



Transportation - Housing - Environmental Leadership



Dear Community Members,

It is a pleasure to serve this community as Chair of the Select Board. Throughout 2018, the Board has been focused on what we can do to positively impact the lives of everyone who visits, works, and lives on our Island. From that intent, a strategic planning process was started where we decided to focus on a few key issues that touch all of our lives on a daily basis. We have met with the Town staff and formed Work Groups to focus on implementation of eight goals in three Strategic Areas of Focus: Transportation, Housing, and Environmental Leadership.

This document sets forth our plan, and our commitment, to make a positive difference for the future of our Island.

Sincerely,

Jason Bridges

Jason Bridges

Select Board Chair



Environmental Leadership

- 1 Provide data-driven recommendations on island-wide solid waste management guided by principles of sustainability.

Deadline: 2021

- 2 Finalize an island-wide, long-term water quality management plan that addresses ponds, harbors, stormwater, and waste water with specific ways/methods to measure improvement.

Deadline: December 2020

ASPIRATIONAL STATEMENT

Nantucket residents and visitors share responsibility for the long-term sustainability of our beautiful Island. We recognize our stewardship of the land, air, and water and work to ensure our community is resilient and self-sufficient. Other communities look to Nantucket to learn how to care for the natural environment.

In January of 2018, the Nantucket Select Board began meeting with the Town Manager to identify strategic focus areas the Board wanted to prioritize for the next three years. Rather than developing a broad strategic plan, their vision was to focus on specific issues that touch virtually everyone on the Island – year-rounders, part-time residents, business owners, seasonal workers, and day-trippers. As a result of their work, three areas of strategic focus emerged:

Transportation – getting to and around the Island impacts everyone. Traffic leads to conversations about alternate modes of transportation, parking, and how to maximize the efficiency of intersections on the Island. Alternate modes of transportation must be an attractive option and adequate parking is necessary on the Island to support the vibrant commercial atmosphere.

Housing – Nantucket property values have increased exponentially since the 1980s as the amount of developable land has decreased. The demand for housing inventory far exceeds the supply and fuels a competition between year-round homes, seasonal workforce housing, and vacation properties. People who work on the Island – both year-round and seasonal – face unique housing challenges. To attract and retain the workforce necessary for government, Island businesses, and nonprofits to be appropriately staffed, housing needs must be addressed.

Environmental Leadership – the raw beauty of Nantucket is what attracts people – and caring for the environment and the unique eco-system that supports it requires special focus. The Town faces critical decisions in the future relative to the landfill and long-term water quality is the key to ensuring the sustainability of our Island.

Transportation, Housing, and the Environment – three areas of Strategic Focus the Select Board will prioritize over the next three years to make a powerful difference. Work groups have been established to concentrate on implementation and achieving each of the individual goals within these three areas of strategic focus.



Transportation

- 1 Launch a downtown parking management system based on demand management principles that achieves (or is measured by) 85% occupancy of public parking spaces.

Deadline: Summer 2020

- 2 Complete at least one key sidewalk route connection from Mid-Island (Six Fairgrounds Housing Project) to the ferries with improved standards for accessibility.

Deadline: May 2021

- 3 Shift the mode of choice of commuters from driving alone to using other modes by 6%.

Deadline: 2021

ASPIRATIONAL STATEMENT

Year-around transportation on Nantucket includes accessible, affordable, and reliable multi-modal options that respect the historical setting of our community. Pedestrians and bicyclists feel safe as they traverse along paths and walkways that abut our local roads. Our community has embraced how technology can improve access to parking in support of our vibrant shopping district. We balance the use of single occupancy vehicles, private transportation, transit, bicycling, and walking.



Housing

- 1 Achieve Safe Harbor Status in each of the next three years per the goals set for Nantucket by the State through Article 40B and maintain local control over affordable housing initiatives.

Deadline: December 2021

- 2 Finalize a plan to address housing needs specifically for Town employees – year-round and seasonal.

Deadline: September 2021

- 3 Determine in greater detail the need for housing at all affordability levels (30% Area Median Income (AMI) to 200% AMI) for the community.

Deadline: December 2019

ASPIRATIONAL STATEMENT

Nantucket is a diverse community with a broad spectrum of economic circumstances and has housing stock that meets the range of needs. Year-around housing is achievable for everyone who works on the Island and the various tiers of affordable housing make year-around living comfortable, stable, and inclusive. Our seasonal workforce is able to find safe and secure housing. Homes on Nantucket are well-constructed and integrated into the character of the Island.