



IMPLEMENTATION

CHARLESTOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A series of tables containing all of the action items from each chapter with the responsible party and the time frame for implementation identified for each.

Cover Photo: Barbara Beauchaine

IMPLEMENTATION CHAPTER

	<u>PAGE</u>
<u>Tables</u>	
Natural Resources	12-3
Recreation	12-7
Historic and Cultural Resources	12-10
Services and Facilities	12-13
Energy	12-17
Natural Hazards	12-19
Transportation	12-21
Economic Opportunity	12-25
Housing Choice	12-30
Land Use	12-33

CHARLESTOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
IMPLEMENTATION TABLES – RESPONSIBLE PARTIES AND TIME FRAMES
Planning Commission Final Draft; December 2019/March 2020/April 2020

<u>Responsible Parties</u>	Town Council (TC) Town Administrator (TA)
Town Department:	Planning (PD) Building/Zoning (B/ZD) and Floodplain Management (FMD) Geographic Information Services (GIS) Police Department (CPD) Fire Districts: Charlestown (CFD) or Dunn’s Corner (DCFD) Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) Finance (FD) Harbor Management (HMD) Public Works (PWD) Parks and Recreation (PRD) Wastewater/Stormwater Management (WWMD)
Commissions/Boards:	Planning Commission (PC) Affordable Housing Commission (AHC) Agricultural Preservation Commission (APC) Budget Commission (BC) Coastal Pond Management Commission (CPMC) Conservation Commission (CC) Economic Improvement Commission (EIC) Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) Wastewater Management Commission (WWMC) Zoning Board of Review (ZBR)
Conservation Organization	The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Charlestown Land Trust (CLT)
Private Organization:	Charlestown Chamber of Commerce (COC) Charlestown Historical Society (CHS) South County Tourism Council (SCTC) Washington County Community Development Corp. (WCCDC) Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC)
State:	Division of Statewide Planning (DSP) Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (HPHC) Office of Energy Resources (OER) Department of Transportation (DOT) RI Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) RI Housing (RIH)

Federal: Narragansett Indian Tribe (NIT)
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Time Frames
On-going
Short-term; within five years
Medium-term; five to ten years
Long-term; over ten years

NATURAL RESOURCES

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.1 Continue to acquire and protect open space areas that preserve important natural resources.		
Action 1 Identify and rank open space land that provides for critical resource and habitat protection.	CLT CC / PC PD / GIS	On-going
Action 2 Assess the value of municipal property and tax sale parcels as permanent open space or conservation areas.	CLT / CC PD TA / TC	On-going
Action 3 Continue to collaborate/partner with various agencies and organizations such as US Fish and Wildlife Service, RI DEM, The Nature Conservancy, RI Audubon Society and private developers (through the land development process) regarding open space acquisition and conservation.	CLT CC / PC PD TA / TC	On-going

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.2 Protect natural resources through zoning and subdivision regulations and the development review process.		
Action 1 Make use of flexible land use management tools to provide alternatives to conventional development in a manner that protects important natural resources such as water bodies, significant vegetation and wildlife habitats, from potentially negative development impacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Allow for conservation design and development as an alternative to, or in addition to, mandatory cluster; b. Revise the zoning and subdivision regulations to ensure that impractical lots are not created, and that impacts on wetlands and other natural features are avoided or minimized by reviewing and strengthening lot design standards, and; c. Require the installation or preservation of vegetative buffers or increased setbacks. 	PD WWMD PC TC	Short-term to Medium-term
Action 2 Provide for the permanent protection of wetlands as part of the land development and subdivision review process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Require peer review for all major developments, particularly those involving new road construction, on parcels with significant areas of wetlands; 	PD PC	On-going

<p>b. Require minimum areas of contiguous upland when creating new lots on parcels with significant areas of wetlands or other severe constraints;</p> <p>c. Require wetland and buffer areas to be within protected open space areas to the extent possible;</p> <p>d. Demarcate wetland edges with permanent markers to protect the wetland resource area from alteration/use and incremental deterioration; and</p> <p>e. Require that restrictions on use of wetland resource areas be included on the deeds to the new or impacted parcels.</p>		
<p>Action 3 Preserve the Pawcatuck River corridor as both a scenic resource and wildlife habitat area through the establishment of zoning regulations to control the placement and scale of development along the river.</p>	<p>PD PC TC</p>	<p>Short-term</p>
<p>Action 4 Periodically review all town regulations that are in place to protect natural resources in order to ensure effectiveness and that all standards are up to date. These include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark sky ordinance; • On-Site Wastewater Management System (OWTS) regulations; • Groundwater protection district; • Soil erosion and sedimentation control ordinance; • Energy siting regulations; and • Noise ordinance, particularly as it relates to protecting wildlife 	<p>PD B/ZD WWMD PC TA / TC</p>	<p>On-going</p>
<p>Action 5 Consider adoption of a transfer of development rights (TDR) ordinance to provide for the conservation of land in rural and undeveloped areas of town while encouraging appropriate density of development in village centers, including Cross Mills, Carolina, and Shannock.</p>	<p>PD PC TC</p>	<p>Medium-term</p>

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
<p>Policy 2.1 Provide long-term preservation and conservation of natural resources through proper management by town administration.</p>		
<p>Action 1 Consider establishing a position in town to monitor and manage protected open space, either as an employee or person or entity under contract.</p>	<p>TA / TC PD / PRD CLT CC / PC</p>	<p>Medium-term</p>

Action 2	<p>Maintain a current database of all critical natural resource areas, including a listing of parcels and GIS maps of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All conservation lands and protected open space areas; b. Critical habitats of federal- and state-listed rare, threatened and endangered species, both plant and animal; c. Wetland areas, including forested, shrub and emergent; and d. Any other significant natural resource areas. 	GIS PD CLT CC / PC	On-going
Action 3	<p>Review state maps and other databases to ensure that all publicly-owned protected lands, river and shoreline access points, and historic buildings and sites appear on the maps and in databases.</p>	GIS PD	On-going
Action 4	<p>Consider the establishment of a water source protection ordinance which requires that water drawn from aquifers within Charlestown remain within the watershed and prohibits the withdrawal and sale of groundwater as a commodity</p>	PC CC GIS / PD TA TC	Short-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame	
Policy 2.2 Work with state and federal agencies, and private conservation organizations, and with neighboring communities and the NIT to protect shared natural resources and achieve compatibility in open space acquisitions and land use decisions.			
Action 1	<p>Support efforts by agencies and organizations to monitor, evaluate and implement programs to improve water quality and habitat in the fresh water bodies and salt ponds of the town.</p>	CPMC CC GIS	On-going
Action 2	<p>Coordinate land acquisition efforts, including identifying priorities and sharing information and resources, and funding, with the Charlestown Land Trust, RI DEM and The Nature Conservancy.</p>	CLT CC / PC PD TA / TC	On-going
Action 3	<p>Work with the Narragansett Indian Tribe and the neighboring communities to protect shared natural resources.</p>	PD NIT	On-going

