

Major Goals & Objectives of the Antigonish Planning Strategy

PAC wording added in Italics

The Municipal Planning Strategy is based upon a number of goals that provide the broad framework which manage the evolving development of the Town. Goals are general statements of intent that describe a desired future condition.

Our Primary Vision is to maintain, and where possible, Improve the quality of life, safety and stability of our community.

We hope to achieve this through realization of the following goals which are to be read in relation to one another:

Governance

- G1. Develop an administrative framework whereby Municipal decisions are made with an understanding of the ecological, social, cultural and economic implications for any particular course of action.
- G2. Promote informed public involvement and education in a *broad-based*, accessible and transparent planning and development process.
 - O2(a) Engage the public in community development projects (Judique example)

Housing

- G3. Strive to ensure that an adequate supply and range of housing types and supporting amenities are provided to satisfy the needs of all residents.
 - O3(a) *Identify neighbourhood areas and establish suitable densities.*
 - O3(b) Investigate, and where possible, eliminate, barriers restricting access to undeveloped lands.
 - O3(c) *Establish form rules (setting, massing, architecture, site development) regarding the development of taller buildings.*
- G4. Seek to maintain a balanced demographic mix within the Town
 - O4(a) Seek to attract families to core residential neighbourhoods.
 - O4(b) Implement measures to enhance neighbourhood integrity.
 - O4(c) Improve quality of rental housing.

Economic Vibrancy

- G5. Through policy development and effective partnering, work toward steady, diversified and balanced economic growth and a wide range of employment opportunities.
 - O5(a) Where opportunity arises, assist in fostering local development of innovative, sustainable technologies.
 - O5(b) Through effective partnering, promote of the Town's knowledge base, natural sites, cultural diversity, recreational assets and events and festivals.
- G6. Through policy and effective partnering, foster the development of a full range of commercial services consistent with the needs of the region's population.
 - O6(a) *Encourage* Community College programing *specific to our* communities needs
- G7. Understanding that the Downtown is the heart of a community, foster its growth as a vibrant, multiple function district and community focus for commercial, recreational, entertainment, institutional, cultural and public service uses.
 - O7(a) Ensure and adequate supply of commercial space in the Downtown core
 - O7(b) Ensure Adequate room for commercial expansion in the Downtown
 - O7(c) Improve circulation and wayfinding in, and to, the Downtown core.
 - O7(d) Improve access to parking in the downtown
 - O7(e) Foster the development of a downtown grocery service
 - O7(f) *Foster* a downtown property owner pride program

Place Making and Urban Design

- G8. Plan and design an efficient and attractive urban landscape that reinforces and enhances our community's sense of self, and of place, while encouraging innovative design opportunities.
 - O8(a) Ensure that development in established areas of the Town is done in a manner that is sympathetic too, and enhances, the built form of existing land uses.
 - O8(b) Entrances to Town shall be made more Inviting.
 - O8(c) Focus on increasing the enjoyment of walking within the community, including the creation of more sitting and gathering spaces.
 - O8(d) More frequent garbage collection in the downtown
- G9. Through policy development and effective partnering, protect and enhance our built heritage legacy.

Environmental Sustainability

- G10. Promote energy conservation and climate change protection through land use planning, effective partnering and through other municipal initiatives.
- G11. Foster the development of a safe, efficient and convenient transportation system that provides for all modes of travel and supports the desired land use patterns of the Town.
 - O11(a) Investigate opportunities to implement a public transportation system with a focus on delivering people to commercial and Institutional nodes.
 - O11(b) *Foster the development* of an Active Transportation plan.

- G12. Respect and encourage the protection and enhancement of the natural environment so as to support a healthy and diverse natural ecosystem in and around the Town.
- G13. Promote the sustainable use of natural resources and the effective management of wastes to ensure protection of the natural and built environment.
- G14. Through purchase, regulation and effective partnering, sustainably manage the finite groundwater and surface water resources that are needed to support our existing and planned growth.
- G15. Develop a Flood Risk Management approach which reduces flood damage potential, increases public safety and, where possible, increases development opportunities.
O15(a) Work to limit environmental impact of storm water management.
- G16. Work toward the development and implementation of a Sustainable Energy Plan
 O16(a) Conduct research on energy conservation methods
 O16(b) Develop energy conservation guidelines and policies
 O16(c) Develop greenhouse gas reduction guidelines and policies. e.g. target Kyoto
 O16(d) Explore opportunities to “green” our electric utility. e.g. wind / photovoltaic etc.
- G17. Work toward becoming a Model Sustainable Community

Social & Cultural Well-being

- G18. Facilitate development of facilities and services geared to satisfy the social, health, educational and leisure needs of existing and future residents.
 O18(a) Develop and maintain sufficient parks and open space facilities to meet the needs of all ages and socio-economic groups for active and passive recreation activities.
 O18(b) Continue to pursue the development of an expanded library service.
 O18(c) Work toward the development of a Cultural Centre.
 O18(d) *Encourage* partnering between community non-profit organizations to ease financial difficulties. e.g. shared legal, equipment etc.
 O18(e) *Undertake a comprehensive review of recreation services.*
 O18(f) Foster the development of *facilities* for youth
 O18(g) Consider policing and public security more holistically
- G19. Acknowledge the importance of agriculture both to our sense of place and our future well being, by fostering opportunities to practice agriculture as appropriate in our largely urban context.
- G20. Work toward improving the promotion of our culture and amenities in a manner which celebrates our cultural diversity and which acknowledges the richness it adds to our lives.
- G21 Work to overcome a *declining and, on average, aging population trend.*

Infrastructure

G22. Provide infrastructure in a manner which is supportive of the goals of this plan and so as to ensure the efficient and reasonable use of public expenditures.

O22(a) *Implement a road hierarchy classification and improvement plan.*

O22(b) Improve barrier free access throughout Town

~~O22(c) Develop sidewalks on major streets, e.g. West St. along University leading to TCH.~~

O22(d) Consider trucking issues in core areas of Town e.g. develop truck routes, delivery times etc.