

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Board of Selectmen
Canton, Connecticut
2020-2023

In the Town of Canton, growth is measured in vibrancy and citizen satisfaction in addition to increases to the real estate grand list. To further Canton's broader understanding of growth, the Board of Selectmen set the following goals to guide the Town's efforts over the next four years.

COMMUNICATION

It shall be the goal of the Board of Selectmen to give our citizens more opportunities to participate in the town's decisions by strengthening the vital link between Canton citizens and their public servants.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide frequent, short, updates from the Boards and Commissions, on current town issues so that citizens have access to facts.
2. Make use of multiple communication channels to ensure that the broadest range of citizens receive Town information and have opportunities to be heard.
3. Review town communications with an eye toward making them understandable to regular citizens.
4. Include a communications plan for each town project.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Through collaboration and partnership with other public and private entities, it shall be the goal of the Board of Selectmen to expand the town's tax base, employment opportunities and overall economic resilience.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Anticipate and proactively resolve issues that stand in the way of redevelopment of the Collins Axe Factory.
2. Encourage responsible improvement of underutilized commercial properties by identifying and resolving impediments to development.
3. Promote Canton to non-residents as a place to live, work, visit and establish a business.
4. Encourage and connect centers of economic activity in multiple areas in town, such as Albany Turnpike, Canton Village, Collinsville, Canton Center and North Canton.
5. Promote the arts by reconstituting an arts council as a way to revitalize Canton's economy and to keep our community.

SENIOR AND SOCIAL SERVICES

It shall be the goal of the Board of Selectmen to ensure that Canton's most vulnerable citizens are safe, respected and offered services and resources that help them achieve self-sufficiency, while adjusting to different circumstances and events in their lives.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Implement the recommendations of the Senior/Social Services Strategic Planning Committee.
2. Improve community outreach and engagement so that Canton's citizens are aware of the services available through the Senior and Social Services Department.
3. Develop Senior Center services that meet the needs of Canton's aging population.
4. Expand and improve the organizational efficiency of the Senior and Social Services Department through improved data gathering, analysis and reporting to the BOS.

5. Continue to address substance abuse and mental health issues in our community.
6. Gain a better understanding of the need for Youth Services so that we can make appropriate plans.

ENVIRONMENT

It shall be the goal of the Board of Selectmen to encourage responsible use of Canton's natural resources.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Promote environmental awareness in all outdoor recreational activities. Encourage safety with respect to insect-borne illnesses, such as Lyme disease and EEE.
2. Enforce laws and ordinances that govern the disposal of trash, setting fires and other activities that can undermine the long-term viability of the town's natural resources.
3. Make the Town an example of best practices in conservation and renewable energy.
4. Transition the Town to organic land-use practices on town owned property where practical and share the experience with residents so they can learn how and why these practices can be used.
5. Commit to reserving funds for the purchase of open space.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

It shall be the goal of the Board of Selectmen to economize wherever possible and to find sources of non-tax revenue to offset the financial burden of providing services to town residents.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Expand the scope of grants available to the Town by contracting a grant writer to apply for and manage grants from government and non-government sources.
2. Look for opportunities to share services with adjoining towns wherever long-term cost savings can be proven to the Town.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

It shall be the goal of the Board of Selectmen to provide for the public's safety through the coordinated delivery of emergency services and to protect the citizen of Canton from the effects of disasters through a comprehensive emergency management program of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Include a safety plan for each town project, facility and program.
2. Coordinate Town services wherever possible to eliminate lag time getting personnel up to speed.
3. Review facilities and equipment used in support of emergency services with an eye toward continuous improvement.

RECREATION

It shall be the goal of the Board of Selectmen to provide a variety of recreational opportunities, which act to bring together the population and enhance health and well-being.

OBJECTIVES:

1. The Town should support citizen-based projects, such as The Friends of Canton Dog Park.
2. Canton should continue to sustain and enhance bike trails and continue to maintain its status as a bike friendly community.
3. The Town should pursue opportunities to create a quality public boat launch facility with handicapped access and parking.

4. Canton should continue to value open space and develop parks and trails on Town open space property.
5. Consider adding an ice rink for the winter and splash pond for summer at Mills Pond.

INFRASTRUCTURE

It shall be the goal of the Board of Selectmen to maintain and enhance the physical infrastructure of Canton.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Continue the maintenance plan for roads.
2. Develop and implement a plan for bridge maintenance.
3. Improve storm water management and sewer line efficiency throughout town.
4. Explore economic advantage to installing municipal fiber communications network.
5. Implement a plan for replacement of the Collinsville fire station.