

Annual Selectboard Goals
Adopted by the Brattleboro Selectboard at Its Meeting on June 4, 2019
Status of Implementation (*in bold italics below*) as of January 2, 2020

Governance

1. Together with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, continue to support the Vermont State Legislature's passage of S.106 to create a Municipal Self Governance Pilot Program. ***S.106 was adopted in the Senate in April but did not make it out of the House Government Operations Committee before the session ended in May. Town Manager Elwell is working together with the VLCT Board and staff to develop and implement a strategy for achieving adoption of S.106 in the House during the 2020 Legislative Session. Gwyn Zakov, Legislative Advocate on the VLCT staff, attended the September 17 Selectboard meeting at which this topic was discussed at length. Brattleboro Selectboard members and other Town officials will remain actively engaged in this work as the strategy is implemented.***
2. Together with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, continue to lead a Regional Economic Hub Coalition to promote information exchange and collaborative action among Vermont's larger and more complex municipalities. ***Town Manager Elwell facilitated a Hub Town session at the 2019 Town Fair (the annual conference of municipal officials from all over Vermont) regarding transportation related issues and the challenges of addressing poverty, addiction, and homelessness in Hub Towns. Additional meetings are being planned for 2020 and beyond.***
3. Consider the possibility of proposing Town Charter changes to address housekeeping matters (e.g. the elimination of Town School District sections) and/or substantive matters that might otherwise be addressed via the municipal Self Governance Pilot Project. ***At this time, the Selectboard has decided not to appoint a Charter Review Commission.***

Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in Town Government and the Community

1. After the new Human Resources professional is hired, conduct implicit bias training (and potentially other equity focused training) for the Selectboard and all Town employees. ***Human Resources Director Sally Nix joined our Town team on June 17. An RFP for this training was issued on September 24 and a contract was approved on December 3. The training will be conducted with all employees early in 2020, beginning with the Selectboard and the Senior Management Team on January 9.***
2. After the new Human Resources professional is hired, review all job descriptions and revise them and the Town's recruitment practices, as needed, to ensure that they are as free of bias as possible. ***Human Resources Director Sally Nix joined our Town team on June 17 and has begun working on this goal. We expect it to be completed during the first half of 2020.***
3. Continue efforts to develop a day-work program to provide employment to people living at the margins of Brattleboro's economy. ***The Work Today program was approved by the Selectboard for 90-day pilot project funding of \$65,000. The pilot project is intended to be implemented in Spring 2020.***
4. Continue to support and collaborate with organizations working to achieve racial equity, gender equity, economic equity, and social equity in and around Brattleboro. ***This work continues, both through collaboration with specific organizations on specific projects and as a guiding principle of our work in all areas of Town government.***

Housing

1. Adopt and Implement the Rental Housing Registration and Inspection Program. ***The ordinance was adopted in July and implementation began in September (after the State-mandated 60-day waiting period for the ordinance to take effect).***
2. Determine if there is an appropriate Town government role in collaboration with others in Brattleboro and beyond to address concerns related to the condition and affordability of Brattleboro's housing stock. If there is, take steps to start implementing that role.

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Opioids Crisis

1. Continue to support inter-agency efforts in the opiate crisis through active collaboration, raising awareness of unmet needs, and communicating effective strategies. ***All prior actions (most notably but not exclusively through Project CARE) are continuing. New efforts during the summer of 2019 included public forums for education/dialogue and distribution of the Project CARE brochure to every mailing address in Brattleboro. Inter-agency efforts have increased to share data and use data to drive decision making and trend monitoring as we continue to work collaboratively address this crisis.***
2. Consider additional Town funding for Project CARE and other opioid related initiatives with Groundworks, Turning Point, and the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont.

Energy Efficiency / Sustainability

1. Consider creation of a Sustainability Officer on the Town staff if there is agreement on a mission for this position that includes energy efficiency but also extends to a broader definition of sustainability. ***The Selectboard approved creation of this position. Stephen Dotson was selected from among a strong pool of more than 75 applicants. He will join the Town team on February 3.***
2. Continue to implement energy efficiency projects in Town facilities as recommended by the 2016-2017 Town Energy Audits and as other opportunities arise. Be specific about next steps in FY21 Budget.
3. Work with Southeastern Vermont Transportation to increase bus ridership (both by those who need the service and those who choose to use the service) by increasing the visibility, affordability, and frequency of bus service in Brattleboro. ***Some improvements have been specifically identified (especially regarding signage and other ways to increase public awareness of SEVT services) and will be pursued in conjunction with the SEVT staff.***

Facilities

1. Begin construction (and complete it, if possible) of the skatepark at Living Memorial Park. ***This project went to bid in June. Contractors' prices were higher than the Town can afford because contractors' schedules were already full for this summer's construction season. The project will be re-bid in the next month so that we will be at the front of the line for contractors as they schedule projects for the 2020 summer construction season.***
2. Develop a plan for capital improvement and future use of the Municipal Center. ***A partnership has been formed with the Windham and Windsor Housing Trust to plan and execute a restoration of the Municipal Center that will provide housing on the top 2 floors and Town facilities on the lower 2 floors.***
3. Develop a plan for future capital improvement of the Public Works Facility on Fairground Road. ***A facility needs analysis and site evaluation are underway as the first steps toward developing a plan to provide proper modern facilities for DPW (administration, highway, maintenance, and utilities).***

Utilities

1. Develop a plan for upgrading the Water Treatment Plant and addressing other capital improvements.
2. Update the Water and Sewer Ordinance and rates.

Public Outreach

1. Update and improve the Town's website.

(The Selectboard will review implementation progress in July, October, & January.)