may look higher in the town-wide data than it might otherwise be. The Town of South Kingstown's population increased 13.4 percent between 1990 and 2000. This increase reflected both the decrease in URI enrollment and Townwide population increase. As indicated in Table 5, excluding student enrollment in BG 514



(Kingston), the town population increased 23 percent while college enrollment decreased 21 percent in BG 514 and 17 percent throughout the town. This is shown in the accompanying graphic.

**Table 5
Comparison of Total Population, 1990 and 2000, with College Enrollment**

	Town of South Kingstown		Census Block Group 514 - Kingston		South Kingstown Population without College Enrollment	South Kingstown Population without URI / Kingston
	Total Population	College Enrollment	Total Population	College Enrollment		
1990	24,631	7,008	5,652	5,216	17,623	19,415
2000	27,921	5,840	4,440	4,117	22,081	23,804
% change, 1990 to 2000	0.13	(0.17)	(0.21)	(0.21)	0.25	0.23

Source:

- US Census Bureau American FactFinder DP-2 Profile of Selected Social Characteristics: 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) – sample data for South Kingstown Town and BG 1, Tract 514
- US Census Bureau American FactFinder DP-2 Social Characteristics: 1990 (STF 3) for South Kingstown Town and BG 1, Tract 514

Minority Population

The total minority population in South Kingstown, including those listing two or more races, are non-white, or Hispanic white, is 9.6 percent of the total population (90.4 percent was white). Table 6 presents data for the town, county and state for 2000. In 1990 93.3 percent of town residents identified their race as white in the US Census. Table 7 identifies racial characteristics of the town from 1980 to 2000. As indicated, the minority population of South Kingstown has remained fairly stable with a slight increase in the Hispanic category.

**Table 6
Minority Population, South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island**

	Minority Groups			Total Minority	As a percentage of total Population
	Two or more races	Non-white	Hispanic White		
South Kingstown	518	1,963	210	2,691	9.6
Washington County	1,668	4,737	1,007	7,412	6.0
Rhode Island	28,251	128,877	32,758	189,886	18.1

Source: <http://www.planning.state.ri.us/census/ri2000.htm>

**Table 7
Percentage Distribution of Racial Characteristics of South Kingstown, 1980 to 2000**

	1980	1990	2000
White	93.4	93.3	91.1
One Race			
African American	1.8	1.4	1.6
American Indian ^A	1.9	1.8	1.6
Asian	1.3	3.0	3.1
Other ^B	0.7	0.3	0.8
Hispanic Origin ^C	0.8	1.2	1.8
Total Population	20,414	24,631	27,921

^A Includes Eskimo and Aleut



^B Includes Eurasians, inter-racial, Mexican, Cuban, Puerto Rican, South American, Chicano or La Razo

^C Hispanic origin numbers are included in previous categories

Source: 1992 South Kingstown Community Comprehensive Plan and US Bureau of the Census 2000.

Commuting Patterns

Of the 13,445 workers living in South Kingstown, 12,490 worked in Rhode Island (7.1 percent worked outside the state), 8,931 worked in Washington County, and 3,559 worked outside of Washington County (<ftp://det2.det.state.ri.us/lmi/commute00.xls>).

The Census Transportation Planning Package (CTPP 2000) includes a profile of selected 1990 and 2000 characteristics. The mean travel time to work is 22.8 minutes, an increase from 1990 when the mean travel time was 19.4 minutes. The percentage of people who drove alone to work increased 23.7 percent while those who carpooled decreased 10.7 percent and those who used public transportation decreased 15.0 percent. A dramatic 40.5 percent increase has been observed in those working at home (an increase from 442 in 1990 to 621 in 2000).



APPENDIX 3

Matrix of Completed Goals and Policies – 1992 South Kingstown Comprehensive Community Plan

**South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update
2003 Report Card of 1992 Community Comprehensive Plan Initiatives**

