

CHAPTER 12

Action Plan

*Westport Master Plan * 2004*

12.0 Action Plan

The actions listed below represent suggestions and recommendations to be considered by the indicated boards, commissions and departments. Although in some cases quite specific, they represent a starting point; the Master Plan Committee fully expects that changes and improvements will result through board and commission review and suggestions that arise during the public hearing process. Certain suggested actions, such as Board of Health regulation and subdivision regulation changes, fall under the regulatory authority of Town boards and commissions, and may be enacted by those bodies, generally after a public hearing. Other more extensive actions such as re-zoning require, in addition to a public hearing, approval by Town meeting.

The recommended actions are also to encourage cooperation among various Town Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Departments to protect, preserve, and develop cultural, natural, and economic resources for the future of Westport. The proposed actions are organized generally by the Goals and Objectives presented in each of the Planning Element chapters. They represent an assessment of what actions need to be taken and by which Town governing body.

This chapter assembles the recommended actions from each Element of the Plan and organizes them first by element, then by suggested time frame:

- 1 = Immediate** Actions to be implemented within one year--may be on-going.
- 2 = Short-Term** Actions to be begun within one year and accomplished within 3 years.
- 3 = Medium Term** Actions to be accomplished within five years.
- 4 = Long Term.** Actions to be accomplished within ten years.

For a graphical description of the major points of this Action Plan, please refer to Map 12-1, the Action Plan map. In Table 12-1 below, the parties responsible for implementing each action are designated according to the following codes:

Table 12-1 Responsible Party Codes

Code	Responsible Party	Code	Responsible Party	Code	Responsible Party
AC	Agricultural Commission	HC	Historic Commission	SAC	Selectmen Appointed Committee
AS	Assessors	HM	Harbormaster	SCH	School Dept.
BD	Building Dept.	HP	Housing Partnership	SESA	Southeast Shellfish Advisory Assoc.
BOH	Board of Health	HW	Highway Dept.	SW	Shellfish Warden
BOS	Bd. of Selectmen	ID	Individual Departments	TFPL	Trustees of Free Public Library
CC	Conservation Commission	MPUC	Master Plan Update Comm.	TM	Town Meeting
CIPC	Capital Improvement Planning Comm.	OSC	Open Space Committee	TR	Treasurer
CPC	Community Preservation Comm.	OSTC	Agricultural/Open Space Trust Council	WLCT	Westport Land Conservation Trust
F	Fire Dept.	P	Police Dept.	WRW A	Westport River Watershed Alliance
FC	Fish Commissioners	PB	Planning Board	ZBA	Zoning Board of Appeals
FINCOM	Finance Committee	RC	Recreation Commission		
HA	Housing Authority	SA	Shellfish Advisory Committee		

It is widely recognized that "town planning" is an activity that is performed by all sectors of a community: public and private, groups and individuals. This Master Plan has benefited from the participation of a broad spectrum of individuals and organizations in its creation.

Westport has numerous active civic and non-profit organizations that play important roles in the various areas covered by this Master Plan, according to their interests and expertise. The Action Plan portion of this Master Plan is chiefly concerned with the role of Town government; therefore, the lead agency or agencies in this Action Plan are Town departments, boards, and commissions. There are several additional reasons for this:

1. The Town does not have the authority to assign actions to private organizations, which are usually governed by Boards of Directors;
2. Most of the responsibilities and authority granted by statute to governmental agencies cannot be delegated to private organizations;
3. Private organizations may come into existence, and then be disbanded, leaving their assigned actions unfinished.
4. Even other governmental agencies, such as the regional planning agency, SRPEDD, or the Economic Development Commission, cannot be assigned actions by the Town.

The Master Plan Update Committee therefore would like to recognize the significant contributions that these organizations make to the Town, and expects that the Town's lead agency or responsible party for each action will seek assistance and advice from the appropriate civic and non-profit organizations and other levels of government.

12.1 Land Use – General

Many of the Goals and Objectives expressed throughout the Plan Element chapters are shared and/or interact with each other. This is most often the case with Land Use where they have impact on how the land is used. Because of this, a number of the Land Use Actions generated by the Land Use Goals and Objectives are listed, but where they are repeated in later plan element actions reference is made to that plan element because it is the prime source of the action. This minimizes repetition.

Goal 1. Manage Development to preserve Westport's natural & cultural features

Objective 1.1: Preserve the natural condition of coastal, riverfront and pastoral landscapes (See Natural Resources)

Objective 1.2: Regulate Development in areas with environmental constraints such as shorelines, significant habitat. (See Natural Resources)

Action

1.2.a Consider waterfront zoning, site plan review and other regulatory tools.

Resp PB, BOH, CC.
Time 2

Objective 1.3: Develop Town-Wide Stormwater Management Plan (See Water and Sewerage)

Objective 1.4: Preserve positive attributes of the natural and historic/cultural environments as land use changes. (See Natural and Cultural Resources)

Goal 2. Anticipate the challenges and needs that arise as the Town continues to develop.