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.3 Promote appreciation for and proper use of natural resources by residents and visitors through public education.		
Action 1 Educate those who enjoy the town’s abundant open space areas on appropriate use in order to protect natural resources and habitats by developing and distributing public informational brochures.	CC CLT PD / PRD	Short-term
Action 2 Publicize forested and natural areas in town that are available for passive recreation and nature study through various organizations and media, including the Chamber of Commerce and the town website.	PRD / PD CLT COC	Short-term
Action 3 Maintain and update town efforts, specifically under its Stormwater and Wastewater Management Programs, to educate homeowners on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Proper septic system maintenance; b. Use of fertilizers, particularly in the salt ponds watershed; c. Ecologically sensitive landscaping; and d. Managing pet waste 	WWMD GIS	On-going

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 3.1 Integrate efforts related to acquisition of land, allocation of funds and review of land developments to achieve this network of open space and conservation areas.		
Action 1 Make an interconnected network of conservation land a priority in protection and conservation of open space.	CLT CC / PC	On-going
Action 2 Apply for grants from potential federal, state and private sources to acquire, promote access to and educate the public regarding Charlestown’s natural resources and habitat areas.	CLT / CC TA / TC	On-going
Action 3 Maintain a natural resources map, develop plans and undertake site visits to identify resources that should be permanently protected from development.	GIS / PD	On-going

RECREATION

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.1 Continue to provide active recreational programming for all ages.		
Action 1 Annually review the variety and accessibility of recreational programming to determine the adequacy in meeting the needs of all residents.	PRD PRC	On-going
Action 2 Continue to coordinate recreational programming with that of other organizations and recreational facilities in the region.	PRD PRC	On-going

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.2 Maintain and expand opportunities for outdoor active recreation.		
Action 1 Undertake a facilities study to evaluate the condition and use level of all active recreational facilities, and to identify the need for additional facilities, particularly in areas of town which are underserved.	PRD PRC	Short-term
Action 2 Review the previous plans developed for Ninigret Park to determine the best utilization of the park.	PRD PRC PD / PWD TA / TC	Short-term
Action 3 Develop a schedule for acquisition and development of additional playing fields and active recreation facilities in town, based on need and availability of funding.	PRD / PWD PRC TA / TC	Medium-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.3 Provide opportunities for year-round recreation.		
Action 1 Develop and expand programs for early spring, fall and winter activities for both passive and active recreation.	PRD PRC	Short-term
Action 2 Publicize forested and natural areas as available for year round passive recreation activities, and make use of such areas in recreational programming.	PRD PRC / EIC CLT SCTC	Short-term
Action 3 Continue to partner with the public schools, neighboring municipalities and other organizations for use of indoor recreational facilities.	PRD PRC	On-going

Action 4	Consider the development of a new indoor recreational facility/community center and determine its needed capacity and appropriate location.	PRD PRC TA / TC	Medium-term
-----------------	---	-----------------------	-------------

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.1 Continue to acquire, protect and manage open space areas that can be utilized for passive recreation open to the public.			
Action 1	Identify and rank open space land that provides both resource and habitat protection and recreational opportunities.	PD / PRD CC / PRC GIS	Short-term
Action 2	Provide trailhead facilities and well-marked trails to facilitate use of natural areas, while notifying users of any restrictions due to natural resource protection.	PWD / PRD PRC / CC CLT	On-going
Action 3	Develop (jointly with Carolina and Kenyon in Richmond) a Heritage Trail along the Pawcatuck River that would link the Carolina Management Area and the Great Swamp Management Area.	PRD PRC / CC DEM	Medium-term
Action 4	Collaborate with conservation groups such as The Nature Conservancy, the RI Wild Plant Society and the Audubon Society to expand recreational programming focusing on Charlestown's natural resources, and to educate the public on their ecological importance and need for sensitive management.	PRD PRC / CC CLT	Short-term

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 3.1 Maintain the varied recreation opportunities on Ninigret and Quonochontaug Ponds, on the freshwater ponds and the Pawcatuck River, for boating, swimming shell fishing and fishing, while protecting the resources from the adverse impacts of overuse.			
Action 1	Continue to develop small-scale access ways to the shore, the freshwater ponds and the river, to allow a few visitors, such as anglers, hikers or people who wish to sit and look at the water at these areas. Provide limited parking at or near shore access points where appropriate.	CPMC PRC PRD DPW	Medium-term
Action 2	Investigate the potential for additional boat ramps or small boat put-ins to increase access to the salt ponds and the Pawcatuck River.	PRD CPMC PRC	Medium-term

Action 3	Identify coastal areas subject to the conditions of climate change, such as storm surges and sea level rise, for public acquisition as a means to provide additional shoreline access, while preventing inappropriate development.	GIS PD	Medium-term
Action 4	Identify public ROWs to be upgraded to CRMC ROW designation, and assist the process by undertaking preliminary research involving town records, historical records and physical evidence of the proposed sites.	CPMC CRMC	Medium-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame	
Policy 3.2 Educate the public on the availability and proper use of Charlestown's significant areas of open space.			
Action 1	Educate recreational users and others who enjoy open space on appropriate use to protect natural resources and habitat by developing and distributing public informational brochures.	CC / PRC PRD	Short-term
Action 2	Publicize the wide array of available recreational opportunities through various organizations and media, including the town website and social media.	PRD PRC	Short-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame	
Policy 3.3 Ensure that the facilities required to support recreational uses are adequate.			
Action 1	Annually review figures for use of all facilities and activities in order to assess the adequacy of staff, facility and maintenance needs. Compare these with projected population demographics on a periodic basis.	PRD DPW PRC TA	On-going
Action 2	Conduct a utility assessment of parking, sanitary facilities, shelter and trash disposal associated with all recreational facilities.	PRD DPW	On-going
Action 3	Continue to apply for recreation and open space grants to meet facility needs.	PRD / PD PRC / PC TA	On-going

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.1 Protect historic and cultural resources through zoning and subdivision regulations and the development review process, using innovative techniques as they become available or feasible.		
Action 1 Recognize the contribution of historic and cultural resources and structures when reviewing land developments, subdivisions and other applications to ensure the preservation of important resources and the appropriate re-use of historic structures.	PD B/ZD PC / ZBR	On-going
Action 2 Develop a database of significant historical and cultural resources to be used as a “red flag” in reviewing developments.	PD / GIS PC CHS	Medium-term
Action 3 Review the zoning regulations for the mill villages and adopt standards governing building and parking placement, building form and design, and signage and site amenities, so as to protect and enhance traditional uses and development patterns, and the historic nature of the villages.	PD PC CHS TC	Short-term
Action 4 Consider the adoption of historic district zoning with review of building changes and new development in designated historic districts under the purview of a new historic district commission.	PD PC CHS TC	Medium-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.2 Preserve the visual qualities of Charlestown’s historic areas and scenic roadways.		
Action 1 Develop context sensitive design guidelines for summer colonies to ensure that new construction, renovations and additions are compatible with the neighborhood.	PD PC CHS TC	Medium-term
Action 2 Amend the zoning ordinance to facilitate the re-use of motels for low to moderate income housing, so that the summer colony character of these properties can be retained.	PD B/ZD PC TC	Short-term
Action 3 Continue Implementation of the <i>Route 1 Scenic Roadway Stewardship Plan</i> . including the establishment of scenic roadway design standards for new development and building improvements along Route 1, including signage, lighting and buffers between the roadway and structures, with consideration given to preservation of important views.	PD PC TC	Medium-term