Goal/Policy	Action	Agent	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
OVERALL GOAL OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: To create, maintain and improve a high quality of life for all the citizens of the Town					
LAND USE ELEMENT - To promote orderly growth patterns based upon the natural, cultural and historic character of the Town, the land's suitability for use and the aspirations of its citizens.					
GOAL 1:	To establish land use policies consistent with the Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act of 1988, and to maintain continuity with the 1986 South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan				
POLICY 1.1	To endorse the use of good comprehensive planning and its implementation to preserve the Town's diverse landscape and character, to balance the diverse needs of its citizens and to implement its land use policies	TC/PB		X	
POLICY 1.2	To ensure that the goals of each element of this Plan are implemented and modified in conformity with the Plan	TC/PB		X	
POLICY 1.3	To recognize that the Zoning Ordinance must be in conformance with provisions and intent of the Comp. Plan	TC/PB/Plan. Dept.		X	
POLICY 1.4	To recognize that any proposed zone changes not in conformance with the Comp. Plan would require a formal amendment to the Plan including a public hearing	TC/PB/Plan. Dept.	X		
GOAL 2:	To maintain an appropriate rate of population growth for the Town				
POLICY 2.1	To preserve its rural character, protect its natural environment and quality of life as well as to continue to provide a high quality of public services, the Town must regulate its growth rate.	TC/PB/Plan.Dept./ Legal Counsel	X		
POLICY 2.2	To realize that the development review process must consider fiscal, environmental and social impacts of new developments. The Town will adopt a Growth Management Program	PB/Plan.Dept.		X	
POLICY 2.3	The Town will adopt a Growth Management Program	TC/PB/Plan.Dept./ Legal Counsel	X		
POLICY 2.4	To require landowners, builders and developers to pay their fair share of the community impact of the proposed use.	TC/PB/Plan.Dept.	X		
POLICY 2.5	To adopt regulations and ordinances to minimize any adverse impacts from any proposed use of land.	TC/PB/Plan.Dept.		X	
POLICY 2.6	To maintain stability of the Town's tax rate and provide necessary public services and facilities.	TC/TM's Office/Finance Director/PB/Plan.Dept.		X	
POLICY 2.7	To ensure that Special Management District master plans are consistent with the Town's growth management program.	TC/PB/Plan.Dept.	X		
GOAL 3:	To promote high standards of development to preserve and enhance the quality of life, to encourage a sense of community and to protect the natural resources of the Town				
POLICY 3.1	To regulate the protection and enhancement of the rural, small town character and natural resources of the Town.	PB/Plan.Dept		X	
POLICY 3.2	To encourage landscape diversity that creates identify and a sense of place, fosters the creation of distinct neighborhoods and villages, and recognizes the natural features of the land.	PB/Plan.Dept		X	
POLICY 3.3	To encourage residential growth of high quality design in subdivisions avoiding urban sprawl	PB/Plan.Dept	X	X	
POLICY 3.4	To discourage strip highway commercial development patterns along major roads	PB/Plan.Dept		X	
POLICY 3.5	To support continuation of existing commercial waterfront zones	PB/Plan.Dept	X		
POLICY 3.6	To discourage the traffic safety hazards created by multiple driveways along the frontage of existing public streets	PB/Plan.Dept		X	
Goal 4:	To control urban sprawl and dispersion and to preserve the integrity of existing villages within the Town				
POLICY 4.1	To support control of urban sprawl by concentrating areas of population density in the main Town centers and providing adequate services	TC/PB/Plan. Dept.		X	
POLICY 4.2	Village area and core area distinctions must be maintained	TC/PB/Plan. Dept.		X	
Goal 5:	To create affordable housing opportunities for all income levels, age groups and population types within the Town - See Housing Element				
POLICY 5.1	To support the creation of affordable housing opportunities in accordance with the Housing Element of the Comp. Plan	TC/PB/Plan. Dept./Land Trust Affordable Housing Land Trust		X	
Goal 6:	To achieve a harmonious relationship between the human population and the natural environment - See Natural and Cultural Resources Element				

**South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update
2003 Report Card of 1992 Community Comprehensive Plan Initiatives**