Objective 2.1: Ensure all residents have access to potable water. (See Water and Sewerage)

Objective 2.2: Enable PB to effectively deal with increasing complex growth management needs.

Action

2.3.a. Review and strengthen subdivision regulations.

Resp PB
Time 2

Objective 2.3: Assist boards in formulating and implementing plans & development controls.

Action

2.3.a. Continue implementation & update of GIS.

Resp PB
Time 2

Goal 3. Address concerns of all Westport citizens.

Objective 3.1: Keep in touch with the Community regularly

Action	Resp	Time
3.1.a. Seek input from all citizens by scheduling meetings regarding land use issues in several parts of Town.	Resp. Bd.	1-3
3.1.b. Continue Westport Forum in local newspapers.		

Land Use - Westport Character

Goal 1. Preserve and protect existing activities & land use that contribute to Town Character

Objective 1.1: Ensure farming & commercial fishing continue as vital economic activities by supporting & reinforcing public & private programs. (see Economic Development)

Action	Resp	Time
1.1.a. Maintain continuous dialogue between private groups such as Land Trust and W/ RWA and appropriate Town boards. Work with WFA, Agric. Commission.	BOS	1

Objective 1.2: Farming: (a) Preserve existing family farms. (b). Continue & re-invigorate APR program (See Economic Development, Open Space & Recreation)

Objective 1.3: Open Space: (a) Continue funding Agr. & Open Sp.Trust to protect significant land. b) Continue liaison with private land conservators. (see Open Space and Recreation)

Goal 2 Develop strategies to manage development to minimize impact on rural character.

Objective 2.1: Preserve scenic qualities & vistas on public roads, along the riverbank & ocean shore.

Action	Resp	Time
2.1.a. Investigate zoning and other regulatory strategies to achieve above objective.	PB	2
2.1.b Identify outstanding vistas for protection	PB	2

Objective 2.2: Direct growth to areas that have most potential to absorb it.

Action	Resp	Time
2.2.a. Have detailed maps available for review by all interested parties; include soils, wetlands, aquifer district, and all protected lands.	PB, CC, BOH	2

Objective 2.3: Consider ways to maintain farm & wooded lands

Action	Resp	Time
2.3.a. Consider agricultural zoning for prime farmland and woodland; & establishing buffer areas between farmland & residential neighborhoods.	AC, PB	3

Objective 2.4: Direct land use change that reduces the need to drive.

Action	Resp	Time
2.4.1. Allow by special permit, small lot/apartment/condos, mixed use development in suitable areas, if water & sewer available.	PB	3
2.4.2. Allow neighborhood convenience stores at major crossroads in res. areas.	PB	3

Objective 2.5: Reinforce character of villages. They provide a different and desirable development from traditional rural & emerging suburban patterns.

Action	Resp	Time
2.5.1. Adopt Central Village Plan; study plan options for other villages.	PB, HC, CC, BOH	3
2.5.2. Adopt zoning that allows continuation of existing village density within specified village areas.	PB, HC, CC, BOH	3

Land Use - Residential

Goal 1. Develop strategies for residential development that will help preserve & enhance natural & cultural features.

Objective 1.1: Direct housing development to complement Town's rural character.

Action	Resp	Time
1.1.a. Prepare guidelines & incentives to preserve rural character in subdivisions.	PB, CC	3
1.1.b. Require subdivision developers to identify all natural & historic/cultural features to be defined in a study. Adopt rules, regulations and by-laws to preserve these features, as well as views from public ways.		

Objective 1.2: Guide growth to preserve natural, historic, and cultural features by zoning areas of Town appropriately

Action	Resp	Time
1.2.a. Use new detailed maps to guide zoning, taking into account large-scale natural and cultural resource areas, available infrastructure, etc.	PB	2

Objective 1.3: Encourage recreation areas in new subdivisions.

Action	Resp	Time
1.3.a. Consider conservation subdivisions as a means to require open space and recreation area in new neighborhoods.	PB	2

Objective 1.4: Consider locating convenience shopping zones in some residential areas.

Action	Resp	Time
1.4.a. In high-density development allow "convenience store" sites, by special permit, when and where appropriate.	PB	3

Goal 2. Optimize livability of development.

Objective 2.1: Address needs in older, existing, small-lot residential areas (sewage/water N. of Briggs Road, parks, playgrounds).

Action	Resp	Time
2.1.a. Appoint committee to negotiate with Fall River for public water, and study sewage possibilities.	BOS, PB, BOH	1
2.2. b. Determine available land(s) for parks, etc.	OSTC, BOS, RC	1

(see Water and Sewerage)

Objective 2.2: Encourage neighborhood recreational areas & trails as integral part of development planning.

Land Use - Villages

Goal 1. Develop strategies to enhance Westport's villages to prevent strip development & sprawl.

Objective 1.1: Configure village business zones.

