

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2022

### **Agriculture Commission – Strategic Objective:**

The Granby Agricultural Commission recognizes and appreciates the inclusive efforts of our First Selectman and Town Manager in their consideration of proposed objectives centric to our farm community as part of the Strategic Plan for the Town of Granby. We propose the following:

1. **Right to Farm Ordinance** – By adopting a Right to Farm Ordinance, Town leaders recognize that our rural, agricultural community is of high value as it pertains to town character, revenue, job creation, sustainability and environmental benefits. A Right to Farm Ordinance would echo the Connecticut state Right to Farm law that aims to protect farms and agricultural operations, abiding by generally accepted and standard farming practices from nuisance lawsuits. At a time where it is increasingly difficult for farmers to keep land in agriculture, it is imperative that local town government demonstrates resolute support for our farmers in keeping land viable and in-use for agricultural purposes for years to come.
2. **Permanent Preservation of Holcomb Farm** – Prime farmland soils are rapidly disappearing in Connecticut. If the Holcomb property, a model of farming sustainability and preservation is developed, this prime farmland and piece of history will be lost forever. A conservation easement for Holcomb Farm ensures the intentions of its original stewards, that it will permanently remain farmland as town management and board memberships change.

### **Board of Finance:**

1. Promote efforts to grow the commercial segment of the Grand List to 10% as targeted within the Plan of Development.
2. Maintain a reasonable stability in the scope of operations, the expense of those operations and their cost to taxpayers in order to efficiently deliver critical and basic municipal educational services to Granby residents.
3. Preserve a strong financial position as overseers of the fiscal aspects of managing the Town of Granby and its balance sheet as we endeavor to meet both near-term and long-term needs, both operating and capital.

### **Commission on Aging:**

Proposed objective for the Commission on Aging for the strategic plan for the year 2022:

- To secure additional space for senior activities, services and resources.

### **Conservation Commission – Strategic Objective:**

- The Town of Granby shall achieve Sustainable CT Bronze Certification by the Spring of 2023.

## **Development Commission:**

1. Enhance opportunities to build on Granby values in order to foster a community that attracts young people and families and where current residents are able to remain in Town.

This may include:

- Focus on school curriculum that strives to offer both a four-year college preparatory track and technical/vocational learning opportunities.
- Provide a variety of housing options at varying price points to best meet the needs of both current and future residents. This would allow current residents to age in place and newcomers to find housing that fits their lifestyle and needs.
- Develop a marketing plan to promote Granby assets and what makes our community special, including: regional proximity; our open spaces; recreational opportunities; high-quality school system; agricultural base and opportunities; regional industries and businesses; and regional cultural, historical, and entertainment venues, etc.

Measurable Outcomes:

- Population/demographic data.
  - School programming information.
  - Housing data/construction information.
  - Marketing plan.
2. Continue the improvement and enhancement of Granby Center.

This may include:

- Pursue streetscape improvements to create a cohesive environment in Granby Center.
- Hire a firm to assess the Town Green and propose a design plan for the area.
- Evaluate the Zoning Regulations to allow additional uses and mix uses.
- Provide additional housing opportunities in the Town Center area, including improvements to existing properties.
- Partner with local businesses to promote branding of the area.
- Seek opportunities to host events in the Granby Center area—programming opportunities for the Town Green, farmer’s/artisan market, holiday events and recognitions, etc.

Measurable Outcomes:

- Grant securement for streetscape improvements.
- Funding allocation for Town Green design firm and design plan outcome.
- Zoning Regulation changes.
- Housing data.
- Number of events held in the area.

## **Inland Wetland and Watercourses Commission Objectives:**

1. Protect, preserve, and enhance wetlands and watercourses to ensure these resources provide essential functions and values to the citizens of the Town.
2. Encourage and promote ecologically sound development practices
3. Provide education to the public to create a more comprehensive community understanding of the functions and values of wetlands, watercourses, and watersheds, and associated regulatory processes.