Goal/Policy	Action	Agent	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 6.1	To preserve, protect and enhance the natural environment	TC/PB/Plan.Dept/Police/ Con Com		X	
POLICY 6.2	To support the policies and recommendations of RICRMC in the Salt Ponds and Narrow River Special Area Management Plans	TC/PB/ Con Com	X	X	
POLICY 6.3	To promote land development patterns and adopt regulations to protect and preserve the quality and quantity of ground and surface waters	TC/Plan.Dept/Con Com	X	X	
POLICY 6.4	To support protection of areas containing rare and endangered species from inappropriate development	TC/PB/Plan.Dept/ Police/Con Com	X		X
POLICY 6.5	To support protection of wetlands within the Town	TC/PB/Plan.Dept/ Police/Con Com	X		
POLICY 6.6	To support the implementation of a Harbor Management Plan to protect and preserve the Town's coastal resources and recreational opportunities	TC/Police/Planning Dept.			X
POLICY 6.7	To protect, preserve and enhance the viability of its agricultural resources and prime farmland soils and to support the continuation of farming activities in the Town	TC/PB/Plan.Dept./Con Com.		X	
GOAL 7:	To protect the aesthetic, environmental and cultural values of the Town - See Natural and Cultural Resource Element				
POLICY 7.1	To support the designation of scenic highways in the Town	PB/Plan.Dept. Con Com.		X	
POLICY 7.2	To support the protection of cultural resources within the Town	TMs Office/PB/Plan.Dept./Con Com.	X		
POLICY 7.3	To insist on the highest design standards in new development and major reconstruction projects	Plan.Dept./PB/Con Com		X	
POLICY 7.4	To protect the groundwater resources of the Town's sole source aquifers		X	X	
GOAL 8:	To encourage the use of alternate forms of transportation, reduce automotive traffic and link open space with a system of greenways - See Circulation Element				
POLICY 8.1	To discourage the construction of new and/or upgrading of existing State highways which encourage high-speed through traffic in developed areas or which create conditions leading to unplanned growth and land development	RIDOT	X	X	
POLICY 8.2	To support the development of bicycle and footpaths providing sidewalks and walkways along existing roads and in new residential developments as well as appropriate forms of public transportation	TC/Plan.Dept./RIDOT	X	X	
POLICY 8.3	To protect the Town's sensitive lands and to link open space areas with a system of bicycle and footpaths	TC. Plan.Dept./PB	X	X	
GOAL 9:	To encourage the involvement of all Town citizens in the comprehensive planning process				
POLICY 9.1	To give all citizens the opportunity to impact the development of plans and programs	TC/Plan.Dept./TM's Office/Town Clerk	X	X	
POLICY 9.2	To strive to expand choice and opportunity for all persons including minorities and/or disadvantaged persons	TC/Plan.Dept./TM's Office/Town Clerk		X	
HOUSING ELEMENT - To encourage a range of housing choices in order that the Town can continue to be a home to a vital mix of people					
GOAL 1:	To keep SK as a home to a vital mix of people by maintaining a wide range of housing options				
POLICY 1.1	To provide housing opportunities to people of varying ages, lifestyles and stages of the lifecycle	TC/PB/Plan.Dept./SCCA/ SK Housing Authority/TM's Office/Affordable Housing Foundation		X	
POLICY 1.2	To support provision of affordable housing opportunities to those not served by the private housing market	TC/PB/Plan.Dept./SCCA/ SK Housing Authority/TM's Office/Affordable Housing Foundation/SC Emergency Shelter		X	
POLICY 1.3	To support provision of housing opportunities for year-round renters, first time buyers and homeowners who change their living arrangements	TC/PB/Plan.Dept./SCCA/ SK Housing Authority/TM's Office/Affordable Housing Foundation		X	
POLICY 1.4	To advocate and administer affordable housing through the coordinated efforts of various Town officials, boards and human services groups	TC/Plan.Dept./SCCA/ SK Housing Authority/PB/TC/Affordable Housing Foundation		X	

**South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update
2003 Report Card of 1992 Community Comprehensive Plan Initiatives**