Action	Resp	Time
1.1.a. Review zoning surrounding existing villages and re-draw boundaries within which higher density development can take place.	PB	2
1.1.b. Consider new zone allowing continuation of Village density, redundant setbacks, etc. for each village.	PB	2
1.1.c. Site Plan Review.	PB	2

Objective 1.2: Encourage (1) condominiums, apartments & (2) smaller house lots in villages as infrastructure permits.

Action	Resp	Time
1. 2.a. Allow developer by special permit to construct multi-family housing in villages.	PB	2
1.2.b. Allow smaller s.f. house lots in village when public water/sewer are available.	PB	2

Objective 1.3: Plan for village growth to accommodate new business needed to serve emerging neighborhoods.

Action	(see Economic Development) Resp	Time
1.3.a. Establish standards for commercial structures, i.e. "mini-mall" - bldg. height, setback, landscaping, signage, etc.	PB	2

Objective 1.4: Investigate options for local sewer & water infrastructure within villages.

Action	(see Water and Sewerage) Resp	Time
1.5.a. Study different options for package treatment plants and community wells and make recommendations to PB	BOH	3

12.2 Natural Resources

Goal 1. Preserve, protect, restore, and enhance Westport's natural resources.

Objective 1.1: Protect coastal resources

Action	Resp	Time
1.1.a. Update and support Harbor Improvement Plan	HA, SW	1
1.1.b. Develop a plan for dredging river and other identified sites.	HA, SW	1
1.1.c. Obtain funding to dredge designated sites (mud docks) and a portion of main River channel.	BOS, HA	2
1.1.d. Develop a shellfish mgt. plan ASAP.	SA, BOS	1
1.1.e. Maintain shellfish hatchery by continuing shellfish propagation to ensure a continual harvest of marketable shellfish.	SA, BOS	2
1.1.f. Consider a dock moratorium until active plan is in place that will address & prioritize sensitive areas.	HA, CC, BOS	3
1.1.g. Address funding need for increased boat pump outs	HM, HA, BOS, BOH	2
1.1.h. Locate, prioritize & restore areas where fish ladders exist and once existed.	FC	4
1.1.i. Consider restoring fish ladders to improve the resource area i.e. Head of Westport & Trout Pond.	FC	4
1.1.j. Consider using dredge material from river dredging project to re-nourish and rebuild the end of Cherry & Webb beach where it is eroded.	CC, HA	2
1.1.k. Protect coastal velocity zones and barrier beaches by encouraging acquisition of properties within these areas by public entities for appropriate public use and public access.	CC	4
1.1.l. Protect eelgrass and shellfish - consider regulating use of personal watercraft in sensitive areas.	HA, SA, BOS	3
1.1.m. Partner with WRWA to address Phragmites areas at Hix Bridge.	CC	2

Objective 1.2: Protect groundwater and wetland resources.

Action	Resp	Time
1.2.a. Seek legal deed restrictions from property owners on land identified in aquifer areas.	CC, PB, BOS	1
1.2.b. Seek conservation restrictions on important water resource properties.	CC	3
1.2.c. The town should consider measures to strengthen regulations & bylaws to protect groundwater and surface water sources, and wetlands.	BOH, CC, BOS	1
1.2.d. Implement, enforce and develop public awareness of the Aquifer Protection Bylaw. Many residents are unaware that there is an aquifer bylaw or that they may reside in the district.	BOS, CC, BOH	2
1.2.e. Increase size of Aquifer and Water Protection Districts by including additional areas. Suggested sites are Devol Pond, Sawdy Pond, and So. Watuppa Pond.	BOS, CC	3

Objective 1.3: Protect and preserve critical wildlife habitat.

Action	Resp	Time
1.3.a. Use the NHESP Atlas and new BioMap to identify significant habitat areas.		3
1.3.c. Acquire parcels that link protected lands to create greenbelts and wildlife corridors.	CC	4

Goal 2. Devise Ways to allow but control development to sustain natural resources

Objective 2.1: Decrease non-point sources of pollution.

Action	Resp	Time
2.6.a. Continue solutions for addressing pollution - along Rte. 6 & Bread & Cheese Brook	SA, CC, DMF	3
2.6.b. Work with DFWLE to solve the wildfowl problem - too many geese/swans.	SA, CC, DMF	3
2.6.c. Conduct public education on lawn care.	SA, CC, DMF	2
2.6.d. Work with farmers on BMP's and solutions	AC, BOH	2
2.6.e. Review pump out records of residents on river, lake, ponds, ocean.	BOH	1
2.6.f. Improve or maintain storm catch basins in sensitive areas	HW, BOH	3
2.6.g. Continue monitoring to evaluate improvements	BOH	3

12.3 Open Space and Recreation

Goal 1. Improve land conservation efforts in Westport

Objective 1.1: Develop Funding Mechanisms for Town Land Protection Program

Action	Resp	Time
1.1.a. Dedicate \$\$ from sale of Town land & tax titles to conservation fund for land acquisition.	OSTC	2
1.1.b. Apply for state matching grants for open space.	OSTC,CC, CPC	3

Objective 1.2: Manage Town-owned land and resources to better protect open spaces.