Action 4	<p>Continue to implement the following policies when reviewing subdivisions and land developments along local and minor roadways, with amendments to land development regulations enacted as needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention of stone walls. Maintenance of undisturbed natural landscape buffers, particularly significant trees and shrubs, to shield view of new construction from the road where the character of the roadway would be adversely changed by clearing. Locate new “curb cuts” (driveways) to town roadways so as to preserve existing stonewalls, natural buffers and the scenic qualities of these corridors. Encourage shared driveways to service new development unless there are safety or functional factors that preclude them. 	PD PC PWD	On-going
Action 5	<p>Develop and implement a right-of-way vegetation management program for local roadways that uses low impact but effective methods to manage trees and other vegetation that is consistent with roadway safety standards.</p>	PWD PD PC	Short-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame	
Policy 1.3 Maintain and expand public understanding of Charlestown’s cultural and development history through research, public education and public events.			
Action 1	<p>Educate the public on Charlestown’s history by developing and distributing informational brochures.</p>	CHS HCC* PD	Short-term
Action 2	<p>Support the activities of, and work in conjunction with, the Charlestown Historical Society to continue educational efforts and group activities that raise awareness of the significance of historical and cultural resources to both the community and the seasonal tourist economy.</p>	HCC* / EIC CHS COC	On-going
Action 3	<p>Undertake field research to locate, and map, all historic trails and old road names.</p>	HCC* CHS	Short-term
Action 4	<p>Partner with the University of Rhode Island, Roger Williams University and other educational institutions on programs and projects documenting the historical and cultural assets of the community.</p>	HCC* CHS	Medium-term

Action 5	Educate residents on the benefits of National Register designation, including use of state and federal investment tax credits for restoration of historic structures.	HCC* CHS HPHC	Medium-term
Action 6	Develop and distribute guidelines for restoration of historic properties for use by homeowners.	HCC* CHS B/ZD	Medium-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame	
Policy 2.1 Work with the Narragansett Indian Tribe to delineate and protect shared historic and cultural resources.			
Action 1	Establish an inventory of Native American heritage resources located outside of the Narragansett Settlement Lands.	PD NIT CHS / HCC*	Short-term
Action 2	Establish procedures that encourage review and input by the Narragansett Indian Tribe of proposed subdivisions and developments that may impact Settlement Lands.	PD NIT PC / HCC*	Short-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame	
Policy 2.2 Support the prehistoric and historic heritage of the Narragansett people.			
Action 1	Include land that provides for the protection or enhancement of Native American cultural assets as an additional important criteria in consideration of parcels for open space acquisition.	PD NIT HCC* TC	Short-term
Action 2	Work with tribal representatives to educate the public on the history of the Narragansett, and to provide access to significant cultural resources, as determined by the tribe.	CHS / EIC HCC* NIT	Medium-term

* The Charlestown Historic and Cultural Commission (HCC) would be a new commission established to inventory features, provide public education, work with the NIT and administer historic district regulations, if enacted.

SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.1 Continue collaboration with adjoining towns, particularly Richmond and Hopkinton, on regional issues and resource sharing efforts.		
Policy 1.2 Continue to review and meet the town's educational needs in the context of the Chariho Regional School District and the standards, programs and resources of the RI Department of Education.		
No Specific Action Items	Policy 1.1 Town Administration Policy 1.2 School Department	On-going On-going

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.3 Ensure that the physical facilities are up-to-date and can effectively meet the town's public service needs.		
Action 1 Evaluate the feasibility of re-locating the Department of Public Works to land on Old Post Road near the Police Station and with easy access to Route 1.	PWD B/ZD TA / FD TC	Medium-term
Action 2 Evaluate all public safety buildings and structures to determine their resilience in storm and emergency events, and make upgrades as needed.	PWD B/ZD / FMD TA / FD TC	Short-term
Action 3 Identify all town roads to be impacted by sea level rise or increased flooding due to the impacts of climate change and initiate planning for their modification or abandonment.	PWD GIS TA / TC	Medium-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.4 Work to increase recycling rates as a means to reduce the amount of solid waste sent to the state Central Landfill.		
Action 1 Encourage composting by establishing a compost bin program at the Charlestown Residential Collection Center.	PWD WWMD	Short-term
Action 2 Explore the placement of recycling bins in various town locations to facilitate recycling by tourists and seasonal residents.	PWD PRD	Short-term
Action 3 Facilitate electronic and hazardous waste recycling in the community by coordination of special collection opportunities with RI DEM and RI RRC and evaluate the consideration of a dedicated program in the community to permit ongoing disposal of these types of waste.	PWD WWMD	Short-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.5 Promote effective health and social service programs and facilities, in cooperation or partnership with other public, private and non-profit agencies and groups.		
Action 1 Evaluate the feasibility of re-locating the senior/community center and consider options for a location more suitable for emergency shelter purposes.	PRD CEMA PRC TA / TC	Medium-term
Action 2 Develop and distribute public information brochures regarding municipal facilities and services that are available to Charlestown residents, particularly those related to emergency situations.	CEMA PWD	Short-term On-going
Action 3 Support the emergency management agency in coordinating emergency response services to any health care providers, senior housing facilities or any resident living independently with a health concern during power outages and other natural hazard emergencies.	CEMA TA	Medium-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.6 Encourage and recognize volunteerism in the fire, rescue, ambulance service, library, Parks and Recreation Department activities, town boards and commissions, and other volunteer services.		
No Specific Action Items	Policy 1.6 Town Administration	On-going

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.1 Maintain Charlestown's long-range program of effective stormwater management to reduce risk of flooding, control erosion and sedimentation and protect surface and groundwater quality and quantity.		
Action 1 Continue to locate and inventory existing municipal stormwater facilities and work towards correcting problems for existing drainage in a manner which considers the surrounding drainage patterns and natural resources, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Digital mapping in the town's GIS system of the stormwater handling elements and outfalls; b. Sampling and analysis of outfall effluent at all stormwater outfall locations; and c. Development of conceptual treatment and/or retrofit plans where problems are detected. 	WWMD* PWD GIS	Short-term to Mid-term

<p>Action 2 Continue to apply Low Impact Development site standards in the review and approval of new land developments and subdivisions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Encourage the installation of raingardens and other “green infrastructure” at residential and commercial developments; and b. As necessary, contract with independent professional engineering or environmental planning consultants to review stormwater management designs. 	<p>PD WWMD* PC CC</p>	<p>On-going</p>
<p>Action 3 Develop a stormwater reuse program that includes the use of best management practices, such as the installation of rain barrels, cisterns or other water storage and reuse facilities at public buildings.</p>	<p>WWMD* PWD</p>	<p>Short-term</p>
<p>Action 4 Continue to undertake public education, participation and outreach in accordance with the Phase II Stormwater Management Program, including educating homeowners on using buffers, vegetation or other measures to increase water retention on site.</p>	<p>WWMD*</p>	<p>On-going</p>
<p>Action 5 Develop a database of storm drains in town that are located within the projected sea level rise scenarios and can be monitored during flood events and/or extreme high tides</p>	<p>WWMD* PWD GIS</p>	<p>Short-term On-going</p>
<p>Action 6 Undertake a comprehensive stormwater management study for areas exposed to flooding and/or sea level rise, developed through state and/or federal funding.</p>	<p>WWMD* FMD / PD PC</p>	<p>Medium-term</p>