Goal/Policy	Action	Agent	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 1.5	To achieve a goal of maintaining long-term affordability for approximately 10% of the Town's housing stock	TC/Plan.Dept./PB/SK Housing Authority/			X
POLICY 1.6	To design non-discriminating programs that meet the needs of current residents and locally employed people	TC/PB/Plan.Dept./SCCA/ SK Housing Authority/TM's Office/Affordable Housing Foundation			X
POLICY 1.7	To support the concept of open negotiations for needed housing opportunities as part of the development review process	TC/Plan.Dept/PB		X	
GOAL 2:	To accommodate needed housing in a manner consistent with South Kingstown's physical, social and financial resources				
POLICY 2.1	To support a mix of affordable & market rate housing & the development of small-scale, scattered site affordable housing developments	Plan.Dept/PB/Tax Assessor/Affordable		X	
POLICY 2.2	To support affordable owner-occupied and rental units and their distribution among all housing types	Plan.Dept/PB/Tax Assessor/Affordable Housing Foundation		X	
POLICY 2.3	To support working with URI to achieve on-campus and near-campus housing for students and faculty thereby making year round rental opportunities available to other Town residents	TM's Office/TC/Plan. Dept/URI	X		
POLICY 2.4	To encourage restoration and preservation of historic residential, commercial and industrial buildings	Plan.Dept/PB/TM's Office/TC/Plan Dept.		X	
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT - To promote quality economic and employment opportunities while protecting the natural resources and cultural values of the Town					
GOAL 1: To follow a path of balanced economic growth having the following attributes: a) protection of sensitive environmental areas; b) provision of economic opportunities; c), protection of the public health, safety and welfare; and d) stabilization of an affordable municipal tax rate					
POLICY 1.1	To encourage the revitalization of the central business district on Old Main Street in Wakefield	TC/Plan. Dept./PB/Chamber of Commerce		X	
POLICY 1.2	To diversify the economic base to raise the skill level and average wage of persons working in SK and to maintain a flexible economy not reliant on one type of industry	TC/Plan. Dept./PB		X	
POLICY 1.3	To oppose commercial strip development and to support the clustering/village concept of commercial development - See Land Use Element	TC/Plan. Dept./PB	X	X	
POLICY 1.4	To support contributions of URI R&D activities which may be related to engineering/robotics, plant and soil science, environmental resources, oceanography and coastal management	TM's Office/Plan. Dept.		X	
POLICY 1.5	To support development of the intermodal transportation facility at Kingston RR Station in an effort to encourage the use of public transportation in SK - See Circulation Element	TM's Office/Plan. Dept.		X	
POLICY 1.6	To provide sufficient commercial and industry zoned vacant developable land to achieve stated goals	TC/Plan. Dept./PB/Tax Assessor/Chamber of Commerce	X		
POLICY 1.7	To support the continuation of existing commercial waterfront zones and to work toward preventing their conversion to noncommercial uses	Plan. Dept./Tax Assessor	X		
POLICY 1.8	To support the development of existing business facilities to the maximum extent feasible	TC/Plan. Dept./PB/ Chamber of Commerce/Tax Assessor	X		
POLICY 1.9	To support the continuation of a manufacturing zoning designation in West Kingston so that existing businesses may continue to operate or expand and that new, clean, light industry may locate there	TM's Office/Plan. Dept./ DPS/Finance Dept.	X		
GOAL 2: To manage tourism on a regional basis in South County to both encourage economic development and to preserve and to enhance its environmental, scenic and historic resources					
POLICY 2.1	To promote sound local economics by protecting the area's unique resources from developments that may cause irreversible damage	TM's Office/Plan. Dept/Con. Comm/.	X	X	
POLICY 2.2	To support the creation of bikeways, walkways and linear parkways to link South County communities - See Circulation Element	Plan. Dept.	X	X	
POLICY 2.3	To support the protection of historic resources, landmarks and scenic landscapes as an important component of the tourist economy - See Natural and Cultural Resource Element	Plan. Dept./Chamber of Commerce		X	

**South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update
2003 Report Card of 1992 Community Comprehensive Plan Initiatives**