### **Library Board:**

The Library Board had very lively discussions and revisited our current vision statement of the Granby Public Library:

“In a growing community that is striving to preserve its small-town individuality, we are committed to becoming the community crossroads where all generations can meet to freely exchange ideas and information, where technology and resources support the search for knowledge, where services and collections enrich the lives of residents, and where the library system is a leader in cooperation with other Town services, schools, businesses, and organizations. – taken from the mission statement of Granby Library System

1. Collectively, the Granby Public Library Board and staff of the GPL system agree that our physical buildings lack sufficient space to host larger programs/meetings and author talks for all ages. We respectfully submit the objective of the Board is to review all Town properties for the purpose of discovering where larger spaces exist within the Town and the steps that need to be taken to share such space.
2. An adjunct objective to discovering additional program and meeting space is to invest in a consultant to assess all Town of Granby buildings to determine where 'gathering places' already exist with ADA compliant entrances and rest room facilities. Additionally, the consultant could investigate other similar empty meeting spaces within Granby that might be available as occasional 'rental' space for large meetings/programs/author talks and/or used book sale space to support the successful annual fundraiser for the Friends of Granby Public Library.

### **Planning & Zoning:**

At the Planning and Zoning Commissions meeting of March 8, 2022, the Commission voted to submit the following objectives for consideration for the Strategic Plan:

Objective: Pursue the enhancement of Granby Center through both streetscape and landscape improvements, additional residential opportunities, beautification of existing buildings, increased connectivity, and the promotion of a mix of uses. These could include:

- Sidewalk and crosswalk improvements
- Uniform sidewalk lighting, planter boxes, benches etc.
- Study and plan for the Town Green area
- Mix of housing options (Zoning Regulation change)
- Mixed uses (Zoning Regulation change)

- Façade improvement program
- Work to increase the number of special events within the Center

Objective: Promote additional commercial and industrial opportunities where appropriate and in a manner that fulfills Granby's Ten-Year Vision. This could include:

- Uses that are responsive to changes in the market: T1 and ED Zone revisions and Home Occupation revisions (Zoning Regulation changes).
- Design criteria to avoid strip developments (Zoning Regulation change).
- Promote the construction of commercial projects in an effort to have commercial developments make up 10% of the Town's total Grand List.
- Consider an extension of the existing sewer lines where such extensions will encourage new commercial uses or provide for commercial expansion.
- Study benefits of adopting a Tax Increment Financing strategy.

Objective: Develop and implement policies and practices that ensure streets are safe for all users. This could include:

- Pursue opportunities to provide bike paths/lanes.
- Create inventory of roads and intersections that are deficient in safety/design and prepare long-range plan for their improvement.
- Make improvements when reconstructing roads to account for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Develop a system of central parking areas and user-friendly sidewalks that include landscaping and benches to encourage pedestrian traffic and reduce vehicular movements.
- Curb extensions, roundabouts, landscaped median strips, pavement treatments, and increased roadside vegetation should be explored in an effort to decrease speed and improve the aesthetics of the residential environment.
- Require the construction of sidewalks when commercial and multifamily developments are approved (Zoning Regulation change).

### **Youth Services Bureau Advisory Board (YSB):**

The YSB will serve the community as a leading prevention agency by:

1. Serving as a community prevention resource assisting in outreach.
2. Provide education and improve awareness with the community relating to prevalent topics that impact our youth today.
3. Offer community-based programming through the Youth Service Bureau to create social opportunities and prevention education for Granby youth and families.
4. Through the Youth Services Bureau, offer individualized youth and family counseling support to improve the overall health and wellness of Granby youth and their families.

### **Park & Recreation Board:**

Provide Park and facility planning, development, and restoration of Granby's Park & Recreation infrastructure to meet the needs and expectations of citizens of Granby while concurrently providing safe, quality, recreation services and well-managed facilities that are financially

sustainable, provide excellent customer service, and meet the needs of Granby and non-resident patrons.

## Objectives

Provide direction to, support of, and advocacy of the Park & Recreation Department objectives to ensure achievement of the departments stated goal(s) and achievement of overall mission:

- Development of 10-year capital improvement plan aligned with asserted priorities based on voice of Granby and non-resident patrons
- Pursuit of capital funding allocation(s) from the Town or alternative funding sources (grants) to execute on the capital improvement plan (e.g., ADA accessible walking paths throughout Salmon Brook Park)
- Maintenance and general upkeep of existing parks and facilities
- Performance of existing and new recreational programs and services and their fit/alignment to the mission
- Recognition of the talent of the department inclusive of optimizing the funding alignment of the department to ensure the department talent is fully incented to focus on the long-range goals

## **Board of Education:**

Below are the BOE goals for submission to the Town of Granby for their Strategic Plan:

- Collaborate with the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Education to identify and prioritize large capital projects.
- Foster and maintain open communication between Town agencies while working toward the integration of resources to support all stakeholders including parents/guardians, children and the Granby community