

Ross Tartell: Draft Areas for 2023 Objectives

Mental Health Objectives for Wilton

There are a range of groups working to address current and emerging mental health issues in Wilton. (i.e., Good Morning Wilton <https://goodmorningwilton.com/letter-residents-forming-mental-health-task-force-wiltons-needs-are-acute-current-services-are-inadequate/>, an informal group of parents looking to sponsor: Teen Suicide - Kevin's Afterglow, and the work of the Wilton Schools, Wilton Youth Council, and Wilton Social Services. Wilton needs to work to understand the needs and then take steps, as appropriate, to address the identified issues. Two objectives are recommended:

- 1) Conduct detailed needs assessment with committed funds to ensure ongoing provision of services.
- 2) Work with town and local resources toward a coordinated strategy of crisis care and ongoing service provision to ensure all needs are met on all levels.

Alignment of conservation and open space land use

The 2019 POCD outlined a number of actions indicating how Wilton can make further use of its open space. In addition, over the last several years, a number of not-for-profits have developed that have a vested interest in how Wilton uses and develops its open space (i.e., Wilton Land Conservation Trust, Ambler Farm, Woodcock Nature Center and Weir Farm, Mianus Chapter of Trout Unlimited, etc.). In addition, there are community groups beginning to emerge to deal with local issues (Friends of Bradley Park). Alignment of these groups will advance Wilton's overall goals and make more efficient use of public and private funds.

- 1) Create an "umbrella" organization sponsored by the Town of Wilton (Planning & Zoning Department and Conservation Commission) to identify and provide a structure for alignment and coordination among the different groups.
- 2) Use the 2019 POCD as a vehicle to align and coordinate action among the identified parties in service of town goals and objectives.
- 3) Ensure town of Wilton land use management (Environmental Affairs Department) has sufficient resources and staffing to meet the increasing complexity and volume of citizen and business needs.

Alignment of municipal services with neighboring communities

WestCog and Wilton have a number of efforts that will coordinate and align services with the dual goals of improving service and saving tax dollars.

- Creation of a regional firing range for Law enforcement officers

- Partner with HRRRA to coordinate transfer station activities and gain regional efficiencies, expand services (i.e., extended operational hours, composting, etc.) and cut costs.
- Broadband Survey – “WestCOG is collecting internet survey data and internet bills to inform a study to explore options for fast, affordable, and reliable broadband for member communities, their residents, and businesses.”

Land use

I don't have an objective for this area, but I see three issues:

- 1) There is tremendous interest in developing a number of prime real estate locations – that interest and process must be managed so that Wilton yields the best outcome.
- 2) There is an enormous need for diversified housing. As the town ages, seniors want to downsize, and with ASML moving 1000 jobs to Wilton, their employees need to have a place to live.
- 3) Wilton has created an affordable housing plan. That plan needs to be taken to its logical next steps.

Marketing Plan/branding

Wilton has a strong implicit brand – those who have moved to Wilton cite a vital few reasons: schools, great place to live (i.e., culture, citizen spirit), real estate value and quality of town government. I would hope this can be operationalized, and a publicity campaign be created to help ensure that Wilton citizens, and people interested in Wilton, can find out more about our town.