Goal/Policy	Action	Agent	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
NATURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT - To preserve, protect and enhance the Town's natural resources, many of which are not renewable					
GOAL 1: To protect and to preserve the quality and quantity of the Town's potable water supply					
POLICY 1.1	To protect and preserve the quality of ground and surface water resources	PB/ Plan. Dept./TC/ DPS/TMsOffice/Con Com.	X		
POLICY 1.2	To work toward protecting the quantity of potable water and to link growth management plans to the amount of water available for both residential and non-residential uses	Plan. Dept./DPS with private suppliers			X
POLICY 1.3	To give priority use to drinking water	Plan. Dept./DPS with private suppliers/TM's Office		X	
POLICY 1.4	To plan and coordinate watershed resource management issues including erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, aquifer use and protection and open space acquisition	Plan.Dept./DPS/TM's Office/TC/Con Com/BO's office			
POLICY 1.5	To support the extension of public water and sewers to industrially-zoned areas of West Kingstown to reduce contamination to the groundwater aquifer	TC/DPS	X		
GOAL 2: To protect and to preserve both freshwater and coastal wetland resources					
POLICY 2.1	To work toward protecting the integrity of the varied wetlands pursuing both regulatory and nonregulatory options	Plan.Dept./Con Com/PB	X	X	
POLICY 2.2	To recognize that the irreplaceable coastal resources need comprehensive protection	PB/Plan.Dept/TC/Con Com	X		
POLICY 2.3	To work toward developing a corridor of open space to ensure the protection of wetlands, agricultural lands, scenic features, groundwater reservoirs and recharge areas, and wildlife habitat	PB/Plan.Dept/TC/Con Com		X	
POLICY 2.4	To support the concept of corridor zoning to provide for a conservation zone or greenway along selected rivers in order to maintain the Town's rural character and to protect river resources	PB/Plan.Dept/TC/Con Com		X	
POLICY 2.5	To protect the important and fragile ecosystem on the barrier beaches and to not support development on barrier beaches	Plan.Dept./Con Com	X		
GOAL 3: To protect and preserve agriculture land within the Town					
POLICY 3.1	To support the preservation of farmland for farming activities	PB/Plan.Dept./Conservation Commission	X	X	
POLICY 3.2	To work with appropriate agencies to mitigate the potential contamination of the ground and surface water resources from pesticides, fertilizers, stormwater and soil erosion	PB/Plan.Dept./Con Com		X	
GOAL 4: To protect and preserve other natural resource areas within the Town					
POLICY 4.1	To recognize that areas of critical concern, or environmental sensitivity, need protection	Plan. Dept./PB	X		
POLICY 4.2	To protect the native species of trees and forests	TC/PB/Plan.Dept./ Con Com/Tree Warden/DPS	X	X	
POLICY 4.3	To coordinate with other towns, State and Federal agencies and private conservation groups in natural resource preservation and conservation	TM's Office/Plan.Dept./ Conversation Comm/ TC/DPS	X		
POLICY 4.4	To recognize that a litter control program is needed to improve the aesthetics of the Town	TM's Office/DPS/RIDEM		X	
CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT - To preserve, protect and enhance the Town's historic and cultural resources and to integrate these into planning for the future					
POLICY 1.1	To continue to expand the Town's inventory of a) historic buildings and structures; and b) historic and prehistoric archaeological sites	Plan.Dept./HDC		X	
POLICY 1.2	To expand measures available for protecting cultural, historic and prehistoric resources	TC/PB/Plan.Dept./HDC		X	
POLICY 1.3	To protect the integrity of cultural resources from adverse impacts of development activities				X
POLICY 1.4	To preserve the unique identity of the villages that comprise SK as well as the cultural features that identify the Town as a whole	TC/PB/Plan.Dept.		X	

