

Natick Select Board

Values and Vision as Basis for Goals - ~~2021~~2022

Smart Growth and Economic Development

The Board's vision is to promote an ever more thriving community which attracts people from all walks of life. The Board values the character, vitality, cultural focus, and long-term viability of downtown Natick. The Board values the Town's strong commercial base and, in particular, supports the growth of the life sciences industry, the long-term success of the Golden Triangle, and furthering the intent and goals of the Natick 2030+ Comprehensive Master Plan.

The Board recognizes that people come to Natick for its first class schools, its strong sense of community, and its affordability relative to nearby communities. The Board therefore believes that goals should be developed and updated with these interests in mind.

Quality of Life for All

The Board believes in the inherent dignity of everyone who lives or spends time in Natick. The Board values improving the quality of life for residents of all ages. The Board's vision is to support responsible management and maintenance of capital infrastructure and critical assets, such as roadways and sidewalks, major buildings, and natural resources, as well as mitigation of traffic, safety and accessibility concerns. The Board's vision also includes enhancement of Town services.

The Board prioritizes improving the quality of life for all residents in an economical, equitable, and environmentally-sustainable manner.

Financial Predictability and Sustainability

The Board values long-term financial planning, driven by strategic modeling, prudent fiscal management, informed decision making, and a view towards affordability. The Board supports open and honest discussion about whether existing services should be increased, reduced, or eliminated, whether new services should be created, and how to prioritize given budget constraints.

The Board values balanced outcomes, such as sustainable and fair compensation and active management of major expense drivers while maintaining the ability to retain, attract, and develop a diverse and talented workforce.

The Board places a high premium on attracting, developing, and retaining a strong, engaged workforce, and believes that providing competitive and fair compensation and benefits is a key factor in this regard.

Community Governance and Engagement

The Board values its role as Natick's policy making leader, informed by long term strategic thinking and planning, through communication and collaboration with all stakeholders. The Board strives to promote transparency and timely, considerate responses to community concerns and ideas.

The Board values community volunteers, recognizes that the Town could not function without them, and therefore wishes to nurture those relationships. The Board encourages new voices, diverse perspectives, and broad civic engagement.

The Board values its dedicated Town employees, and their commitment to collaboration and support of community volunteers. The Board encourages its members, the Administration, Town employees

| and community members to constantly challenge the status quo, pursue operational efficiencies, and find a better way to meet Natick's needs.