

Planning Discussion: Potential Categories and Topics

Discussion Context

- Southborough has changed significantly over the past 25 years or so; much different/higher expectations for Town government and services
- Value from thinking and acting more strategically/longer-term in various areas—such as protecting/leveraging key assets (location/transportation access/schools/open space/etc.)
- Value from finding a number of near-term, tangible projects that can be accomplished during the current FY
- A reasonable goal for FY21 is to complete some of the near-term projects and to complete at least the initial steps of some important longer-term projects—and the Board of Selectmen should provide leadership for this
- It may be useful to consider topics in several categories, as below.

Leadership/Strategy Topics (my top priority selections highlighted)

- Work with capital planning committee for long-term facilities plan (e.g., community center, library, rec facilities, etc.)
- Infrastructure development (such as Rt 9 sewer, Pine Hill firefighting water, etc.)
- Diversity planning/implementation (including housing)
- Downtown development plan and business development targeting
- Working with the Master Plan Committee to define and coordinate key initiatives
- Sidewalk/trail/bikeway network development
- Southville/T-Station evolution
- Open space planning (including property protection/acquisition)

“External” Operational/Project Topics (my top priority selections highlighted)

(i.e., we need cooperation from external entities to accomplish these)

- “friendly 40B” to reach “safe harbor”
- Parcel 54-40 acquisition
- Golf course asset development
- Public/private partnerships and philanthropy opportunities

“Internal” Operational/Project Topics (my top priority selections highlighted)

(i.e., we can accomplish these primarily with “Town” resources)

- Clarification of Personnel Board/Personnel Director roles
- Personnel performance evaluation for BoS/TA reports
- Centralized grant writer/management (with targeted/prioritized focus)
- Contract services evaluation/re-bidding
- Permitting streamlining
- Implementation of a telephonic language translation service
- Improved process for committee reports for BoS review/approval (OSRP; SHI; MP; etc.)
- Overall review/evaluation of the Town’s printing/mailing/document processing
- Technology improvements (e.g., document management, resident information access, etc.)
- Internal operations activity reporting for BoS (e.g., legal, enforcement, complaints, etc.)

- 1) Open Meeting law for our Boards/Committees/Commissions – how to run a proper meeting (i.e. adhere to Agendas, voting, distribution of documents, ect.)
- 2) Continuance of Zoom for ALL Boards/Committees/Commissions not taped by SAM even after we can start in person meetings again.
- 3) Updating/consolidating policies and making sure our volunteers understand and have better guidance and understanding of our expectation of adherence.
- 4) A statement of monies not spent and expectation of returning monies at end of FY. Monies spent outside of appropriated line item should need approval.
- 5) I would like to see some form of liaison with our appointees. Zoom has shown me we are should be more aware of what they are working on. To much is being done in a silo.
- 6) Have our goals available to discuss at each meeting for updates or comments.
- 7) Handbook for Volunteers and Employees
- 8) Better training and outreach for volunteers
- 9) Volunteer fair – host forum to recruit volunteers, publicize mission of Boards and hopefully fill some vacancies
- 10) Updated job descriptions for all Selectman employees