

5-Year Prioritized Goals

May 15, 2018

	Recommendation	Responsible Parties	Successful Implementation Potentially Related to Center Village's Water Table
Priority	A. Education and Outreach- pages 180-185		
1	Conduct a market study to determine what the most appropriate businesses are that Bernardston can support, given its assets, location, and physical constraints, and target marketing efforts towards these industries.	Town Coordinator, Development and Marketing Committee	
2	Coordinate with the county and FRCOG to attract businesses and industries that support the regional rural economy and the processing of natural resources to develop in the Expedited Permitting District (examples include a slaughterhouse, milk processing facility, or sawmill)	Development and Marketing Committee	
3	Work with Community Preservation Coalition to host a workshop to educate residents about the benefits of the Community Preservation Act.	Historical Commission, Planning Board	√
4	Update information about all boards and commissions on the town website	Website committee	
5	Establish a Development and Marketing Committee to determine how the town and region could attract more businesses to Route 10 and the Priority Development Sites	Town Coordinator	
Priority	B. Zoning and Policy- pages 186-193		
1	Investigate shared ownership strategies for septic systems and actively facilitate education for homeowners about available alternative systems and retrofits that could increase the life of current systems.	Board of Health	√
2	Rezone Route 10 for mixed use to have attractive shops and businesses that would support the local rural economy and diversify the tax base	Planning Board	√
3	Create an Agricultural Interest Overlay District requiring development on working farmland to place a minimum amount of the property into the APR program Permit accessory uses on farmland to include conference centers, restaurants and other small businesses to draw visitors to local farms. Create a 'Farm Structure Reuse Bylaw' to encourage the adaptive reuse of historic barns and other farm buildings	Planning Board, Ag Commission	
4	Work with conservation organizations and residents to develop a strategy for identifying lands that may be coming out of Chapter 61, 61A and 61B and anticipate the funding necessary to protect those lands.	Ag Commission, Conservation Commission, Board of Assessors	
5	Establish as-of-right zoning for multifamily housing and higher density development in Center Village and residential zones . This can also serve as 'adequate progress' under Chapter 40B and stop developers from acquiring Comprehensive Permits to bypass local regulations	Planning Board	√

6	Allow accessory apartment and ‘in-law’ apartment units in all residential zones	Planning Board	√
Priority	C. Improve Municipal Infrastructure and Services- pages 194-201		
1	Designate Fox Hill Road and state road s as a priorities for storm water Best Management Practices , which would include vegetated swales along the road to slow the flow and infiltrate runoff, and evaluate the susceptibility of the unpaved roads in town to erosion . Conduct a study to find out how much sediment and runoff flows off the streets into the water bodies in town.	Conservation Commission, Highway Department	√
2	Consult with wastewater engineer on wastewater treatment alternatives and the suitability of any future site development . Composting toilets, decentralized wastewater treatment systems and constructed wetlands (‘living machine’) are possible alternative wastewater treatment systems that should be pursued. Each site for future development should be assessed on an individual basis for suitability for these systems. The 2009 Tighe and Bond Sewer Analysis and Conceptual Design Report should be reviewed to assess the feasibility of centralized or decentralized sewerage treatment systems for Center Village and business/ industrial zones.	Board of Health, Selectboard, Town Coordinator, Conservation Commission	√
3	Pursue sustained affordable housing	Town Coordinator	√
Priority	D. Strengthen Community Connections- pages 202-205		
1	Give Bernardston a recreation focus by using the Charity Farm Lot and regional bike routes. Update the town website with information to include maps of historical buildings and sites, and recreational trails.	Recreation Department, Town Coordinator	
2	Encourage business owners in town to establish an informal organization or association where owners could collaborate and support one another. Alternatively encourage business owners to affiliate with the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce.	Town Clerk, Town Coordinator	
3	Form an Event Committee to plan more events in town. Promote the arts and culture in town.	Recreation Department,, Town Coordinator	
4	Explore partnering with Habitat for Humanity to create sweat-equity housing ownership for low-income households	Town Coordinator	√