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Goal/Policy	Action	Agent	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 1.5	To support the development and the promotion of the economic benefits of preservation	TC/Plan.Dept./TM's Office		X	
POLICY 1.6	To encourage the continued use and adaptive reuse of historic buildings	TC/Plan.Dept./PB		X	
POLICY 1.7	To support educating residents and visitors of the importance of preserving cultural resources and of the intrinsic value of historic buildings and sites in SK	TC/Plan.Dept./HDC/		X	
POLICY 1.8	To require access to all historic cemeteries registered with the Town Hall for all future development projects and that a reasonable buffer be provided around the cemeteries	TC/PB/Plan.Dept.	X		
SERVICES AND FACILITIES ELEMENT - To provide the Town with basic public services and facilities in a prompt and efficient manner					
GOAL 1: To provide high quality municipal services in a cost-effective manner as required to serve an expanding community					
POLICY 1.1	To continue to update and to improve the governing structure and procedures of local government	TM's Office		X	
POLICY 1.2	To seek several land acquisitions for parking and access for the Town Hall	TM's Office/Plan.Dept.	X		
POLICY 1.3	To be aware that renovations (and future expansion of Town use) are needed for the Peace Dale Office Building and to recognize that this historical symbol should be preserved	TM's Office/TC	X		
POLICY 1.4	To continue to provide a high level of administrative functions	TC/TM's Office	X	X	
GOAL 2: To provide effective wastewater management through a variety of strategies designed to protect public health and the natural environment					
POLICY 2.1	To support an adequately sized wastewater treatment plant which operates in full compliance with all State and Federal standards	DPS	X		
POLICY 2.2	To address existing problem areas through an evaluation of a variety of sewage treatment alternatives which are cost effective, environmentally sound and assure residents' safety	TC/TM's Office/DPS		X	
POLICY 2.3	To integrate wastewater management into water supply decisions	TM's Office/Plan.Dept./DPS		X	
POLICY 2.4	To expand the centralized sewage treatment facility in an established time frame	TC/TM's Office/DPS		X	
POLICY 2.5	To support the development of a marine pump-out facility at Point Judith Pond			X	
GOAL 3: To integrate the Town's growth management program with long-range utility plans					
POLICY 3.1	To promote a long-range planning effort to address the cumulative impacts of development	PB/Plan.Dept.		X	
POLICY 3.2	To address the needs of surrounding communities which may want direct ties or carry-in service to SK's sewer plant	TM's Office/Plan.Dept.			X
POLICY 3.3	To provide sewer service primarily to RM, R-10, selected R-20 zones and other high and medium high density residential areas.	TC/Plan.Dept./PB	X		
POLICY 3.4	To minimize development along existing or future utility transmission lines	TC/Plan.Dept./PB		X	
POLICY 3.5	To support the extension of water services in a manner which is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan	Plan.Dept/PB/DPS		X	
POLICY 3.6	To restrict the extension of public sewers to the West Kingston area to the existing industrially-zoned properties		X		
GOAL 4: To manage and to protect existing water resources for present and future residential and non-residential use in accordance with growth plans for the Town					
POLICY 4.1	To support a water supply management policy and plan that is integrated with the growth management program and long-range utilities plan for the Town	PB/TC	X	X	
POLICY 4.2	To advocate the protection of a safe drinking water supply as a major priority for SK	Plan. Dept.		X	
POLICY 4.3	To support the conservation of water in its municipal facilities and through its South Shore water system	Plan.Dept./Con Com		X	
POLICY 4.4	To recognize the need to prioritize water uses (i.e. residential vs. non-residential)	TC/Plan.Dept./PB/Con Com		X	
POLICY 4.5	To comply with the RI Dept. of Health rules pertaining to public drinking water	TC/TM's Office/DPS	X		
POLICY 4.6	To support measures to provide a continual supply of potable water to Town residents	Plan. Dept./DPS/ adjacent towns and water suppliers	X	X	

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Goal/Policy	Action	Agent	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
GOAL 5:	To integrate sewer and water extension decisions in accordance with the Land Use Plan				
POLICY 5.1	To recognize the priority of servicing areas already experiencing problems with well water quantity or quality	TC/DPS	X		
POLICY 5.2	To support the interconnection of all of the Town's water systems in order to safeguard and provide emergency back-up for these systems	TC/TM's Office/DPS	X	X	
GOAL 6:	To develop and implement a solid waste management strategy which focuses on waste reduction, litter control and recycling and waste management programs which are cost-effective and self-sufficient to the greatest extent possible.				
POLICY 6.1	To recognize the need for community recycling	TM's Office/DPS	X		
POLICY 6.2	To recognize the need to investigate potential contamination from landfills	TC/TM's Office	X		
GOAL 7:	To maintain an effective public works program which recognizes the importance of the maintenance and construction of safe and efficient roads, bridge, sidewalks, stormdrains, and parks to serve its residents.				
POLICY 7.1	To continue its long-range improvement programs for improvements to roads, bridges, sidewalks and stormdrains in conformance with the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan	TC/TM's Office/DPS		X	
POLICY 7.2	To support a formal public grounds maintenance program	TC/TM's Office/	X		
POLICY 7.3	To support an adequately staffed and equipped Department of Public Services	TM's Office/DPS	X	X	
GOAL 8:	To develop and to maintain a long-range program of effective stormwater management designed to protect Town residents from flooding, to control erosion and sedimentation and to maintain both surface and groundwater quality and quantity.				
POLICY 8.1	To support an overall stormwater management program	Plan.Dept/DPS/TC/PB	X		
POLICY 8.2	To locate and inventory existing municipal stormwater facilities and to work toward correcting problems for existing drainage in a manner which considers the surrounding drainage patterns	DPS/Plan.Dept.		X	
GOAL 9:	To continue the Town's support of a professional police force, dedicated to upholding the law, assuring the safety and best welfare of the Town's residents and respecting the rights of all citizens. The Town recognizes that adequate police facilities is vital to the health and safety of its citizens.				
POLICY 9.1	To provide an adequately-sized and centralized public safety building	TC/TM's Office	X		
POLICY 9.2	To support maintaining an appropriate level of service through a combination of volunteer and professional staff	SKPD/TM's Office		X	
POLICY 9.3	To provide an adequate amount of police equipment	TC/TM's Office/SKPD	X	X	
POLICY 9.4	To maintain a level of police performance which meets the Police Chiefs Association standards	TM's Office/SKPD	X	X	
GOAL 10:	To continue to support the concept of a volunteer fire department and to assist the fire districts in their efforts to provide protective services.				
POLICY 10.1	To encourage participation in required fire fighting training programs which are needed to maintain an adequate volunteer force	TM's Office/Union, Kingston Fire Districts		X	
POLICY 10.2	To ensure that the Town's fire departments develop a plan to comply with the new equipment standards promulgated under State law	TM's Office/Union, Kingston Fire Districts			X
POLICY 10.3	To support the efforts of the fire districts to improve their ISO ratings and general level of operation	TM's Office/Union, Kingston Fire Districts			X
GOAL 11:	To provide Town residents with the opportunity for a quality education and superior school facilities				
POLICY 11.1	To maintain and continually improve the high quality of SK's education program	School Dept./School Committee		X	
POLICY 11.2	To support development of school facilities to keep pace with expansion of school population and with the defined educational programs of the school system	School Dept./School Committee/TC/TMs Office	X		
GOAL 12:	To maintain a Town system of public libraries to meet the diverse needs of our citizens through expanded and improved library services and facilities				
POLICY 12.1	To meet the community needs for library services the Town will expand and renovate library facilities at the Kingston Library	TC/ TM's Office/ Library Board of Trustees	X		
POLICY 12.2	To explore the merits of creating a Town Department of Public Libraries since the Town owns two of the three existing libraries	TC/ TM's Office/Library Board of Trustees	X		

