

Policies

These broad policies are inherent in and overlap across multiple chapters and should guide the specific goals and objectives that follow in those chapters.

1. Exercise responsible stewardship for the natural and cultural resources which give the island its special character and significance. The cultural and natural resources that are enjoyed by all – fresh and salt waters, vistas, parks, and cultural institutions - should be considered when establishing goals and objectives.
2. Increase the resiliency of the island to climate change and sea level rise by implementing appropriate adaptation measures. By acknowledging that we are only accessible by water and at its mercy, we recognize the need to mitigate the negative effects of sea level rise through infrastructure improvements and conscientious changes made by homeowners living in sensitive coastal areas. These changes will require community wide commitment and support.
3. Maintain a vibrant year-round island community that meets residents' economic and social needs. We recognize the need to balance the protection of natural and cultural resources with the accommodation of growth and economic opportunities to sustain a year-round island community. This goal is only achievable by giving due consideration to year-round employment and housing opportunities, high quality community services and a strong public school system
4. Motivate and enable upcoming generations to be part of Shelter Island's future (including its town governance) through education, economic development, housing efforts, and by encouraging early involvement in municipal operations, and the volunteer work of local boards, committees, and services. Shelter island's history and sense of community is strengthened by providing a future on island to the children who have grown up, summered, or who have family roots here.