

# MIDDLETOWN LEADS

## WHAT IS MIDDLETOWN LEADS?

*Middletown Leads* is a weekly newsletter intended to connect the Middletown community by providing information about the civic undertakings of the Town.

## COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLANS – THE CHALLENGES OF CHANGE & TIME

The State of RI requires that each community review and revise its Comprehensive Community Plan every 10 years. It recognizes that change is inevitable with the passage of time. Thus it requires a progress review every 5 years and allows as many as 4 amendments per year.

## MIDDLETOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN

The current Community Comprehensive Plan was approved by The Middletown Planning Board on September 10, 2014; it was adopted by the Middletown Town Council On March 2, 2015.

## MIDDLETOWN'S PLAN – THE OVERALL VISION

Middletown will preserve its *quality of life* for all generations as a *safe and friendly* community with a *distinctive heritage*, *extraordinary cultural and natural resources*, a *strong local economy* and *fiscally sound government*.

In this and future newsletters, we will explore the various areas addressed by the Comprehensive Plan to see how it addresses the values it has defined as equally important to the community's character:

1. Cultural & Historic Resources
2. Natural & Ecological Resources
3. Recreation, Conservation, & Open Space
4. Economic Development
5. Transportation
6. Housing
7. Facilities & Services
8. Land Use

## AREA # 4 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The guiding principles of this area of the Comprehensive Plan include:

1. Long term economic development opportunities and job creation
2. Education and training of the workforce
3. A positive business environment
4. The long term viability of agricultural businesses.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTION ITEMS

1. Promote a diverse and expanded local economy without compromising the characteristics and qualities which make Middletown a desirable community
2. Foster collaboration between business and local educational institutions to develop a trained workforce
3. Retain and expand existing industry clusters and cultivate new clusters
4. Strengthen the economic vitality of agriculture

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SECTORS

Each of the following sectors is an important job creator with an impact on Middletown's tax base:

1. The Federal Government & Defense Industry
2. The Naval Undersea Warfare Center (including BRAC - the Defense Base Closure and Realignment)
3. SENEDIA – Southeastern New England Industry Alliance and the Defense Industry Partnership
4. The Marine Trades
5. Tourism
6. Agriculture
7. Retail.

The following areas provide opportunities for increased economic development:

1. Aquidneck Corporation Park
2. Enterprise Center
3. Atlantic Beach District
4. West Main/Coddington Development Center
5. Two Mile Corner Growth Center.

Extremely important to all of the above as well as new economic development is the Aquidneck Island Broadband Project.

## CHALLENGES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The major challenges to economic development include an aging population, which may be resistant to change, and the lack of affordable housing, which would encourage business and industry to locate here.

Middletown's Comprehensive Plan is based on a balance of the various aspects of the community.

## NEXT WEEK -

The February 2, 2019 newsletter will discuss Transportation as it is addressed in Middletown's Comprehensive Community Plan

## FOOTNOTE

Weekly essays about Middletown community and municipal affairs will appear on the Middletown Public Library website. Questions and suggested topics are welcome. Editorial essays may appear occasionally in the following blog: [MiddletownLeads@blogspot.com](mailto:MiddletownLeads@blogspot.com).