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Goal/Policy	Action	Agent	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 12.3	To support compliance with all State requirements and standards	TM's Office/Library Board of Trustees		X	
GOAL 13:	To provide the citizens of the Town with a wide range of effective human service programs and facilities in cooperation with other public, private and non-profit agencies and groups				
POLICY 13.1	To coordinate and centralize senior citizen programs and facilities to offer community-based, rather than institutional, services	TC/ TM's Office/Director of Senior Services/Human Services Advisory Commission	X	X	
POLICY 13.2	To support a wide range of effective human service programs	TM's Office/Director of Senior Services	X	X	
GOAL 14:	To provide the citizens of the Town with an indoor recreation facility capable of housing a wide range of recreation and community activities in a central building or complex				
POLICY 14.1	To support the expansion of the present facilities at the Neighborhood Guild by acquisition of sufficient adjacent land and construction of appropriate building additions	TC/TM's Office/Recreation Dept.			X
POLICY 14.2	To support a cooperative effort with other public and private recreation for shared use of facilities	TM's Office/Recreation Dept.	X		
GOAL 15:	To maintain an effective emergency management response program that recognizes the importance of providing protection to citizens and property through public education, municipal preparedness plans and adequate training of key personnel				
POLICY 15.1	To support an expanded public awareness of potential emergency situations and appropriate citizen response	Plan.Dept./SKPD	X	X	
POLICY 15.2	To ensure that police officers and other key emergency management personnel receive proper training	Plan.Dept./TM's Office/SKPD	X		
POLICY 15.3	To institute appropriate measures to reduce potential storm damage caused by wind blown trees	Plan.Dept./Con Com/Tree Warden		X	
POLICY 15.4	To encourage development of programs and policies that foster preventative measures that mitigate potential natural disaster damage	Plan.Dept.		X	
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ELEMENT - To encourage the provision of recreational services and facilities and the preservation of open spaces and natural habitats in order to enhance the physical and mental well-being of the Town's citizens					
POLICY 1.1	To make every effort to acquire land for expanding active and passive recreational services based upon the current needs assessment	TC/TM's Office/Plan. Dept./Recreation Comm.	X		
POLICY 1.2	To make every effort to ensure access to all important public natural and cultural resources for all citizens and to protect all current and historic rights-of-way which assure this access	TM's Office/Plan.Dept		X	
POLICY 1.3	To prohibit motor vehicular access to all beach areas in SK under its jurisdiction	DPS	X		
POLICY 1.4	To make every effort to create a system of greenways and to enhance the open space characteristics of existing greenways	PB/Plan.Dept./TC		X	
POLICY 1.5	To support the development of a system of footpaths and/or bicycle paths to provide for passive recreation needs and transportation functions	TC/Plan.Dept./PB/TM's Office	X		
POLICY 1.6	To endorse the extension of the bicycle paths planned along the Narragansett Railroad right - of - way	TC/Plan.Dept./PB/TM's Office	X		
POLICY 1.7	To use existing vacant and/or underutilized Town-owned lands to meet recreation and open space needs	TM's Office/Waterfront Advisory Commission		X	
POLICY 1.8	To provide an active maintenance and rehabilitation program and schedule to maintain and to upgrade existing sites and facilities to ensure safe and high quality experience		X		
POLICY 1.9	To use school properties to provide recreation space within the limits of safety, maintenance, security and contractual issues	Recreation Dept./School Dept	X		
POLICY 1.10	To coordinate recreation activities with the Harbor Master and Waterfront Advisory Commission and to ensure that the recommendations of the Harbor Management Plan (1992) are implemented		X		
POLICY 1.11	To make an effort to sponsor public workshops or seminars to inform citizens of policies and planning techniques outlined to build consensus on implementation actions		X		