Action	Resp	Time
1.2.a. Protect Town Farm through historical preservation and conservation/agricultural restriction.	CPC,HC	2
1.2.b. Manage and increase public spaces in Central Village for community use.	OSTC, CPC	3
1.2.c. Meet annually with appropriate boards to review Open Space Implementation Plan.	CC,OSTC, CPC,OSC	2
1.2.d. Promote management & stewardship of Town land by private organizations (WLCT, WYAA)	BOS, OSTC, CPC	2

Objective 1.3: Support Private and Alternative Methods for Land Conservation

Action	Resp	Time
1.3.a. Review tax title lands for open space protection.	CC,CPC, AC	2
1.3.b. Encourage land protection by private neighborhood associations	PB,WCLT	3
1.3.c. Partner with public agencies and private organizations on land protection projects.	CPC, OSTC	2
1.3.d. Consider Open Space Zoning Tools (cluster, TDR, agricultural. zoning)	PB	3

Objective 1.4: Increase public awareness of importance of open space.

Action	Resp	Time
1.4.a. Share revised build-out analysis with public.	PB,CPC, MPUC, AC	2
1.4.b. Encourage "Ag in the Classroom" & other information sharing on benefits of agriculture.	AC	2

1.4.c. Provide info to press on open space matters.	OSC, MPUC, AC,CPC RC	2
1.4.d. Host educational outdoor recreation events		3

Goal 2. Protect Westport's Rural Landscape

Objective 2.1: Support and Promote APR Program

Action	Resp	Time
2.1.a. Educate farmers on APR Program options.	OSTC, WCLT	2
2.1.b. Increase Town cost share for APR's & purchase APR's on farms ineligible for State program.	OSTC, CPC/CC	2
2.1.c. Partner with DFA and WCLT on APR projects	CPC, OSTC	2

Objective 2.2: Encourage enrollment in Chapters 61A & 61B

Action	Resp	Time
2.2.a. Exercise ROFR on Chapter lands, then restrict and re-sell for agricultural use.	OSTC, CPC,BOS	2
2.2.b. Dedicate Chapter 61 roll-back taxes to open space projects	BOS, FINCOM	3
2.2.c. Educate landowners on benefits of Ch. 61 program enrollment	AC,OSTC	3
2.3.b. Consider agricultural zoning tools (agricultural incentive zoning, cluster zoning, TDR)	PB,AC	3
2.3.c. Participate in Regional Planning	PB,AC	3
2.3.d. Promote farm stands and "pick your own" farms, & agricultural tours & events	AC, BOH,PB	3

Objective 2.3: Encourage sustainable regional agriculture

Action	Resp	Time
2.4.a. Match new farmers w/ existing farmland.	AC	2
2.4.b. Promote "South Coast Agricultural Green Belt"	AC	2
2.4.c. Meet periodically with CC & BOH to discuss farming issues	AC,CC, BOH	2
2.4.d. Draft "Living Near a Farm" Brochure	AC	3
2.4.e. Assist farmers in getting grants.	AC	3

Goal 3 Protect & Restore Water Quality & Natural Resources

Objective 3.1: Preserve undeveloped watershed lands in Westport

Action	Resp	Time
3.1.a. Support efforts to acquire open space surrounding Copicut Reservoir to protect water supply.	BOS, CC	2
3.1.b. Focus Conservation projects on land adjacent to rivers, streams, and ponds.	OSTC, CPC,BOS	2

Goal 4. Preserve the quality of Westport's natural resources, groundwater, wetlands, wildlife, habitat & coastal areas

Objective 4.1: Encourage protection of groundwater resources.

Action	Resp	Time
4.1.a. Protect aquifer by purchasing land or conservation restrictions in Protection District.	OSTC, CPC	2

Objective 4.2: Protect wetlands and coastal areas

Action	Resp	Time
4.2.a. Purchase land in coastal velocity zone & barrier beaches for open space	OSTC, CPC	3

Objective: 4.3. Protect critical wildlife habitat

Action	Resp	Time
4.3.a. Acquire & protect parcels linking protected lands and wildlife corridors.	OSTC, CPC	3
4.3.b. Acquire land identified as critical habitat by Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP).	OSTC, CPC	3

Goal 5. Provide & enhance indoor & outdoor recreational opportunities.

Objective: 5.1. Improve Town-wide recreational facilities

Action	Resp	Time
5.1.a. Re-study Rock Street Park for recreational uses.	RC	3
5.1.b. Study school facilities & Town Properties for 7 needs & recreational potential.	RC	3
5.1.c. Encourage rec. plans for Macomber School and Bicentennial Park.	RC	3
5.1.c. Explore use of fairgrounds for additional seasonal events.	RC	3

Objective: 5.2. Provide walking & biking opportunities

Action	Resp	Time
5.2.a. Place bike racks at Town facilities and beaches.	RC	2
5.2.b. Encourage recreational paths on Town land and conservation land.	RC	2
5.2.c. Explore use of ancient ways for passive recreational uses.	RC,PB	2
5.2.d. Encourage feasibility study for multi-purpose trail along Rte. 88.	RC	3

Objective: 5.3. Increase number of ball fields & open space recreation facilities

Action	Resp	Time
5.3.a. Explore creation of public golf course.	RC, CPC	3
5.3.b. Acquire & develop ball fields & soccer fields	RC, CPC	2
5.3.c. Re-develop landfill into park.	RC	4

Objective: 5.4. Enhance access to facilities for disabled persons.