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
<p>Policy 2.2 Maintain and expand Charlestown’s successful program for on-site wastewater management.</p>		
<p>Action 1 Work with property owners who have failed or underperforming OWTS’s to upgrade or replace them to current and acceptable standards.</p>	<p>WWMD</p>	<p>On-going</p>
<p>Action 2 Establish a program to monitor nitrogen-reducing OWTS’s to determine effectiveness and facilitate reduction of nutrients to the drinking water.</p>	<p>WWMD</p>	<p>On-going</p>
<p>Action 3 Develop a “Nitrogen Reduction Overlay District” applied to critical resource areas to regulate the size and impact of new development so as to reduce groundwater nitrogen in a scientifically based manner.</p>	<p>WWMD PD WWMC / PC TC</p>	<p>Short-term</p>

Action 4	Undertake feasibility studies for potential collective OWTS's in higher-density "village" areas of town, including conceptual plans and cost estimates for collective OWTS's or package mini-treatment plants.	PD WWMD PC TC	Medium-term
-----------------	--	------------------------	-------------

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.3 Continue and enhance municipal efforts to ensure the protection of groundwater resources in the community.			
Action 1	Consider the establishment of a water source protection ordinance which requires that water drawn from aquifers within Charlestown remain within the watershed and prohibits the withdrawal and sale of groundwater as a commodity.	PD PC TA / TC	Short-term
Action 2	Review the local zoning and subdivision regulations relative to groundwater protection, and enact the following regulatory changes as needed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. An update of the list of uses prohibited in the groundwater protection section of the zoning ordinance; b. Inclusion of groundwater protection methodologies in growth management standards and regulations; c. Delineation of common open space within cluster developments so as to protect groundwater recharge areas; and d. Use of GIS modeling or updated flood mapping for projected sea level rise and storm surge impacts in the review process for development proposals in coastal and flood prone areas. 	PD WWMD* GIS PC TC	Short-term

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.4 Minimize town use of water through conservation and other protective measures.			
Action 1	Consider a cooperative program for the watering of agricultural fields (odd/even days).	PWD	On-going
Action 2	Limit water use on athletic fields by using new drought resistant varieties when reseeding fields, and by establishing a policy to prohibit watering of fields during drought emergencies.	PWD PRD WWMD	Short-term

Action 3	Establish a signage program encouraging efficient water use in bathrooms and kitchens of municipal buildings and the elementary school.	PWD WWMD	Short-term
Action 4	Amend the zoning ordinance and land development regulations as needed to mandate best practices to reduce water consumption.	PD WWMD PC / TC	Short-term

* Wastewater Management Department includes stormwater management

ENERGY

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.1 Promote conservation and energy efficiency.			
Action 1	Complete remaining energy efficiency improvements to all municipal buildings as recommended by the on-going energy audits.	PWD TA	On-going
Action 2	Continue the policy of replacing town automobiles with the most fuel efficient models as feasible.	PWD CPD	On-going
Action 3	Continue to use CDBG funds to assist low and moderate income households to increase the energy efficiency of their homes.	WCCDC AHC	On-going
Action 4	Explore the placement of recycling bins in various town locations to facilitate recycling by tourists and seasonal residents.	PWD WWMD PRD	Short-term
Action 5	Establish a composting program of public education and outreach. It is recommended that the town take advantage of the presence in Charlestown of leaders in composting, Earth Care Farm and the Worm Ladies, to educate and encourage composting by more residents in Charlestown and other rural towns of the state.	WWMD WWMC CC	Medium-term

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.2 Reduce local dependence on fossil fuels.			
Action 1	Promote the Rhode Island Woods website and similar information resources to make residents aware of the sources of local firewood and to help local forest owners maintain markets for their forest products.	APC / CC PD GIS	Short-term

Action 2	Produce an informational brochure on the specifics and benefits of adding solar panels when a new house is constructed or roof is replaced.	B/ZD OER	Short-term
Action 3	Adopt a town ordinance that incentivizes solar roofs on both new and existing structures by reducing or eliminating fees, or providing other economic incentives.	PD B/ZD PC TC	Short-term
Action 4	Consider amending the zoning ordinance to allow reduced setbacks and greater lot coverages for ground mounted solar systems installed to meet on-site energy needs.	PD B/ZD PC TC	Short-term
Action 5	Reduce or prohibit barriers to energy conservation and use of renewables in subdivision or land development covenants. This action can be completed by the adoption of a town ordinance by the Town Council which prohibits such covenants from restricting the use of on-site renewables by homeowners associations, or by the establishment of such a policy by the Planning Commission when reviewing such documents.	PD B/ZD PC TC	Medium-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.3 Maintain a regulatory environment that encourages alternative energy development while protecting natural and cultural resources.		
Action 1	Establish zoning which allows the installation of renewable energy systems in a manner which also protects the natural and cultural environment.	PD B/ZD PC TC
Action 2	Enact zoning which directs commercial solar development to degraded land such as the landfill or gravel banks; or to parking lots or other already developed land.	PD B/ZD PC TC

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.4 Support energy efficient land uses and lifestyles		
Action 1	Continue to enact, amend (as needed) and implement zoning and subdivision regulations that preserve open space and promote compact growth.	PD PC TC
Action 2	Adopt and implement land use conservation strategies that reduce greenhouse gases.	PD PC / CC TC

Action 3	Continue to plan and develop town-wide biking and hiking routes.	PRC / CC PD / PRD DOT	Medium to Long-term
Action 4	Periodically review town ordinances to ensure that there are no local restrictions against ride-sharing or ride-hailing business.	PD / PWD TA / TC	On-going

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.5	Maintain an awareness of the history of energy proposals in Charlestown, such as the proposed nuclear power plant, and consider the environmental impacts of new energy technologies and proposals.	
No Specific Action Items	Policy 1.5	Town Administration On-going

NATURAL HAZARDS

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame	
Policy 1.1	Preserve natural resources and improve community resiliency through land conservation and protection.		
Action 1	Develop an acquisition strategy for properties in the town's most vulnerable areas, including determination of appropriate funding sources.	PD / GIS PC / CC CLT	Short-term
Action 2	Review land uses in vulnerable areas to determine whether restrictions are necessary to prevent or lessen potential losses during large storm events or as a result of sea level rise.	PD / GIS FMD	Medium-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame	
Policy 1.2	Educate the public on the probabilities and risks associated with natural hazards and climate change, and on methods of community resilience, with technical assistance provided if possible.		
Action 1	Develop and disseminate an educational campaign for the public on actions that can be taken to reduce risks to private property and to improve resiliency, particularly in coastal hazard and flood prone areas.	PD FMD WWMD* CEMA	Short-term
Action 2	Continue to maintain the emergency and disaster preparedness page on the municipal website with information on minimizing risk to private property and on general preparedness.	CEMA	On-going

