

Town Council Goals for 2007-9

Vision: The Town Council will strive to provide the residents of Tolland cost-effective municipal services while optimizing resources.

1. The Town Council will through prudent management and oversight strive to provide the best functioning and efficient local government possible.

This will be accomplished by:

- Conducting a study of the budget adoption process of similar towns in CT (January 31, 2008).
- Maintaining at least 80% of the appointments to all Committees and Boards responsible to the Council (ongoing).
- Conducting a study of the terms of office of elected officials in similar towns in CT, specifically methods of appointments, terms of offices, staggered terms.
- Establishing a Charter Revision Committee with a target referendum date of May, 2009.
- Encouraging interdepartmental cooperation and efficiency by
 - Evaluating redundancy in government and working with the BOE to develop a plan for the consolidation of at least one additional function shared between the BOE and the Municipal administration.

2. The Town Council will provide exceptional leadership to the community by:

- Reviewing the charges and mandates for each of the Boards and Commissions reporting to the Town Council, and recommend any relevant changes.
- Clarifying the roles of the Town Manager and Town Council in the appointment, and oversight of, all boards and commissions in the Town of Tolland.
- Aggressively pursuing grants that will enhance the quality of life in Tolland, including, but not limited to, grants for open space, new program endeavors, affordable and/or senior housing.
- Holding at least one joint workshop with the land-use boards (Nov. 2008).
- Holding at least one joint meeting with the Board of Education (May 2008).
- Reviewing and redefining the evaluation process for the Town Manager by the next review cycle.

3. The Town Council will promote economic development in Tolland taking into consideration the input of the townspeople, as well as facilitating the integration of its rural character of Tolland with a business friendly environment.

It will:

- Ensure that the 195 Corridor Study is completed and adopted with the best interests of the townspeople of Tolland as the main focus.

- Continue to promote the South Green Visioning project with community input and regular discussion among the Town Council, P&ZC and the EDC. Support the Planning and Zoning Commission as they review zoning amendments to carry out the vision.
- Appoint a liaison to the Economic Development Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission who will facilitate communication between the EDC, the P&ZC and the Town Council.
- Support the P&ZC in the review and revision of the Plan of Conservation and Development through fiscal support of the project and timely review and input into versions that are put forth.
- Promote the completion of Phase II of the sewer facility expansion plan including the extension of the sewer line to Anthony Road by private developers.
- Work with the EDC to review the 2002 Tolland Economic Development Plan and update the Stakeholders Report (November, 2008).
- Work with the EDC, EDTC, Planning and Zoning and adjacent towns in the cooperative expansion of the 195 Corridor.
- Demonstrate to community a commitment to support controlled growth and existing business in town.

4. This Town Council will enhance and promote the safety and quality of life of all town residents by: 1. striving for the highest quality education affordable for the children of Tolland including necessary resources and safe, clean learning environments; 2. determining the adequacy of affordable and senior housing in town; and 3. working to maintain a safe environment.

The Town Council will accomplish this by:

- Gaining a better understanding of educational resource needs during the budget process by enhanced use of liaisons and ongoing discussions in order to intelligently balance them with other town priorities.
- Holding meetings with the BOE to discuss the best configuration for the town schools, and by helping to build town-wide consensus toward a financially feasible solutions.
- Renegotiate the Field and Grounds Maintenance Agreement with the Board of Education so that the playing fields and facilities are well maintained, and there is accurate financial reporting of the jobs completed.
- Implementing at least one new Intergenerational program or activity between the over 55 population in Tolland with the school-aged population in town through any one of the various organizations that serve either population.
- Through the Plan of Development process receive information about the needs for affordable housing in town.
- Determine needs for additional senior housing in the Town of Tolland.
- Exploring, with the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Affordable Housing Commission, the HOMEConnecticut Campaign as a way to provide more affordable housing in Tolland.
- Continuing the SPOT program.

- Supporting and encouraging the surveillance and enforcement duties of the Town resident troopers, including strict and ongoing enforcement of DUI, DWI and traffic law, especially along the 195 corridor in the area of the I-84 intersection.
- Seeking additional grants for speed control in town.
- Encouraging volunteerism in all aspects of the town, including committees, commissions and public safety.

5. The Town Council will support open, thoughtful and effective communication among all facets of the town government and its constituency. To this end the Town Council will:

- Assign liaisons to the Land Use Boards and Commissions.
- Assign liaisons to the Board of Education.
- Meet on a regular basis with the leadership of the BOE.
- Encourage the continuation of the communication between the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools.
- Increase e-blast subscriptions town-wide by 100%.
- Continue the Community Conversations.
- Improve relations with the Seniors, by enhancing their skills and access to Internet communication.
 - i. Increase computer/internet availability at the senior center.
 - ii. Offer at least one computer/internet access workshop at the Senior Center to introduce the Seniors to the Town-wide e-blasts.
- Institute monthly Council Hours with at least one Councilperson present for a minimum of 1 hour/session at a designated public place.
- Meet at least annually with the District's State Senator and Representative to discuss the legislative agenda and to promote legislation related to the statutory requirements for appointments to local committees, i.e. EDC and to promote and discuss the CCM legislative agenda for 2008.

6. The Council will demonstrate prudent fiscal decision-making.

The Council will:

- Prepare a budget that represents a fiscally responsible plan that retains necessary municipal and education services.
- Hold at least one presentation to the public on the capital budget and one on the municipal budget and encourage the BOE to do at least these two presentations.
- Conduct a study that clarifies and quantifies the utilization of ALL the town buildings and spaces on a weekly basis in order to determine efficiency of the space available for town or private functions.
- Establish a consistent fee schedule for renting/utilizing space in public buildings.
- Continue to pursue funds to complete a Library Study that would identify the future programmatic and space needs of the library.
- Clarify the usage of the Teen Center and Youth Hall (Cider Mill Rd property), and make recommendations for their usage.

- Senior Housing - Seek grant monies to expand at OPV or some other alternative senior or low income housing properties.

7. The Town Council will implement conservation and energy efficiency policies that will provide short- and long-term fiscal and environmental benefits to the Town of Tolland.

It will:

- Study the fiscal viability of alternative fuel and energy resources including, but not limited to, alternative fuel/hybrid vehicles and alternative heating and cooling resources in all buildings when repairing or upgrading
 - The Council will establish a Town-wide energy committee to make recommendations to the Council as above (Target: Feb.26, 2008 with report due June, 2009).
- Continue to preserve, identify and acquire open space that enhances and preserves the character of the town in perpetuity.
 - Support the creation of pedestrian and bike pathways throughout the town.
 - Apply for grants for open space in each application round provided that land is available for this purpose.
 - Review and implement management plans for all open space parcels under the purview of the Town of Tolland.