Action	Resp	Time
5.4.a. Improve Town parking lots for handicapped access.	RC	3
5.4.b. Improve handicapped access to all Town facilities.	RC	3
5.4.c. Study feasibility of seasonal boardwalk at Town beaches.	RC	3

12.4 Historical and Cultural Resources

Goal 1. To preserve the past and increase awareness of Westport history.

Objective 1.1: To preserve, protect, maintain, and restore historical & cultural resources.

Action	Resp	Time
1.1.a. Incentives for developers to preserve history	PB	1
1.1.b. Archaeological Survey of Town		2
1.1.c. Development of historic districts	HC	1
1.1.d. Identify ancient ways	MPUC, HC	2
1.1.e. Map cemeteries into GIS system	MPUC	2
1.1.f. Study development of Town Farm	MPUC	4
1.1.g. Preserve historic roads; stone wall by-law	MPUC, PB	1

12.5 Water and Sewerage

Goal 1. Protect Drinking Water Sources and Develop Water Supply Alternatives

Objective: 1.1: Protect Drinking Water Sources

Action	Resp	Time
1.1.a. Conduct comprehensive groundwater study	BOH/BOS	4
1.1.b. Review existing "protection" regulations/current practices	BOH, BOS, CC	1
1.1.c. Identify "high-risk" septic disposal areas (high-density residential areas, poor soils)	BOH, BOS, CC	1
1.1.d. Implement stricter septic and solid waste disposal guidelines	BOH	1
1.1.e. Regulate residential density based on water yield/soil types.	PB, BOS	2
1.1.f. Locate high-risk businesses away from private/public supplies	PB, BOS	2
1.1.g. Engineering review requirements for all projects for impact to groundwater	BOS,BOH, PB	3
1.1.h. Acquire fee ownership or protective easements on parcels significant to protection of drinking water.	BOH,BOS	4
1.1.i. Implement comprehensive septic system inspection program.	BOH,BOS	4
1.1.j. Implement comprehensive sampling program for water quality.	BOH	4

Objective 1.2: Develop water supply alternatives

Action	Resp	Time
1.2.a. Explore regionalization of water sources with Fall River	BOS	2
1.2.b. Develop alternative/community systems of water supply	BOS,BOH	4
1.2.c. Expand existing public water supplies	BOS,BOH	4
1.2.d. Strategically plan extension of public water systems	BOS,BOH	3
1.2.e. Before selling tax title lands, review as potential sites for community water supply and/or improved septic disposal.	BOS	2

Goal 2. Stormwater management

Objective: 2.1: Adopt comprehensive stormwater management plan and regulations

Action	Resp	Time
2.1.a. Adopt guidelines for retention/detention ponds.	BOS,BOH, PB, CC, HW,BD	2

2.1.b. Regulate allowable area of impervious surface coverage.	BOS,BOH, PB, CC, HW,BD	2
2.1.c. Adopt further guidelines and regulations for floodplains.	BOS,BOH, PB/ CC, HW,BD	2

Objective: 2.2: Obtain additional land or easements for stormwater facilities.

Action	Resp	Time
2.2.1. Adopt Betterment Act for taking easements/land for drainage purposes.	BOS	4

Goal 3. Better Management of Septic/Sewerage Disposal

Objective: 3.1: Regulation and policy change to improve septic/sewerage disposal

Action	Resp	Time
3.1.a. Encourage/implement alternative disposal alternatives.	BOH	2
3.1.b. Implement septic siting restrictions.	BOH	3
3.1.c. Mandatory inspection/pump-out guidelines	BOH,BOS	3
3.1.d. Development soil suitability requirements/cluster zoning.	PB	3

Objective: 3.2.: Land Acquisition

Action	Resp	Time
3.2.a. Implement satellite treatment areas/acquire land for same.	BOH,BOS	2
3.2.b. Before tax title sales, review potential use of parcels for siting disposal fields.	BOS	2

12.6 Traffic and Circulation

Goal 1. Study the adequacy of the existing vehicular and non-vehicular roadway/circulation network.

Objective 1.1: Mitigate deficiencies of Rte 6/Sanford Rd. intersection.