Action 3	Continue to offer property owners online resources and updates related to changes or amendments to the local Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).	FMD	On-going
-----------------	---	-----	----------

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.1 Ensure that the local Hazard Mitigation Plan is up-to-date and utilizes the most recent available technical data for natural hazards and climate change.			
Action 1	Continue to improve community resilience in order to improve or maintain the town's current Community Rating System score.	FMD PD WWMD*	On-going
Action 2	Ensure that there is adequate funding and administrative support to implement the recommendations of the Charlestown Hazard Mitigation Plan.	FMD BC TA / FD	On-going

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.2 Incorporate resiliency planning into government functions.			
Action 1	Develop a municipal review process for developments proposed within the areas projected to be exposed to sea level rise.	FMD PD / GIS	Medium-term
Action 2	Maintain a separate database of building permits for all properties within the Special Flood Hazard Areas and the projected sea level rise areas.	FMD GIS	Short-term
Action 3	Upgrade existing GIS databases after natural disasters, where applicable.	GIS FMD	On-going
Action 4	Evaluate the impact of storm-related structural losses on local municipal tax revenues in the annual budget.	B/ZD FD / TA	On-going

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.3 Incorporate resiliency into governmental projects.			
Action 1	Identify municipal roads that intersect sea level rise scenarios, determine their long-term viability and initiate the redesign (or relocation) efforts necessary to maintain their transportability for the foreseeable future.	PWD GIS TA / TC	Medium-term

Action 2	Improve the functioning and resiliency of municipal roads through regular maintenance and by identifying and upsizing drainage culverts as needed through the annual capital improvement program.	PWD WWMD* TA / FD	On-going
Action 3	Implement non-structural alternatives to shoreline protection through the reuse of dredged materials, or other emerging best practices.	CPMC / TC CRMC	Short-term to Medium-term

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.4 Review and amend local development regulations to incorporate sustainability practices.			
Action 1	Limit the percentage of allowable impervious surface within developed parcels by amending the zoning ordinance to include total lot coverage standards.	B/ZD PD PC TC	Short-term
Action 2	Regularly review local regulations as they relate to rising groundwater levels and flooding potential, and maintain close contact with appropriate state agencies in this regard.	B/ZD PD WWMD* PC TC	On-going

* Wastewater Management Department includes stormwater management

TRANSPORTATION

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.1 Maintain rural character through flexibility in new roadway design.			
Action 1	Allow new public subdivision streets to be constructed at a reduced width of 20 feet, depending on the site characteristics and the number of lots.	PD PWD PC	Short-term On-going
Action 2	Review and evaluate roadway design and stormwater standards in the subdivision regulations and modify as needed to promote rural and low impact design.	PD WWMD PC	Short-term
Action 3	Require, to the degree possible, compact development in the form of cluster or conservation subdivisions, to reduce the length of new roadways.	PD PC	On-going

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.2 Maintain the scenic quality of existing roadways.		
Action 1 Continue to implement the following policies when reviewing subdivisions and land developments along local and minor roadways, with amendments to land development regulations enacted as needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention of stone walls. Maintenance of undisturbed natural landscape buffers, particularly significant trees and shrubs, to shield view of new construction from the road where the character of the roadway would be adversely changed by clearing. Locate new “curb cuts” (driveways) to town roadways so as to preserve existing stone walls, natural buffers and the scenic qualities of these corridors. Encourage shared driveways to service new development unless there are safety or functional factors that preclude them. 	PD PC PWD	On-going
Action 2 Develop and implement a right-of-way vegetation management program for local roadways that uses low impact but effective methods to manage trees and other vegetation that is consistent with roadway safety standards.	PWD PD PC	Short-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.3 Actively manage the town’s designated scenic roadways.		
Action 1 Establish scenic roadway design standards for new development and building improvements along Route 1, and other designated scenic roadways, including those for signage, lighting and buffers between the roadway and structures, with consideration given to preservation of important views from the scenic roadway. Incorporate these standards in the town zoning and subdivision regulations, to be applied when reviewing development proposals along the Route 1 corridor.	PD PC TC	Short-term
Action 2 Inventory and evaluate both developed and undeveloped parcels along Route 1 in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose site improvements to preserve, restore or enhance the appearance and scenic quality along the roadway. 	PD B/ZD GIS TA / TC	Short-term

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring properties into compliance with existing town codes as required. • Pursue protection of unique undeveloped parcels along Route 1 through conservation easements, purchase of development rights, or purchase of the property, as opportunities arise. 		
Action 3 Continue to pursue the designation of scenic and rural roadways in Charlestown as state scenic highways.	PD / PWD TA / TC	Medium-term
Action 4 Consider the establishment of a Scenic Roadway Stewardship Commission to oversee and assist in the implementation of the Stewardship Plan.	PD / PWD TA /TC	Medium-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.4 Maximize safety of travel along local roads.		
Action 1 Review roadways in town to ensure adequate posting of speed limits, and add signage as needed, including alerts regarding bicycle and pedestrian use.	PWD PRD PRC*	Short-term
Action 2 Incorporate traffic calming techniques along designated roadways.	PWD PD PC	Medium-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.1 Support multimodal transportation on a county-wide and statewide basis.		
Action 1 Consult with RIPTA on development of a shuttle service to Kingston Station, at such point when there are sufficient train riders in Charlestown to support such a service.	TA / TC PWD RIPTA	Medium-term
Action 2 Evaluate development of a park and ride lot for carpooling, vanpooling and possible future RIPTA bus service at a suitable site in Charlestown.	TA / TC PWD RIPTA	Medium-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.2 Support alternative means of travel within Charlestown and the region.		
Action 1 Periodically review town ordinances to ensure that ride-sharing or ride-hailing businesses that provide for travel needs on a case-by-case basis are permitted in a safe and equitable manner.	PD / PWD TA / TC	On-going

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 3.1 Work locally, regionally and at the state level to expand options for bicycling in Charlestown.		
Action 1 Communicate with RI DOT to ensure that roadways suitable for bicycle travel are properly signed.	PWD PRD / PRC* TA / TC DOT	Short-term
Action 2 Collaborate with RI DOT to expand the designated state bike route network by identifying additional roadways suitable for bicycle travel.	PWD PRD / PRC* TA / TC DOT	Medium-term
Action 3 Work towards the development of the shoreline bike route, including collaboration with the Towns of Westerly, South Kingstown and Narragansett.	PRD / PRC* TA / TC DOT	Short-term
Action 4 Work with RI DOT to develop safe crossings of Route 1 for bicyclists, with a focus on the area between Narrow Lane and Prosser Trail	PRD / PRC* TA / TC DOT	Short-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 3.2 Support pedestrian improvements throughout town to encourage walking as an alternative to the automobile.		
Action 1 Undertake an engineering study of the three main town-owned roads leading to the beaches to consider options for increasing the safety of bicycle and pedestrian travel, while working within the existing road rights-of-way.	PWD / PD PRD / PRC* TA / TC	Medium-term
Action 2 Require sidewalks within new commercial developments and pathways within and between residential subdivisions and walkable destinations.	PD PWD PC	On-going

