

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Introduction

Presented below is a discussion of the goals, objectives and policies that are submitted for consideration by the Planning Board, which is assisting the community in updating the Master Plan. It is important that these goals, objectives and policies be adopted by the Planning Board and supported by the Board of Selectmen, so that subsequent planning recommendations can be set forth affording the voters the opportunity to guide the development of the Town of Atkinson.

These Goals, Objectives and Policies are part of the Master Plan and serve as an overall umbrella for the Town's development plan.

Goals: A Goal is defined as a fundamental purpose that requires the application of long-term effort and energies of the Town. It is designed to give direction, guidance and coordination to the Town's changes and future development.

Objectives: As part of the attainment of goals, specific objectives are designed to make recommendations that contribute to the fulfillment of the established goals for Atkinson.

Policies: The Planning Board may suggest policies to the Selectmen and the Voters. The legislative body should make decisions that implement policy recommendations. In order to realize goals and objectives, policies must be consistent with the Master Plan.

Recommended Goals

The following are goals submitted for consideration by the Planning Board.

1. **Retention of the Quality of Life for Atkinson Residents**

This basic and broad goal is one upon which subsequent goals must rest. It is stated here, though broad, for true value and planning purposes. This goal assures the continued focus on the quality of life in Atkinson.

Objective: In order to attain such a vast goal, the Town must accept the responsibility of creating conditions for all citizens that may best meet basic human needs and are commensurate with the common good. To attain this, it is important that both the individual and the community follow through with a plan that has as its aim a balanced program for change and development.

Policy: The Master Plan must provide the framework for the continuation and improvement of policies aimed at providing for the well being of the citizens of

Atkinson and for providing for growth and change without undue hardship in retaining the quality of life established to this date.

2. **Atkinson's role in the Regional Setting**

The Town should not be expected to provide employment opportunities and services, and thereby accepts a continued dependence on outlying communities.

Objectives: The Town must maintain a Land Use Plan that primarily retains a desirable residential environment.

Policy: The policy must be one that continues an attractive residential community.

3. **Retention and Protection of Property Values**

The Town must recognize the importance of the protection of existing property values within Atkinson, the maintenance of open spaces, fostering of community pride and protection of natural resources.

Objectives: The objective is to provide for balanced growth and change while maintaining the existing rural character of the community. The objective must reflect the densities and specific uses permitted within certain areas of the community. The careful identification of land uses and their interrelationship and coordination with soil and subsoil is imperative.

Policy: The adoption of subdivision regulations and zoning ordinances that are designed to be commensurate with the community's capacity to assume growth and change must be kept in mind.

4. **Recreation**

Atkinson should make every effort to expand recreational opportunities for the town. This goal is to provide for the continued opportunity for residents to enjoy physical activities.

Objective: The objective is the establishment of a long-range open space and recreational improvement program that provides for strategic locations of publicly accessed land.

Any recreational program must recognize the need for balanced year round recreational opportunities.

Policy: The policy necessary for the continued progress towards acquiring open space and

developing recreational opportunities in the town is to adopt a long-term plan, and to seek all possible sources of funds to make appropriate purchases.

5. Streets and Highways

The goal should be to provide for a street and highway network that will discourage major through traffic and be one that is primarily designed to serve the residents of the community. In addition, Atkinson must actively cooperate with area towns to assure that regional highways meet the needs of all communities. Traffic congestion on regional arterials is an increasing source of frustration to the residents

Objectives: The objective of this goal is the maintenance of a residential community environment. This means that access should be provided, but that fast and high volumes of traffic should be limited to certain areas of town. The creation of road and highway networks should primarily serve the residents of Atkinson.

The Master Plan and Capital Improvement Plan must spell out a comprehensive roadway strategy. Since roads represent the most significant part of Atkinson's budget, it is recommended that a professionally prepared maintenance/reconstruction/construction plan be developed.

Policy: The policy is to adopt road and highway standards that retain the scenic roads, encourage the continuing maintenance of the road network, and adopt standards and specifications that are designed to meet the needs for the assigned functions.

Although road maintenance is not strictly under the jurisdiction of the Planning Board, except for its responsibility to prepare a Capital Improvements Plan, the Master plan and Capital Improvements Plan should serve as a catalyst for all involved parties (Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Road Agent) to agree on a long-term road maintenance/reconstruction/construction strategy.

6. Sewage Disposal and Water Supply

The goal is to maintain a sufficiently low development density that will allow for individual sewage disposal facilities and individual water supply. Such a goal is to be established under the existing water quality laws of the State of New Hampshire and those health regulations in the Town of Atkinson.

Objective: The objective is to avoid the large capital expenditure required to provide public sewer and water services. To assure the avoidance of town water and sewer, an objective is to provide for continued measures that allow such densities and such regulations addressing subsoil conditions that will keep individual water supplies and sewage disposal systems efficient without ground water or surface water pollution.

Policy: The policy to attain such a goal and accomplish the objective is to provide for a detailed project review that will address soil and subsoil conditions. This will also require sufficiently low densities throughout the community so that water pollution will not occur, ensuring safe and sufficient water for the foreseeable future.

7. Maintenance of the Master Plan

A master plan is not a static document. Information and conditions change, and the citizens of Atkinson need to provide continued input to the planning process.

Objective: The Master Plan and associated capital improvement program will be kept up to date on an ongoing basis.

Policy: The Master Plan and CIP will be reviewed annually by the Planning Board to determine if significant changes have occurred in its underlying assumptions. Any changes of these underlying assumptions will be cause for an update.

Summary:

It should be recognized that the articulation of goals and the establishment of objectives along with the policies necessary to carry out these goals are an ongoing process. Goals and objectives along with the appropriate policies for implementation may be added to, amended and changed as necessary and should be addressed as a basic element in the Master Planning process.