Action	Resp	Time
1.1.a. Route 6/Sanford Rd. intersection - encourage State to prioritize the design & construction of improvements at this intersection.	BOS,HW	1

Objective 12: Mitigate deficiencies of Rte 6 corridor - request a State study of this corridor before they design improvements

Action	Resp	Time
1.2.a. Request a safety analysis of median openings, including need for left turn lanes and/or additional openings & alternative designs; increased sidewalks; option of changing	BOS,HW	1
1.2.b. Request additional landscaping and/or street trees.	BOS,HW	2
1.2.c. Request additional sidewalks.	BOS,HW	2
1.2.d. Request State study the option of changing the 4-lane highway to 2-lane with separate left turn stacking lanes at median openings, or shifting the roadway within the right of way to provide increased opportunities for non-motorized modes of travel, including pedestrians.	BOS,HW	2

Objective: 1.3. Mitigate deficiencies of Main Rd./Adamsville Road Intersection.

Action	Resp	Time
1.3.a. Address safety concerns regarding turning movements, particularly left turns onto Adamsville Road from Main Road. Consider new island geometry.	BOS,HW	3
1.3.b. Address safety concerns regarding restricted sight lines for left turns onto Main Road from Adamsville Road. Consider new island geometry.	BOS,HW	3
1.3.c. Address increased volume of traffic on Adamsville Road using this intersection.	BOS,HW	3

Objective: 1.4: Mitigate destruction of East Beach Road during storm events by seeking permanent improvements.

Action	Resp	Time
1.4.a. Investigate sources of funding for permanently improving this road, which is classified as a State road, thus eligible for both State & Federal funding.	BOS,HW	3
1.4.b. Coordinate with the State to study options to alleviate existing flooding problem, including raising roadway and providing equalization culverts to allow flow between ocean and River or excavating the Let and constructing the roadway on a filled causeway with a bridge over the opening.	BOS,HW	3

Objective 1.5: Mitigate deficiencies at intersections of Rte. 88 with Briggs Rd, Old County R, Charlotte White Rd., Hix Bridge Rd, and Drift Road.

Action	Resp	Time
1.5.a. Request the State revise the striping at the intersections for the right lane to be a "right-turn only" lane, alleviating the safety problems caused by the "double through" lanes.1.4.a. Investigate sources of funding for permanently improving this road, which is classified as a State road, thus eligible for both State & Federal funding.	BOS,HW	2

Objective 1.6: Mitigate safety deficiencies of Rte 6/ Rte 177 intersection.

Action	Resp	Time
1.6.a. Coordinate with Dartmouth to petition the State to study the safety of this intersection and install improvements, such as possibly a left-turn stacking lane from Rte. 6 westbound onto Rte. 177.	BOS,HW	1

Objective 1.7: Improve the streetscape and safety of Main Rd, particularly in the Central Village, which is the civic and primary local retail center of Westport.

Action	Resp	Time
1.7.a. Consider additional sidewalks, street trees and other landscaping, pedestrian lighting, benches, and other amenities.	BOS,PB, HW	3
1.7.b. Consider requiring and/or providing incentives to encourage shared driveways or frontage roads, particularly by businesses, in the Central Village section of Main Rd.	PB	3

Objective 1.8: Improve pedestrian safety, especially for schoolchildren, along Old County Rd.

Action	Resp	Time
1.8.a. Install a sidewalk on the north side of Old County Rd. from Rte. 88 to the Middle School, connecting the School and library with the existing sidewalk at the Head of Westport.	BOS,HW	3
1.8.b. Install a "mid-block" crosswalk, with adequate sight lines, across Old County Rd. to connect proposed north sidewalk to the existing sidewalk on the south side, which connects with the Rte. 88 crosswalk.	BOS,HW	3

Goal 2. Recommend a framework for a future Town-wide circulation system that:

- (1) forms a structure for the land use plan;
- (2) is functional, economical and pleasant to use,
- (3) meets the requirements of Public Safety officials, and
- (4) integrates the needs of drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists and others, including commuters and recreational users.

Objective 2.1: Support the public demand for "multi-use" trails expressed during public meetings on the Master Plan.

Action	Resp	Time
2.1.a. Support a study of trail development/improvement opportunities by a Town-appointed committee or through Town government cooperation with volunteer or non-profit group(s).	RC,CC,PB	3
2.1.b. Coordinate local trail system with regional and State trails and open space plans.		
Objective 2.2: Plan for circulation as part of planning for future growth.		
Action	Resp	Time
2.2.a. Investigate prohibiting connection of new roadways to existing subdivision roadways.	PB	2
2.2.b. Limit curb cuts, encourage shared commercial driveways and frontage roads along business-zoned roads. Encourage retro-fitting individual driveways to shared access system.	BOS,PB	4
2.2.c. Coordinate streetscape design improvement with Village Center zoning to encourage traffic calming, pedestrian-friendly villages.	PB	4
2.2.d. Sequentially implement Village Center zoning in the Central Village, Head of Westport, and Westport Point.	PB	4
2.2.e. Coordinate and encourage clustering of development in areas suitable for higher densities so that public transportation can be efficiently and conveniently provided from areas of greater population density within the Town to target destinations, such as village centers, healthcare facilities, employment centers, and commuter rail or other public transportation nodes.	PB	3
2.2.f. Coordinate with State and Regional Planning Agency to address transportation needs such as commuter parking and vans to facilitate efficient access to commuter rail.	BOS,PB	4

12.7 Economic Development

Goal 1 Position Westport to effectively pursue and develop commerce that is harmonious with the Town's vision.