Action 3	Identify existing trail systems within Charlestown that can be used as alternative travelways and publicize this connectivity along with information of a recreation nature.	PD / PRD PRC / EIC COC	Short-term
-----------------	--	------------------------------	------------

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 3.3 Collaborate with other agencies and communities			
Action 1	Regularly discuss upcoming state projects and their impact on the town and the town's needs with the Division of Statewide Planning, RI DOT and RIPTA.	PD / PWD TA / TC DSP / DOT / RIPTA	On-going
Action 2	Review all phases of RI DOT plans, and submit formal comments to the State to ensure that RI DOT road and bridge improvements are in keeping with the town's character.	PWD / PD TA / TC	On-going
Action 3	Participate in the planning and development of RI DOT road and transportation projects involving the state roads within the town, including those that seek to manage traffic safety, particularly during the summer.	PWD TA / TC	On-going

* Bicycle Sub-Committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.1 Attract, retain and support businesses that directly benefit residents, tourists and visitors.			
Action 1	Review and amend the zoning ordinance as needed to ensure that a variety of small scale and mixed commercial-residential uses are allowed at appropriate locations, particularly within the villages of Carolina, Shannock and Cross Mills, and within the Traditional Village District along the Old Post Road corridor.	PD B/ZD PC / EIC TC	Short-term
Action 2	Establish a funding mechanism, or tax incentive program, that would allow the Town to assist in small business development and/or enhancement, such as building and site improvements, signage and promotion. These could include establishing a revolving fund for building improvement loans, or a tax rebate program that offsets the cost of signage and landscaping improvements.	EIC BC FD TA / TC	Medium-term

Action 3	Utilize the resources of the RI Commerce Corporation, including the RI Small Business Center at the University of Rhode Island, to assist in business development, building reuse and tourism support.	EIC COC	On-going
Action 4	Allow and encourage cost saving measures such as community wells and shared septic systems, and common signage and shared parking for businesses.	PD WWMD PC	On-going

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.2 Establish design standards for new development and redevelopment to both protect the character of the town and ensure vibrant successful commercial areas.			
Action 1	Establish specific site and building design standards for Carolina, Shannock and Cross Mills and the Traditional Village District regulating building and parking placement, building form and design, and signage and site amenities so as to protect and enhance traditional uses and development patterns.	PD PC CHS TC	Short-term
Action 2	Provide town-wide standards that protect against homogeneous development represented by chain stores, including “small-box” stores, while allowing the flexibility that encourages local businesses.	PD PC TC	Short-term

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.3 Identify and support economic activities with potential for growth and/or which could complement existing activities.			
Action 1	Review and amend the zoning ordinance as needed to ensure compatible manufacturing activities in the industrial zones in town, and to provide additional options for light assembly and small scale production in the commercial zoning districts.	PD PC / EIC TC	Short-term
Action 2	Review, and amend if necessary, local regulations that support home-based businesses, including those that provide many of the local services required in a small community and do not impair or negatively impact surrounding properties.	PD PC / EIC TC	Short-term
Action 3	Review and amend the zoning ordinance as needed to ensure that opportunities for senior support services are allowed and encouraged in appropriate districts in town.	PD PC / EIC TC	Short-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.1 Continue to acquire, protect and manage open space areas for passive and active recreation use.		
Action 1 Identify and rank open space land that provides additional passive recreation opportunities.	PD / PRD PC / PRC	On-going
Action 2 Provide trailhead facilities and well-marked trails to facilitate use of natural areas.	PRD / PWD PRC	On-going

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.2 Utilize Ninigret Park in a manner that is compatible with the adjacent Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge.		
Action 1 Investigate the possibility of establishing public events at the park such as a community yard sale, an arts festival or an antique show.	PRC / EIC PRD COC	Medium-term
Action 2 Promote year-round tourism based on Charlestown's dark skies and the night sky viewing opportunities at the Frosty Drew Observatory.	PRC / EIC PRD (Frosty Drew) COC	Medium-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.3 Maintain the varied recreational opportunities on Ninigret and Quonochontaug Ponds, on the freshwater ponds and the Pawcatuck River, for boating, swimming, fishing and shell fishing.		
Action 1 Investigate the potential for additional boat ramps or small boat put-ins to increase access to the salt ponds and the Pawcatuck River.	HMD / PRD CPMC / PRC	Medium-term
Action 2 Undertake a study to evaluate beach access and parking, and if necessary, develop a plan to meet demand while not encouraging over-use.	HMD / PRD CPMC / PRC	Medium-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.4 Continue to support the Economic Improvement Commission, Charlestown Chamber of Commerce and South County Tourism Council in promoting local events and recreational activities, including year round activities, as an attractive alternative to more distant vacation destinations.		

Action 1	Publicize the wide array of outdoor recreational opportunities available to visitors and tourists through various media and organizations, including the town website.	PRD PRC / EIC COC / SCTC	On-going
Action 2	Develop a series of hiking, walking, biking and kayaking/canoeing maps of Charlestown showing locations of all natural areas with trails and access points; locations of mill villages and cultural sites; scenic bike routes; and water trails, along with locations of local businesses that support tourism and outdoor activities.	PRD PRC / EIC CHS COC / SCTC	Short-term
Action 3	Develop tourism packages focused on visitors of varying ages and interests including ecotourism, heritage tourism, agri-tourism and dark sky tourism.	COC / SCTC PRD PRC / EIC CHS	Medium-term

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.5 Develop and support regional recreation and tourist activities.			
Action 1	Provide links to regional tourism routes in Washington County and eastern Connecticut.	SCTC / COC EIC / PRC	On-going
Action 2	Develop a scenic and historic driving tour contiguous with and similar to one developed by the Town of South Kingstown (posted on town website).	SCTC / COC EIC / PRC	Short-term
Action 3	Develop a coastal bicycle route along the Route 1A corridor in conjunction with Westerly and South Kingstown (see Transportation chapter).	PRD / PRC TA / TC DOT	Long-term
Action 4	Develop, jointly with Carolina and Kenyon in Richmond, a heritage trail along the Pawcatuck River that would link the Carolina Management Area and the Great Swamp Management Area.	PRD PRC / CC DEM	Medium-term
Action 5	Develop and market an art trail, linking artist studios, galleries, and performance spaces.	EIC (CHARTS)	On-going
Action 6	Work with the Narragansett Indian Tribe to market information on local Native American heritage.	CHS / EIC NIT	Medium-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 3.1 Support existing farms and promote the establishment of new farms.		
Action 1 Work with the Charlestown Land Trust to identify and preserve prime agricultural lands, with funding available from local and state bond money (including from the State Agricultural Preservation Commission).	APC CLT TC	On-going
Action 2 Partner with active farms and/or community groups to develop an agricultural lease program to assist new farmers.	APC DEM	On-going
Action 3 Collaborate with the RI DEM Division of Agriculture on marketing and promotion, including use of grants opportunities such as the Local Agriculture and Seafood Act program to support the growth, development and marketing of local food and seafood.	APC CPMC	On-going