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POLICY 1.12	To continue its policy that all new subdivisions should contribute to recreation needs for future residents through land dedication, direct payments or service cost recovery fees	PB/Plan.Dept./ Recreation Commission	X		
CIRCULATION ELEMENT - To integrate safe transportation modes in the Town without disrupting the aesthetic, environmental and cultural values of the community					
POLICY 1.1	To make every effort to encourage alternatives to the single occupant automobile as a means of transportation	Plan. Dept./TM's Office			X
POLICY 1.2	To endorse development of the Kingston Multimodal Transportation Facility and the restoration/renovation of the Kingston Railroad Station and associated improvements to passenger waiting and convenience areas	TM's Office/Plan.Dept.	X		
POLICY 1.3	To periodically review the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations to ensure that the circulation policies are reflected	TC/Plan.Dept./PB		X	
POLICY 1.4	To recognize the importance of proper street lighting for public safety			X	
POLICY 1.5	To continue to improve the Town policy of coordination with RIDOT on State transportation projects	Plan.Dept/ TM's Office/TC	X	X	
POLICY 1.6	To endorse improvements to Woodruff Avenue and Columbia Street while maintaining the scenic quality of the area		X		
POLICY 1.7	To conceptually favor the Kingston/URI Transportation Improvements Study and formation of a Project Area Committee (PAC) to monitor progress on this project	Plan.Dept/ TM's Office/TC	X		
POLICY 1.8	To endorse the reconstruction of Route 1 to the Wakefield Cutoff as a partially controlled access roadway with median turnarounds	Plan.Dept./TM's Office/TC	X		
POLICY 1.9	To strongly endorse the conversion of the abandoned Narragansett Pier Railroad right-of-way into a bike path	Plan Dept/TM's Office/TC	X		
POLICY 1.10	To endorse the relocation of Route 138 and the URI Connector as a two-lane highway, provided environmental and social impacts are minimized.	Plan Dept/TM's Office/TC	X		
POLICY 1.11	To endorse the proposed improvements to Main Street with particular emphasis on upgraded street amenities as outlined in the Economic Development Element	Plan Dept/TM's Office/TC		X	
POLICY 1.12	To support minimizing the use of oil and salts on roads especially in environmentally sensitive areas except where essential for public safety.	Plan Dept.			X
POLICY 1.13	To promote the highest aesthetic standards for roadway design and visual quality along the major roads.	TC/Plan.Dept./PB/ Con Com/DPS	X	X	
POLICY 1.14	To regularly review the Subdivision Regulations related to transportation elements	Plan Dept./PB/DPS/		X	
POLICY 1.15	To promote the use of the Town parking lot off Main Street in Wakefield and to provide better signage	TC/Plan Dept./PB/TM's Office	X	X	
POLICY 1.16	To encourage an energy-efficient pattern of development which avoids urban sprawl and scattered type of land development and to endorse a Land Use Plan having a concentration of population and services in a central core area	TC/Plan Dept./PB/TM's Office		X	

Notes: Some policies have been shortened above; please consult the 1992 Community Comprehensive Plan for full text

TC - Town Council

PB - Planning Board

Plan. Dept. - Planning Department

TM - Town Manager's Office

Con Com - Conservation Commission

DPS - Department of Public Services

HDC - Historic District Commission