Objective 1.1: Expand administrative capabilities to effectively support economic development.

Action	Resp	Time
1.1.a Establish the position of Economic Development Coordinator to initiate, coordinate, and nurture business enterprises that contribute to the economic prosperity of Westport.	BOS	1
1.1.b. Update zoning laws, as appropriate, to provide flexibility for locating businesses in areas that would support the overall objectives of the Master Plan	BOS,PB	1
1.1.c Streamline the permitting process for development, where possible.	BOS,ID	1

Objective 1.2: Take steps to facilitate the expansion of the economic base in Westport.

Action	Resp	Time
1.2.a Revise the 1996 Strategic Economic Development Plan to reflect current conditions and options for the Route 6 and Route 177 corridors.	BOS	2
1.2.b Seek federal and state grants for water and sewerage program on Route 6.	BOH,BOS	2
1.2.c Support and interact with local business groups.	BOS	1
1.2.d Pursue the dredging of the Westport River to ensure the viability of fishing and other marine activities.	BOS,SA, HM	3
1.2.e Initiate a site plan review process for planned commercial ventures and structures in order to ensure the quality of the general functioning, safety, and visual aesthetics of commercial areas.	BOS,PB, BOH,CC	2
1.2.f Identify specific areas for new economic development.	BOS,PB, CC	2

Objective 1.3: Utilize regional resources that are available to the Town of Westport.

Action

1.3.a For commercial development, establish close working relationships with:

- Fall River Office of Economic Development
- New Bedford Industrial Development Commission
- SRPEDD - Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District
- Fall River Chamber of Commerce
- New Bedford Chamber of Commerce

Resp	Time
BOS	2

1.3.b For tourism development, establish close working relationships with:

- Bristol County Convention and Visitors Bureau SRPEDD - Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District
- Fall River Chamber of Commerce
- New Bedford Chamber of Commerce

BOS,AC,
HW 1

1.3.c Establish a close working relationship with two centers of UMASS Dartmouth that provide unique support for regional economic development.

BOS 1

- Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center, located in Fall River

- *The Center for Marine Science and Technology, located in New Bedford.*

1.3.d Participate in the state's program for agriculture tourism.

BOS,HW,
AC 1

1.3.e Develop a uniform signage program for local non-agriculture tourism.

BOS,HW 1

Goal 2 Initiate programs for balanced economic growth in Westport.

Objective 2.1: Demonstrate Westport's commitment to economic development.

Action

2.1.a Support, foster, and market local businesses such as retail goods and services, marine trades, fishing, agriculture, and high-quality cultural and recreational tourism.

Resp
BOS 1

2.1.b Encourage the development of new industries using emerging environmental technologies.

BOS,CC 2

2.1.c Develop strategies to control the types of commercial development.

BOS,PB,
BOH,CC 2

2.1.d Develop strategies for attracting tourists to visit and patronize local businesses.

BOS 2

Goal 3 Provide increased business opportunities within Westport that are compatible with natural and cultural resources.

Objective 2.2: Target types of small businesses that would enhance the economic vitality of Westport.

Action

3.1.a Promote cottage industries and small family businesses such as professional offices, personal services, and bed and breakfasts

Resp
BOS,PB 2

3.1.b Cluster businesses to minimize strip development.

PB 2

Objective 2.3: Preserve and enhance the economic viability of prime agricultural lands and agricultural based businesses.

Action

3.2.a Establish a farmers market.

Resp
AC 2

Objective 2.4: Preserve and expand fish and shellfish commerce.

Action

3.3.a Encourage the expansion of fish and shellfish enterprises into new fields such as aquaculture.

Resp
FC,SA

Time
2

12.8 Housing

Goal 1. Provide a range of housing choices, balanced in terms of type, location, and price, that will meet the housing needs of all segments of the Town's population.

Objective 1.1: Increase the Town's supply of smaller housing units suitable for occupancy by one or two persons, including the elderly.

Action	Resp	Time
1.1.a. Amend accessory apartment by-law to increase flexibility [unclear what this means].	PB	2
1.1.b. Allow subdivisions to deviate from standard design and dimensional requirements by using planning tools such as the Special Permit process, designed to further the Town's specific housing goals, such as varying size, type, density and cost of units.	PB	2
1.1.c. Identify suitable areas for multi-family and condominium units and amend zoning bylaw to allow such uses by special permit/site plan approval.	PB	2
1.1.d. Identify areas suitable for assisted living and/or congregate housing and re-zone to allow these uses.	PB	2
1.1.e. Formally zone selected areas where residential and commercial uses co-exist to mixed-use zoning to eliminate conflicts between these uses and provide areas zoned for smaller housing units.	PB	2

Objective 1.2: Increase the Town's supply of affordable housing in general.