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 3.2 Promote farms and farming as multi-use operations.		
Action 1 Review and amend the zoning ordinance as needed to allow appropriate accessory uses on active farms, such as farmers' markets, retail sales and special events, that are in scale with the size of the farm, are sensitive to environmental and neighborhood impacts, and are linked to the potential for development pressure on the land based on the underlying zoning.	PD B/ZD PC / APC TC	Short-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 3.3 Support and manage aquaculture in the salt ponds as a sustainable and important local economic activity.		
Action 1 Work cooperatively with aquaculture farmers to educate the public on shellfish cultivation and growing in the salt ponds, to both encourage a balanced and peaceful co-existence with other salt pond users and to provide public support for this growing industry.	HMD GIS CPMC CRMC	On-going

HOUSING CHOICE

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.1 Help residents with limited income to be able to stay in their homes.		
Action 1 Continue partnerships using grant funding (CDBG) to provide rehabilitation and maintenance services for qualified income residents.	WCCDC AHC	On-going
Action 2 Encourage the purchase, rehabilitation and management of existing housing resources by non-profit community development organizations to expand rental and ownership opportunities.	WCCDC	On-going
Action 3 Identify distressed homeowners and work with them to meet their particular housing needs.	AHC WCCDC	On-going
Action 4 Review and define the extent and context of homelessness in Charlestown. This review could be led by the Charlestown Affordable Housing Commission, in concert with state and adjacent community agencies (regional approach).	AHC WCCDC RIH	On-going

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.2 Utilize creative local approaches to achieve a variety of housing options in Charlestown.		
Action 1 Amend the zoning requirements for multifamily units to encourage construction of one- and two-bedroom units and to allow use of “bedroom equivalencies” to be considered in determining density allowances.	PD B/ZD PC TC	Medium-term
Action 2 Consider ordinance amendments to allow and/or encourage smaller housing units (i.e. “tiny houses”, efficiency units, accessory apartments) to provide affordable housing for one and two person households.	PD B/ZD PC TC	Medium-term
Action 3 Pursue programs, regulatory efforts and strategies that will encourage the conversion of trailer park residences to qualifying, affordable status.	AHC PD WCCDC RIH	Medium-term

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.3 Utilize regional efforts to meet housing needs.			
Action 1	Routinely meet with neighboring towns to compare housing needs and identify ways to combine and coordinate efforts. Utilize the Washington County Regional Planning Council to address regional housing issues.	AHC PD WCRPC	Short-term On-going
Action 2	Coordinate with Richmond officials on the village planning efforts for Carolina and Shannock, and continue partnership with Richmond to utilize CDBG funding to improve neighborhoods and community facilities.	AHC PD WCCDC	Short-term On-going
Action 3	Participate actively in regional strategies, including establishing a regional HOME consortium, an affordable housing regional land trust and/or a housing and redevelopment agency that will leverage state and federal funds and draw on the strengths of each town.	AHC WCCDC RIH	Medium-term
Action 4	Continue efforts with the federal government and the Narragansett Indian Tribe to encourage affordable housing opportunities for tribal members in the community.	AHC PD NIT	Short-term On-going

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.1 Encourage a mix of housing unit types and price ranges in new residential development and adaptive reuse of property.			
Action 1	Implement conservation design development that allows a mixture of dwelling unit types, including single and two-family dwellings according to an overall plan of development that respects the density requirements of the underlying zoning district, while protecting important site features.	PD PC TC	Short-term
Action 2	Utilize transfer of development rights (TDR) to conserve land in rural areas of town while allowing construction of traditional neighborhood designs on small lots in designated village areas, including multifamily and affordable housing, without increasing the overall buildout of the town.	PD PC AHC TC	Medium-term

Action 3	Establish options for housing reserved for seniors in response to projections that the percentage of the population over the age of 60 will continue to grow.	PD AHC PC	Medium-term
-----------------	---	-----------------	-------------

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.2 Continue to promote housing that protects the town’s natural and cultural resources and rural character and reflects the natural constraints of the land.			
Action 1	Consider the suitability of municipal land purchased in the future for affordable housing construction, along with open space and recreation uses.	PD TA TC	On-going
Action 2	Regulate housing location and density to avoid adversely impacting natural resources, habitat corridors, and groundwater, specifically including the terminal moraine area and the CRMC SAMP region.	PD PC	On-going
Action 3	Encourage preservation of existing homes, particularly historic homes and summer cottages, to protect both existing housing stock and the town’s heritage.	PD B/ZD	On-going

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 3.1 Promote production strategies for units that qualify as affordable under the Rhode Island Low and Moderate-Income Housing Act.			
Action 1	Continue to pursue regional strategies with the Washington County Community Development Corporation, the Women’s Development Corporation and other agencies involved in affordable housing.	AHC WCRPC WCCDC RIH	On-going
Action 2	Pursue the use of land trust models to produce affordable housing, in cooperation with South County Habitat for Humanity and other state-wide or regional land trusts.	AHC WCCDC	Medium-term
Action 3	Consider amendments to the Traditional Village District to better promote the production of affordable housing and mixed-uses within this district, and consider the extension of mixed-use zoning to other village areas.	PD PC AHC TC	Short-term

Action 4	Review the Income-Restricted Accessory Dwelling Unit provisions of the zoning ordinance to identify ways to encourage its utilization, through marketing to local property owners and/or amendments to improve its functionality.	PD AHC PC TC	Short-term
Action 5	Pursue discussions with the owners of adaptive re-use and site-specific properties as identified in the town's 2004 Affordable Housing Plan.	AHC PD WCCDC	On-going
Action 6	Review distressed properties (potential tax title properties) before proceeding with tax sale to determine if such can be converted to affordable status via partnership with non-profit development entities or other means.	PD FD / TA WCCDC	On-going
Action 7	Propose a new bond issue specifically the acquisition and repurposing of existing housing for permanent use as affordable housing or for the construction of new LMI housing.	AHC FD / TA TC	Short-term
Action 8	Evaluate the potential for development of a dedicated funding source for supporting affordable housing proposals. This may take the form of an impact fee applicable to all subdivisions or land development projects.	AHC FD / TA TC	Medium-term
Action 9	Consider seeking enabling legislation to permit the use of the "real estate transfer tax" to support and facilitate affordable housing production programs in Charlestown.	AHC FD / TA TC	Medium-term

LAND USE

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.1 Maintain Residential Density Consistent with Current Development Patterns and Environmental Constraints.		
Action 1	Review the residential zones with consideration of environmental constraints, particularly wetland areas, the Pawcatuck River, Natural Heritage areas, and land within the CRMC SAMP land use designations of Self-Sustaining Lands and Lands of Critical Concern.	PD PC CC TC
Action 2	Review specific areas of town which are fully developed at a density greater than the current zoning, and consider options for rezoning so as to be consistent with existing development patterns.	PD PC TC