Action	Resp	Time
1.2.a. Establish a local initiative plan to encourage a certain percentage of affordable and/or elderly units in new subdivisions (via zoning bonuses, exemption from phased development bylaw, permit fast-tracking, etc.). Investigate adopting a formal Local Initiative Plan (L.I.P.).	PB, HP, ZBA, BOS	2
1.2.b. Develop a detailed plan for creation of housing that serves the needs of residents of Westport and the region and works toward meeting the Commonwealth's target of 10% affordable housing units.	HP	3
1.2.c. Review tax title lands before auction for suitability for affordable housing. Consider working with non-profits such as Habitat for Humanity to build affordable housing on this land.	TR, HP	2
1.2.d. Review the Town's Zoning By-Law and administration to strategize changes that will document and encourage the creation of units that will meet the state criteria for being defined as "affordable" (for example, document that accessory apartments will be rented at no cost or at affordable rates to relatives).	PB, BD	2
1.2.e. Work cooperatively with developers and the state to obtain a high level of local preference in new affordable housing developments.	ZBA	1
1.2.f. Investigate permit streamlining, install permit tracking software (GeoTMS) to make information sharing among inspectional service offices more efficient.	PB, BOH, BD, CC, AS, BOS	2

Objective 1.3: Provide assistance to homebuyers and homeowners.

Action	Resp	Time
1.3.a. Work with local lenders, real estate agents and the State to set up seminars, and other housing educational programs for first-time homebuyers and seniors.	HP	2

Goal 2. Incorporate into the housing development process mechanisms to plan for and protect open space, recreation areas and trails, and environmentally-sensitive areas.

Objective 2.1: Allow subdivisions to deviate from standard design and dimensional requirements by using planning tools designed to allow and encourage conservation/open space subdivisions which preserve or buffer significant natural and cultural features from negative impacts, and create useful recreation areas, trails, greenways and wildlife corridors.

Action	Resp	Time
2.1.a. Investigate cluster by right, conservation subdivision, density averaging and other innovative, flexible subdivision zoning methods with strong regulatory controls to ensure good design, meaningful open spaces and linkages natural resource protection, while reducing cost to developer of building unnecessary infrastructure, and lowering the cost of new housing.	PB	2

Goal 3. Incorporate into the housing development process mechanisms to preserve for the public's benefit the visual and functional character of Westport as represented by its: village centers, waterfront, farms, and other historic and scenic resources that comprise Westport's heritage.

Objective 3.1: Encourage new development that is compatible with the traditional but varied ways in which housing historically interacts with the landscape in Westport.

Action	Resp	Time
3.1.a. Incorporate into the housing development process mechanisms to vary density, lot sizes and setbacks, etc.	PB	3
3.1.b. Consider denser residential zoning in village centers and shopping nodes with specific provisions for site design, septic, circulation etc.	PB	2
3.1.c. Consider flexible development regulations to encourage buffers or otherwise minimize impact of new residential developments on farms, scenic arterial roads, waterfront, and other significant landscape features.	PB	2
3.1.d. Develop a Residential Design Guideline Manual to communicate desired residential development characteristics to developers.	PB	3

12.9 Capital Facilities and Human Services

Goal 1. Provide and maintain adequate Capital Facilities and Human Services as the Town continues to grow.

Objective 1.1: Determine how escalating real estate trends in Westport will impact the future land needs of the Town and how that development will increase stress on existing services and facilities.

Action	Resp	Time
1.1.a Inventory existing Town Land.	PB, AS	1
1.1.b. Examine and evaluate use of land presently owned by Town.	PB, AS	1
1.1.c. Develop creative strategies to acquire land for the future expansion of Town government offices, schools, community facilities and human services, as well as for passive recreation, conservation and open space.	PB, BOS, OSTC, CPC, CIPC	2

Objective 1.2: Pursue a study of Town departments in terms of allocated resources, personnel, and manpower.

Action	Resp	Time
1.2.a. Determine if current organization is as efficient and coordinated as it should be.	BOS, ID	2
1.2.b. Determine if it would be feasible to combine and/or re-arrange some departments.	BOS, ID	2
1.2.c. Study available options to leverage more money from the State for road maintenance and other highway projects.	HW	1
1.2.d. Evaluate the need for a DPW	SAC	4
1.2.e. Evaluate the need to expand the Town Nurse Office	BOH, COA	4
1.2.f. Decide issue of Public Safety Building that would combine South End F Station and P, as opposed to separate facilities.	BOS, P, F, TM	1
1.2.g. Acquire land for new facility to house either the Public Safety Building or South End F Station	BOS, TM	1
1.2.h. Hire additional employee for the solid waste transfer station.		
1.2.i. Acquire additional land for the expansion of the Cemetery	BOS, TM	4
1.2.j. Plan/Design/Construct Addition to Library	TFPL, TM	4

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