Action 3	Review the undeveloped parcels with split-zoning along the major roads and consider regulatory options to ensure overall development consistent with the surrounding zoning to the rear of such parcels.	PD PC TC	Short-term
-----------------	--	----------------	------------

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.2 Identify and Enhance Village Centers (Mixed-Use).			
Action 1	Establish village center overlay districts to review uses and to govern the scale and design of new development and redevelopment in the three village centers, in order to facilitate diversity of housing and commercial uses in vibrant, walkable villages.	PD PC EIC TC	Short-term
Action 2	Review the zoning regulations for the villages of Shannock, Carolina and Cross Mills and adopt standards relating to building and parking placement, building form and design and signage and site amenities so as to protect and enhance traditional uses and development patterns, and the historic nature of the villages.	PD PC CHS TC	Short-term
Action 3	Consider the establishment of a transfer of development rights (TDR) program to conserve land in rural and environmentally sensitive areas of town while encouraging appropriate density of development in the village centers.	PD PC AHC TC	Medium-term

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.3 Maintain Old Post Road as a Mixed-Use Traditional Village District.			
Action 1	Review the boundaries and general configuration of the TVD, the allowable uses and densities, in a manner compatible with CRMC SAMP policies, including limiting footprints and impervious cover, and applicable design standards, including architecture, building placement and landscaping.	PD PC EIC TC	Short-term

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.4 Identify and Define Commercial Districts in Town.			
Action 1	Establish Village Commercial, General Commercial and Scenic Highway Commercial zoning districts consisting of areas now zoned as C-1, C-2 and C-3 Zones, and review allowable uses and dimensional requirements.	PD PC EIC TC	Short-term

Action 2	Establish architectural and site design standards, including but not limited to maximum building size and total impervious lot coverage for all commercial districts.	PD PC EIC TC	Short-term
-----------------	---	-----------------------	------------

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.5 Retain Limited Industrial Land Uses in Town.			
Action 1	Review the allowable uses and dimensional and other standards of the Industrial Zone to ensure future compatibility should the industrial parcels be subject to new uses or redevelopment	PD PC EIC TC	Short-term
Action 2	Consider additional options for small-scale production or light manufacturing which are compatible with areas of town outside of the Industrial Zone.	PD PC TC	Short-term

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 1.6 Ensure Adequate GIS Mapping.			
Action 1	Maintain, update and enhance the town's GIS mapping to facilitate review of development applications, to help preserve natural and cultural features and to help provide permanently protected open space.	GIS PD B/ZD	On-going
Action 2	Provide periodic outreach to the general public regarding use of the town's GIS system. This may be accomplished via postings on the town's website, in the community newsletter and/or by conducting workshops for residents and other interested parties.	GIS TA	On-going

Action		Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.1 Identify and Categorize Open Space Parcels in Town.			
Action 1	Establish two new open space zoning designations: "OS-Conservation" (OS-C) and "OS-Recreation" (OS-R) to replace the OS/R.	PD PC TC	Short-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 2.2 Support the Continued Acquisition of Open Space for Conservation Purposes.		
Action 1 Continue to fund the purchase of title and/or development rights to land using local open space bond money, with acquisitions based on open space ranking criteria.	CLT FD / TA TC	On-going
Action 2 Work with the Charlestown Land Trust, RIDEM, US Fish and Wildlife Service and organizations such as The Nature Conservancy to identify and preserve land with important natural features and wildlife habitat, farmland, and land with recreation potential by means of outright purchase, acquisition of development rights or through conservation easement.	CLT CC / PC PD TA / TC	On-going
Action 3 Promote, through educational outreach efforts to property owners, expanded participation in the FFOS program and the selling or donating of conservation easements.	CC FD / TA	On-going

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 3.1 Establish an Active and Ongoing Relationship with the Narragansett Indian Tribe.		
Action 1 Identify resources shared by the tribe and the Town of Charlestown, and issues of common concern, and establish a means of regular communication. Such issues include but are not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development on tribal lands which are not settlement lands. • Protection of groundwater resources, wildlife habitats and cultural features on tribal lands. • Construction of affordable housing for tribal residents that can be counted towards Charlestown’s inventory of year-round low and moderate-income housing. 	PD B/ZD TA TC AHC NIT	On-going

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame
Policy 3.2 Continue an Active Collaboration with other Communities.		
Action 1 Continue to coordinate with the Town of Richmond on the redevelopment of the villages of Carolina and Shannock, including development of compatible zoning and design standards.	PD PC EIC TC	On-going

Action 2	Coordinate with adjoining communities as needed on natural resource protection and public water supply production and distribution, including establishment of policies restricting transfer of water resources outside of watershed boundaries.	PD WWMD GIS TA	On-going
Action 3	Coordinate the harbor management of Quonochontaug Pond that Charlestown shares with Westerly, and Green Hill Pond that is shared with South Kingstown.	HMD CPMC	On-going
Action 4	Review outdoor lighting regulations with adjoining communities to lessen the impact of lighting from these towns on Charlestown's dark skies.	PD B/ZD TC	On-going
Action 5	Collaborate with neighboring communities regarding land use ordinances with special attention to regulations governing major developments such as commercial solar, multi-use complexes and affordable housing.	PD WCRPC B/ZD TC	On-going

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame	
Policy 4.1 Prevent Overdevelopment in Sensitive Coastal Areas.			
Action 1	Review town regulations (zoning ordinance and land development and subdivision regulations) to identify areas that may conflict with CRMC's policies and regulations under the SAMP for the salt ponds region. On the basis of such review, develop and enact regulatory modifications to better coordinate town and CRMC policies and eliminate conflicts between these regulations in these sensitive, coastal environments.	PD CC PC CPMC TC	Short-term
Action 2	Develop a "Nitrogen Reduction Overlay District" applied to critical resource areas to regulate the size and impact of new development so as to reduce groundwater nitrogen in a scientifically based manner.	WWMD PD WWMC / PC TC	Short-term

Action	Responsible Party	Time Frame	
Policy 4.2 Make use of Flexible Land Use Management Tools.			
Action 1	Amend the land development and subdivision regulations and the zoning ordinance to include provisions to allow for conservation design and development, as an alternative, or in addition to, mandatory cluster.	PD PC TC	Short-term
Action 2	Revise the zoning and subdivision regulations to ensure that impractical lots are not created, and that impacts on wetlands	PD PC	Short-term

	and other natural features are avoided or minimized by reviewing and strengthening lot design standards.	CC TC	
Action 3	Periodically review and amend the residential compound regulations to ensure that they are meeting the town's rural design standards.	PD PC TC	On-going
Action 4	Utilize transfer of development rights (TDR) to conserve land in rural areas of town while allowing construction of traditional neighborhood designs on small lots in designated village areas, including multifamily and affordable housing, without increasing the overall buildout of the town.	PD PC AHC TC	Medium-term
Action 5	Undertake a study of the use of form-based codes to determine their applicability to commercial and mixed use areas of Charlestown, specifically regarding redevelopment and new development in the Traditional Village and the Village Commercial Districts.	PD B/ZD PC EIC TC	Medium-term